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UN Department of Safety and Security, Afghanistan Security Situation Report, Week 39, 24 - 30 September 2010

JOINT WEEKLY SECURITY ANALYSIS

The number of security incidents decreased as expected to levels more consistent with the pre-Election period. Types of incidents recorded also returned to their normal distribution with armed clashes and IED incidents accounting for two thirds of all reports. Also as expected, stand-off attacks decreased significantly, even below pre-Election Day levels, as significant quantities of ammunition were used last week. The geographical focus of security incidents remains the SR, SER, and ER with notable levels of activity also recorded in Baghlan and Wardak.

Two incidents affected UN staff members, while four additional incidents affected the aid community. In Jalalabad, the home of a UN national staff member was robbed, and a UN staff member was arrested by ANSF in Kabul. The two most significant incidents occurred in Baghlan Province. In Baghlani Jadid an INGO convoy was ambushed by AGE using small arms and RPGs. One vehicle was unable to escape and three staff members were abducted. They were released later in the week as a result of the intervention of local elders. Additionally in Tala wa Barfak District, an IED was discovered near an INGO compound. In the WR, an NGO ambulance was stolen, and in the SER, a deminer was injured by an AP mine. The continued abduction of aid workers, while usually resolved quickly and peacefully, continues to negatively impact programme delivery in many areas of the country and particularly in the NER and NR.

Asymmetric actions by insurgents against the population remained high, though lower than last week, and returned to normal themes of dissuading the population from supporting the GoA. Although the majority of these incidents appear to be conducted by AGE, factional rivalries may have contributed to the incidents. Intimidation decreased but incidents were recorded in the NER, WR, SR and ER. At least 23 victims were abducted in incidents throughout the country, including three INGO staff members discussed above and one international and three national staff of a private development company abducted in the ER. Many of those abducted were members of the ANSF or government officials. Assassinations increased to nine individuals this week, including a civilian beheaded in Taywara District of Ghor, accused of “spying”, and a school principal, who had also worked at a polling center, shot dead in Faryab. Additionally, a former AGE commander was assassinated in Logar. Overall these incidents have a sustained impact on support for the GoA throughout the country.

Four suicide attacks were recorded during the week, two in the SER, and one each in the NR and SR. In the SER, a complex suicide attack targeted the Gardez PRT and an SVBIED was used to assassinate the Ghazni Deputy Governor, his son and his nephew. In this incident an additional four bodyguards were also killed and 25 civilians wounded. Civilian government officials have been targeted in only 12% of all suicide attacks this year whereas ISAF accounts for 32% and the ANP 30%. In this case the attack may have been prompted by the target's exposed role as a leader of Ghazni's Shiite Hazara community, which is considered insufficiently supportive of the insurgency. The first suicide attack this year in the NR occurred on the Mazar-Shiberghan highway when an SVBIED detonated against an IM convoy, killing one child and wounding 28 civilians in a minibus. An SVBIED targeting an IM convoy in Kandahar also killed one civilian and wounded 12 others. The relatively high use of SVBIEDs is unusual, particularly in the case of the Deputy Governor of Ghazni as insurgents regularly use BBIEDs to target Afghan officials. However, previous complex attacks in Gardez and Khost during Week 35 used large numbers of BBIEDs, possibly explaining the shift to a SVBIED in this case. The attack in the NR was the first successful attack this year but remained within the previous targeting pattern. During 2009 only two suicide attacks occurred in the NR, both targeting the IM. Suicide attack threat reporting remains high and while most of this is assessed to be circular, further attacks are expected, with insurgents returning to 2010 average levels of three per week.

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RISK ANALYSIS

High levels of terrorist and insurgents threat reporting continue, further complicated by significant amounts of circular reporting. Spectacular terrorist 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 1 October, Kandahar Province, Kandahar City, at about 1930 hrs, five explosions, suspected to be grenades launched from AK47, occurred between 100 -200 meters northwest of UNAMA Kandahar Compound.

On 2 October, Kabul Province, Kabul City, possible surveillance of a UN Agency Guest House was reported, but is currently assessed to be a domestic issue of the neighboring family.

NORTH EASTERN REGION

The security situation is unstable. Kunduz Province and some districts of Takhar and Baghlan Provinces remain unstable while Badakhshan Province is calm.

Analysis of the Week's Events

Following the significant increase recorded during the last period including the E Day spike, incidents have returned to pre-election levels. However, armed clashes have remained particularly high. There were 32 incidents compared to last week's 98 but of this total, 15 were armed clashes with six each recorded in Kunduz and Baghlan and three in Takhar. Following the election, Baghlan remains the focus of AGE activities with 13 incidents followed by Kunduz with 11, Takhar with five and Badakhshan with three.

In Kunduz, the new CoP has focused attention on the protection of Kunduz City tightening the security belt. Following successful operations in Imam Sahib last week, the IM/ANSF maintained pressure on insurgents with a night raid in Chahar Dara in which two foreign nationals and a TB military commander from Takhar were killed. This operation reinforced the earlier successful capture of Mullah Shamsuddin aka Abubaker in the border area of Chahar Dara and Baghlan-e-Jadid by ANP. Shamsuddin was implicated in numerous terrorist incidents including the DAI attack. Ad-hoc joint operations like night raids continue even as the ANP has begun to conduct more independent operations.

With the increase in AGE activities, IM operations have been re-focused on disrupting AGE in Baghlan Province even as attempts continue to reconstitute a local militia to fight the surging AGE. AGE presence and activities remain significant in areas around the main highways linking the province to Kunduz and Mazar in particular Dand-e-Ghori, Dand-e-Shahabuddin and Old Baghlan. There were two significant incidents in the Jar-i-Khushk area of Baghlan-e-Jadid District; an IED that targeted an IM patrol and the ambush on an INGO convoy. While the convoy was clearly flagged and the vehicles marked with INGO insignia, these did not preclude the attack. While one national staff received a gun shot wound, the last vehicle in the convoy, a rented Toyota Surf was captured along with the three national occupants.

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Though the national staff were later released, the vehicle was retained, a recurring trend in this area. Of the 11 incidents reported in Baghlan, four were IED related including three discoveries. This proliferation could point to new IED cells operating in the area.

In Takhar, while the northern districts remain insecure, there were at least three incidents in Khwaja Ghar targeting the pro-government militia. The armed and IED attacks suggest a similar intent to that witnessed in Darqad and Yangi Qala in previous weeks to pressure and intimidate in an attempt to force the capitulation of the militia. The re-focusing of IM operations also saw a successful night operation in Ishkamesh in which at least four AGE were killed.

In Badakhshan, the situation remains calm. Further information regarding the foreign national who was arrested by ANP in Wakhan suggests that insurgents continue to transit the province from the neighboring country to the East.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 15 armed clashes recorded, six each in Kunduz and Baghlan and three in Takhar. Significant were the IM/ANSF night operation on 29 Sep in Chahar Dara District of Kunduz in which two foreign fighters and a TB military commander from Takhar were killed. In Baghlan, the convoy of an INGO was ambushed in Baglan-e-Jadid District on 27 Sep and on 30 Sep, IM conducted a night raid supported by an air strike in Baghlan-e-Jadid District. At least one AGE commander was killed. In Ishkamesh District, Takhar on 26 Sep, IM conducted a night raid. Four AGE were killed and two others were arrested.

IED Detonated/Discovered

There were six IED incidents; three detonations and three discoveries. There was one detonation each in Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar and three discoveries in Baghlan. The targets of the detonations were ANA, IM and pro-government militia respectively.

Abduction

On 26 Sep in Baglan-e-Jadid District, Baghlan during the attack on the INGO convoy, three national staff; driver, de-miner and team leader were abducted. They were released on 30 Sep following mediation by community elders.

Crime

Four crimes were recorded; two in Badakhshan and one each in Kunduz and Baghlan. These included property crimes and violent assault.

Arrest

There were three arrests; two in Kunduz and one in Badakhshan. One foreign national was arrested by ANP in Wakhan District, Badakhshan. While police in Kunduz City reported the arrests of two suspected AGE, the most significant incident was the arrest of a major AGE Commander, Mullah Shamsuddin aka Abubaker by ANP in Chahar Dara District of Kunduz.

Intimidation

In Yangi Qala District, Takhar on 27 Sep, AGE established a temporary CP along the Yangi Qala to Khawaja Baha-u-din main road looking for government employees.

Demonstration

There were two demonstrations. In Kunduz on 29 Sep about 100 shopkeepers protested actions by police/municipality to remove stalls and illegal structures that blocked walkways. On 24 Sep in Pul-i-Khumri District, Baghlan about 200 protestors demonstrated against election fraud in front of the provincial ECC. A follow-up demonstration of about 40 people (mostly candidates without followers) was held in Kabul (Central Region) in front of the central ECC office.

NORTHERN REGION

The security situation in the Northern Region remained calm.

Analysis of the Week's Events

During the week, 36 security incidents were reported; out of them 33 were related to AGE. The most volatile province during the reporting period continued to be Faryab, which had 19 incidents, followed by Sari Pul with six, Balkh and Jawzjan with 5 each and Samangan with one incident.

The most significant incident of the week was a suicide attack on the Mazar-Shiberghan Highway. On 24 September, Balkh Province, Dehdadi District, at about 0930hrs, a SVBIED targeted the last vehicle with a trailer in the IM convoy. Due to the IM immediate reaction the SVBIED hit only the trailer therefore causing no injuries to IM. However a short distance behind the IM convoy was a mini bus full of civilians. As a result of the explosion one child was killed and 28 civilians, among them 5 children, were injured. Suicide attacks are rare in the NR compared to the rest of the country. In 2009 only two were conducted in the region. As in current year's attack the SVBIEDs in 2009 also targeted the IM convoys. Though a relatively unusual type of attack in NR it once again emphasises shortcomings in security measures along the Mazar-Shiberghan Highway and despite numerous check posts established the various types of attacks are continuously conducted by insurgents.

Armed clashes continue to be the major contributors to the security incidents in the region. In total 16 armed clashes were reported during the reporting period. Though Faryab Province recorded the highest number of armed clashes, the more significant attacks occurred in Sari Pul Province. After three weeks of relatively calm period, Sayyad District witnessed once again the numerous attacks on ANP CPs in various villages of the District on two separate occasions. On 25 September AGE attacked ANP CPs in Kata Kam and Tapa Qeer Villages. The firefight after the arrival of the ANSF reinforcement lasted for about six hours. Few days later, on 28 September, the AGE attacked again ANP CPs in Kata Kam and Tapa Qeer Villages but also in Rashid Bay Village at the same time and also as in last attack the fire fight lasted for many hours. These incidents clearly show the AGE intent and capability to conduct well coordinated and well organised attacks on ANP CPs in the district. Another significant attack in Sari Pul Province took place in the end of the reporting period. On 30 September, AGE attacked ANP CP in Sari Pul District, Imam Jaffar Village. What is of concern is this CP is located on Sari Pul – Shiberghan road and is only 7 km from the Sari Pul City. Additionally, the ANSF reinforcement troops deploying to the scene were ambushed by AGE in Mohammad Omar Village, which is between the mentioned CP and Sari Pul City. All those armed clashes in Sari Pul Province show the AGE improved capacity and professional leadership in the province as opposed to hit-and-run tactics used by various AGE groups in the region.

Three IEDs detonated in Faryab Province and three IEDs were discovered in Faryab, Jawzjan and Sari Pul Provinces during the period under review. The IEDs detonated in Ghormach District, Abgarmak Village, and Qaysar District, Senjidak Village. Both villages have relatively considerable history of IED related incidents. However as in the past the local civilians were the victims in these incidents.

Even though the elections are over, the election related security incidents still continue to surface in the region and some civilians continue to be punished by AGE for their support to the conduct of the elections. On 24 September, AGE abducted the son of the village representative in Sari Pul Province, Sari Pul District and demanded that if he wants his son to be released, he has to give himself in to the AGE. AGE were blaming the village representative for supporting the GoA and the elections. On 27 September the demanded exchange took place but as a result of the successful negotiations conducted by village elders the abducted person was released on the following day however unconfirmed reports indicate the payment of ransom. In another incident in Sari Pul Province, Sari Pul District, the principal of the school was assassinated by AGE. What is important to note is that the principal was the head of the polling centre and reportedly this was the AGE motive for the killing.

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. However there are noticeable changes in the dynamics of the security situation in Dawlatabad and Qaysar Districts of Faryab Province, which will negatively influence

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the UN activities in the area. In addition the UN programme delivery in Qush Tapa, Dara-i-Sufi Payin and Bala, Kishindih, Sayyad, Darzab and the rural areas of Balkh, Chimtal, 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

Suicide Attack

On 24 September, Balkh Province, Dehdadi District, Deh Swar area, Joye Chel Gazi Village, at approximately 0930hrs, IM convoy was targeted by SVBIED. As result of the incident suicide attacker and one child were killed; 28 local civilians, who were travelling in a bus to Mazar City, were injured.

Attack/Armed Clash

16 armed clashes were reported in Faryab, Sari Pul, Jawzjan and Balkh Provinces.

Stand-Off Attack

One stand off attack was reported. On 29 September, Balkh Province, Nahri Shahi District, Qul Muhammad Village, 2.1 km from Camp Marmul Runway, at approximately 1130hrs, reportedly one rocket impacted into a local house resulting minor damages and no casualties.

IED Detonated/Discovered

Three IEDs detonated and three IEDs were discovered in Faryab, Jawzjan and Sari Pul Provinces. In total two civilians were killed and two injured.

Abduction

Three abductions were recorded during the week. In all occasions the local civilians were the target.

Intimidation

On 29 August, Balkh Province, Marmul District, Centre area, AGE posted night letters on mosque's doors provoking locals against the IM/ANSF forces and asking them to join Jihad.

WESTERN REGION

The security situation in WR remained unstable.

Analysis of the Week's Events:

Incident levels decreased in all Provinces. Types and geographical spread remained consistent with the previous reporting period. There were 41 incidents reported compared to 107 during the preceding week.

Armed clashes slightly decreased, accounting for five (5) incidents; two in Badghis, one in Hirat, and two in Farah. One of the armed clashes occurred between AGE and locals, due to locals' discontentment with AGE's presence in the area. This illustrates a positive signal that locals are disgruntled with and, intend to demonstrate their sentiment by protesting against AGE presence in their area.

IED detonations also decreased in comparison to last week. Seven incidents were reported - two in Hirat Province, three in Badghis Province and two incidents in Farah province. One civilian were killed and one ANP were wounded. The IED attacks were planned against IM/ANSF/PSC convoys.

Abduction significantly increased accounting for 5 incidents. 2 incidents in Farah province were reported and in both incidents local civilians were abducted by unknown armed men. 3 incidents recorded in Hirat province.

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Various threat reports received suggested possible attacks on GIRoA, ANSF, IM and International Organizations including the UNAMA office in Hirat. The reporting was generic and lacking details. The insurgent's intent and capability to conduct attacks in the Region however remains elevated.

The main threats to UN staff are assessed as: direct loss in complex attacks, suicide and IED attacks; collateral damage due to close proximity to IED, suicide attacks and; abduction for political or criminal motives.

Generally, there is no change in the general trend, frequency and pattern of AGE tactics and targeting. It's projected that the level of security would intensify in the coming weeks, with likely factional tensions related to the release of preliminary results of the elections.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

Five (5) incidents were reported, 2 in Badghis, one in Hirat, and 2 in Farah. 3 PSC killed 1 ANA and 4 AGE wounded

Stand-Off Attack

One (1) incident was recorded in Farah Province, Pusht Road District AGE fired one rocket targeting DAC, No casualties or damages reported.

Air Strike

One (1) incident was recorded in Badghis Province, Murghab District. During the night IM/ISAF conducted an air strike targeting AGE positions. One AGE was killed and 25 motorcycles belongs to AGE were destroyed

IED Detonated/Discovered

Seven (7) incidents were reported, 2 incidents in Hirat Province 3 incidents in Badghis and 2 incidents in Farah Province. One civilian were killed and one ANP were wounded. A total of three (3) IED's were discovered and defused. 2 in Farah Province and one Badghis Province

Assassination

Two (2) incidents were recorded. There were one in Ghor Province and one in Badghis Province

Abduction

Five (5) incidents were recorded. There were 3 incidents in Hirat province and 2 in Farah Province.

Arrest

Nine (9) incidents were recorded. There were 3 incidents in Hirat Province, 3 incidents in Badghis Province, 2 in Farah and 1 in Ghor Province.

Intimidation

One (1) report of intimidation was reported in Hirat. AGE posted letters on the walls of several mosques threatening locals not to seek GoA support in resolving their disputes but to approach the Taliban instead.

Narcotic Incident

One (1) incident recorded that ANP discovered 1000 kg of Narcotics material in Hirat Province, Kushk District.

Information

A group of 200 insurgents from Hilmand came to Hirat and joined the peace and reconciliation process.

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 number of security incidents recorded in the region decreased significantly, with 96 security incidents recorded as compared to 136 during the previous week. This decrease is related to the return to pre-Election Day levels. In addition, three hypothesis are currently being explored: Primarily UNDSS continues to experience significant under-reporting in particular of incidents occurring in Hilmand Province. Second, ongoing IM/ANSF operations in Kandahar Province might have deterred AGE from launching operations, and thirdly AGE may be waiting for reinforcements and supplies after extensive engagements with the security forces during the election period. Though the decrease is significant, the pattern remains similar to that seen in the past.

Kandahar Province continued to be the area most affected by AGE activity during the reporting period. Kandahar Province experienced altogether 42 incidents and was followed by Hilmand Province where 19 incidents were recorded. Uruzgan Province and Zabul Province recorded 15 incidents each while Nimroz Province recorded five security incidents. In Kandahar Province, Arghandab, Zhari, Panjwayi and Kandahar Districts remained the most active as a result of the ongoing and intensified IM/ANSF operations.

There was a decrease in armed clashes throughout the region; 25 attacks as compared to 35 in the previous week. Of the 25 armed attacks/clashes reported during the week, 11 occurred in Kandahar Province. Most of the AGE initiated armed attacks were sporadic small scale hit and run skirmishes directed mainly towards ANP CPs and ANSF/IM convoys. However, majority of these attacks were of no consequence, with very few casualties incurred by either side. It is of note that in the cases where AGE engaged ANSF or IM, very few casualties were reported. However, in the incidents where IM engaged AGE, the number of reported casualties and arrests (invariably amongst AGE) were significantly higher.

Stand off attacks unlike the previous week decreased significantly, from 28 to one. The only rocket this week was against the ANP in Kandahar City but with little success. Nevertheless, it is assessed that the next reporting period will witness an increase in this type of incident.

IED detonations and discoveries constituted the bulk of reported incidents during the week, with the majority occurring in Kandahar Province. 19 IEDs detonated successfully throughout the region and these devices were mostly directed at IM/ANSF with a number of civilian casualties. The IEDs in Uruzgan and Zabul Provinces were mostly unsuccessful; six and five IEDs respectively were discovered and defused in the two provinces during the reporting period.

Perhaps one of the most significant incidents that occurred in the region during the week was the suicide attack against an IM convoy in Kandahar. The incident occurred on 30 September, when a SVBIED detonated against an IM convoy near the RTC, on highway 4, KAF road; one civilian was killed while 12 others including children were wounded. This attack followed several threat warnings particularly relating to AGE deploying a number of VBIEDs in Kandahar city to target IM, ANSF and government officials.

The continuation of AGE intimidation tactics were again highlighted this week. These tactics to discourage the local people from supporting and/or working for the GoA and the international community (the international military especially), includes assassination, abduction and intimidation. In District 4 of Kandahar, AGE shot and killed a NDS officer and a civilian, while an ANP officer was killed in District 8 of Kandahar. AGE assassinated a government employee and a civilian in Lashkar Gah and Nad Ali Districts of Hilmand. AGE abduction activities were highlighted this week in Kandahar and Uruzgan Provinces, where three people were abducted. AGE also established road blocks in Malajat area of Dand District, Kandahar province and in Chakhansor District of Nimroz Province.

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There were no reported incidents involving the humanitarian community during the period. 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 occurred in Kandahar Province against the IM.

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 25 reported armed clashes/attacks over the period; a decrease compared to 35 recorded the previous week.

Stand-Off Attack

One stand-off attack was reported during the week; a decrease compared to 28 recorded the previous week

IED Detonated/Discovered

19 IED detonations were reported during the week. 21 IED discoveries were made. Most defused by EOD teams.

Assassination

Four incidents were recorded during the week.

SOUTH EASTERN REGION

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

Analysis of the Week's Events

Regional weekly incident statistics in the month of September reflect a general trend of a gradual decrease in the numbers, which has been observed in the region since mid August 2010. The only exception was the week 38, when a sharp increase in the number of incidents was caused by increased insurgent activity, primarily on Parliamentary Election Day. The number and nature of security incidents recorded during the reporting period remained in line with the general regional trend. A total of 96 security incidents were recorded in the region. Altogether, Paktya Province reported 17 incidents, Ghazni – 35 incidents, Paktika – 20 incidents and Khost Province reported 24 incidents. 80% of incidents were AGE initiated.

Insurgents continued regular attacks on ANSF/IM convoys, patrols, CPs and bases, as well as on local government administrations and officials. Two suicide attacks were recorded in the region. In Paktya a complex attack was launched on IM base in Gardez city with BBIED detonation at an outer perimeter CP followed by RPG and SAF. The only suicide bomber was killed in the blast, whilst security personnel suffered no casualties. In the crossfire that followed the blast five more insurgents were killed and two security guards were wounded. The remaining attackers, estimated to total nearly twenty, escaped.

A deadly suicide attack was reported in Ghazni Province. The suicide bomber riding a motorcycle loaded with explosives attacked convoy of the Ghazni provincial Deputy Governor. As a result, the Deputy Governor, his son and nephew and four body guards were killed, whilst 25 more people were wounded. The result of this attack indicates that it was very well planned and accurately executed in contrast to the complex suicide attack in Gardez. This incident may cause serious political and interethnic tension in the province, since the Deputy Governor was also the leader of the local Shia Hazaras.

A high level of insurgent activity was observed in Deh Yak and Andar Districts of Ghazni Province, Gardez and Zurmat Districts of Paktya, Yahya Khel and Barmal of Paktika and Sabari, Gurbuz and Khost

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Matun of Khost Province. The region continued to record IED, stand-off attacks and multiple armed clashes in all provinces. In some areas ANSF/IM ground operations faced a strong resistance of insurgent groups, which in five particular cases required a close air support. A total of 126 casualties were reported during last week including 115 AGE and 11 afghan nationals. 47 more people including 10 IM were wounded in various security incidents.

Ghazni and Khost Provinces remained most unstable areas of the region.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Suicide Attack

Two suicide attacks reported: one in Gardez city, Paktya (complex attack on IM base) and a suicide attack on Ghazni Deputy Governor's convoy in Ghazni city of Ghazni Province.

IED Detonated/Discovered

A total of 16 incidents reported as compared to 59 the week before, including 13 detonations.

Attack/Armed Clash

A total of 40 armed clashes reported (53 last week).

Stand-Off Attack

A total of 23 incidents recorded (130 during the previous week).

Air Strike

A total of five air strikes reported (in Paktya-two, in Paktika, Ghazni and Khost-one each).

EASTERN REGION

The security situation in the Eastern Region remained volatile and is assessed to be the same in coming weeks. The period saw intensified AGE operations targeting DAC, IM, ANSF and development agencies.

The region recorded a total of 69 security incidents during the period with an approximate daily average of 10 incidents representing a substantial decrease from the 178 incidents for the past period. The reduction occurred as assessed for the period since the spike reported on for the previous period was due to the parliamentary elections. The intensified AGE and IM/ANSF operations, the government's and ECC responses to the numerous complaints raised during the elections as well as the release of preliminary results are factors that are expected to impact on the security of the region in coming weeks.

Armed clash was the predominant incident; a total of 22 armed clashes were recorded which was a 71% decrease from the 75 recorded in the elections week. Kunar Province accounted for 19 attacks i.e. 86% of the total. Nangarhar and Laghman provinces recorded three and one respectively. The only armed clash recorded in Laghman Province resulted in several casualties and has been the subject of a government fact finding team tasked from Kabul, as locals alleged that majority of the casualties were civilians.

A total of 12 IED incidents recorded in the region which is a 74% drop from the 46 recorded for the previous week; all the 5 detonations including two magnetic IED, occurred in Nangarhar Province which also accounted for five out of seven discoveries recorded. The most significant IED attack occurred on 25 September near the Kot DAC where a RCIED detonated against an NDS vehicle killing one serviceman and injured another. AGE seem to have increased their attacks against the NDS in Nangarhar Province in the past two weeks.

There were seven stand-off attacks reported in the week as against the 21 for the previous week. All but one occurred in Kunar Province. In Chapa Dara District of Kunar Province, five civilians were killed when several rockets fired by AGE targeting the ANP locations and the DAC missed and impacted in a residential area.

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The risk of abduction increased in the month of September as an average of four incidents was recorded per week. Four incidents were recorded in the week under review, two each occurring in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces respectively. Significant is the abduction of one female international staff and her three Afghan colleagues at Spin Juma in Chawkey District along the Jalalabad – Asadabad Highway. There were several reports of AGE check points along that route thus increasing the threat to UN missions. These are said to be occurring in areas close to ANP posts and underlines the inaction reported against the ANP in recent weeks.

One incident involving a humanitarian agency was recorded in the region during the period. A female UN staff member was victim when gunmen broke into her residence and robbed her of 80,000 Pak Rupees (equivalent to \$950) and Gold worth of 120,000 Pak Rupees (approximately \$1,400) among other valuables in Qasaba area in Zone 5 of Jalalabad City.

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

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

Twenty-two incidents were reported, majority occurring in Kunar Province and targeted IM/ANSF locations and DAC.

Stand-Off Attack

Seven incidents were reported and targeted various DAC, ANSF and IM bases; five deaths were recorded.

Air Strike

One air strike was conducted by the IM against AGE locations in the Dewagal Valley in Chawkey District of Kunar Province. Casualty figures were not reported.

IED Detonated/Discovered

Twelve incidents were reported, five were detonations and seven were discoveries.

Cache

One incident was recorded in which ANP discovered a stock of munitions in Shamsapur area of Surkh Rod District, Nangarhar Province.

Abduction

Four incidents were reported including the case of one expatriate and three local staff of an international development agency. The number represents the average for the month of September. Additionally, the District Governor of Chawkey District abducted on 24 September 2010 was released following mediation by tribal elders.

Crime

Five incidents were reported and occurred mostly in Nangarhar Province. One was the robbery of a UN female staff at gun point in her residence at night.

Arrest

Seven arrests were reported; six were related to criminal acts and one involved AGE in a joint IM/ANSF operation which resulted in the seizure of some munitions in Nangarhar Province.

Intimidation

Three incidents were recorded and involved AGE establishing illegal check point along roads in search for government workers in Laghman and Nangarhar provinces.

Demonstration

One incident was recorded and was a protest by locals against IM for an operation which resulted in the death of a local resident of Masamot area in Mihtarlam District, Laghman Province.

Other

Also of note was a meeting held by tribal elders from Dawlat Shah, Alingar and Alishing Districts on 28 September to call on the government to stop ANSF and IM uncoordinated operations in their areas. They threatened using their sons in the police and military to fight the government and IM if their call was not heeded.

CENTRAL REGION

The security situation in the region remained unstable. Panjshier, Parwan and Kapisa provinces remained calm.

Analysis of the Week's Events

Although the security situation in the region is usually fluid and unpredictable in terms of the number of security incidents following the Parliamentary Election, the region reported a significant drop in incidents and returned to usual numbers of incidents prior to the elections. A total of 55 incidents were reported presenting a very sharp decrease compared to the last period when the region experienced a total of 121 security incident.

As mentioned earlier, the majority of the incidents were reported in three provinces, Wardak (23 incidents), Kabul (17 incidents) and Logar (12 incidents). The majority of these incidents were in nature armed clashes, IED attacks and arrests of suspected AGE. However, it is important to say that Wardak Province reported a total of 15 armed clashes (out of 23 in the region) suggesting that AGE in the province are very active and prefer to conduct direct attacks against a variety of targets such as ANSF and IM convoys travelling along the main Kabul – Kandahar road and governmental facilities (DACs) and civilian convoys transporting IM supplies. In the other two provinces, the incidents were more evenly a mixture of armed clashes, IED incidents, arrests.

No significant incidents connected with the election process were reported during the period; however, the overall security situation remains increasingly fragile and unpredictable and the possibility cannot be excluded that unscrupulous individuals may attempt to explore such environment to gain some political points or to stir the situation further in a negative direction.

Although the number of the incidents was significantly lower, a number of suicide attack threats against the UN installations, governmental facilities, hotels and international guesthouse in Kabul City were received. However, certain measures were taken by the UN to mitigate and to minimize the exposure of the UN staff members and assets to the threats. After analyzing the threats, there appears to be a degree of circular reporting.

The reporting period has seen a decrease in the number of incidents but probability of terrorist and AGE attacks on a variety of targets in the region, including the UN remains high. The highest risk for the UN remain direct suicide and complex attacks followed by IED targeting of UN compounds and/or UN staff who are working in Afghan Ministries. Collateral damage as a result of the UN staff being in the vicinity when the other entities are attacked is also high whilst abduction of the UN staff for political or criminal reason also remains high.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were a total of 15 reported armed clashes/attacks during the week as compared to 33 during the last week. A total of 13 attacks were initiated by AGE and against a variety of targets including, ANSF/IM convoys, DACs, civilians and other targets. A total of six persons were killed by AGE in these attacks whilst one AGE was killed by another AGE commander in Wardak Province.

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Stand-Off Attack

A total of three stand-off attacks were reported as compared to 30 attacks the last week. The rockets mainly targeted governmental facilities. Altogether, three civilians were injured during these attacks.

IED Detonated/Discovered

There were six IED detonations reported during the period. In one incident in Logar Province two civilians were killed whilst three other were injured. In two premature IED explosions in Kabul and Wardak provinces, a total of six AGE were killed whilst attempting to plant IEDs on different roads. A total of six IED discoveries were reported during the period. All the discovered IED were defused by EOD teams.

Cache

Three discoveries of caches were reported which included discovery of 90 mortar shells, some weaponry and assorted ammunition.

Assassination

There was one incident of assassination reported. A former AGE commander was killed by unknown armed men in Logar Province.

Abduction

One abduction incident was reported during the period. A district chief of NDS and his bodyguard were abducted in Wardak Province by AGE.

Arrest

There were eight incidents of arrest. A total of 12 AGE were arrested in these incidents.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION

The security situation in Central Highlands Region remained calm.

Analysis of the Week's Events

In Bamyan Province, the security situation remained calm, no AGE related incident recorded, only one traffic accident between two road construction companies. Daikundi Province recorded no security incidents.

Despite the calm, it should be noted that the region still has security concerns in Shikary Valley of Kahmard and Shibar Districts, due to AGE movement from the bordering area of Baglan Province to Shikary Valley. In Daikundi, Kajran District is still of concern as it relates to IAG and AGE activities, coming from Uruzgan Province in the southern region.

UN activities are open all over the region except Kajran, and road missions to Kabul are still suspended due to the threat in Ghorband valley on the CR side..

Description of the Week's Significant Events

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END OF REPORT

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