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UN Department of Safety and Security, Afghanistan Security Situation Report, Week 40 1 – 7 October 2010

JOINT SECURITY ANALYSIS

The number of security incidents remained consistent with the previous weeks, though there were regional variations. The NR and SR recorded decreases while the SER and CR recorded increases. The types of incidents recorded also returned to their normal distribution with armed clashes and IED incidents accounting for two thirds of all reports, and stand-off attacks increased slightly to average levels after last week's lull. The geographical focus of security incidents remains the SR, SER, and ER with notable activity also recorded in Kunduz, Baghlan, Faryab and Wardak as security force operations continue countrywide.

Two incidents affected UN staff members, while three additional incidents affected the aid community. In Kandahar city a UN national staff member was warned to quit his job or face dire consequences. Additionally, a UN national staff member previously abducted has again been threatened by his captors. An INGO compound was attacked in Badakhshan, though no casualties or damage was reported. Additionally, a convoy of a demining NGO (UN implementing partner) was ambushed in Samangan: One staff member was killed and three were injured. Four national employees of an INGO en route to Chaghcharan were abducted by a group of armed men. The abductees were released shortly after when community elders intervened. The continued abduction of aid workers while usually resolved quickly and peacefully and continues to negatively impact programme delivery in many areas of the country and particularly in the northern areas.

Asymmetric actions by insurgents against the population remained significantly high, though lower than last week. While in general the insurgents' intent remains dissuading the population from supporting the GoA, the focus is shifting towards the assassination of Afghan leaders. Assassinations increase in public places in broad daylight, including in known sanctuaries such as mosques. This targeting type is not unusual in the country and reflects the strategic choice by the AGE to capitalize on the greater impact on local communities when a symbolic figure is targeted. Intimidation decreased with five incidents recorded country wide, the majority being illegal check points screening vehicles for ANSF and GoA officials. Overall 19 nationals were abducted with incidents recorded in NR, WR, SR and CR, including two civilian vaccination officials in Kandahar city. Of the 19, two were later assassinated. On a positive note one the DFC abducted in Balkh on Election Day and one civic educator abducted in Ghazni on 28 August were release unharmed while another seven countrywide remain in captivity, two in Balkh and five in Wardak. Additionally, three national employees abducted along the Jalalabad – Asadabad main road last week, and working for a USAID founded organization, were released unharmed. At least 14 individuals were assassinated during the week in the NR, NR, WR, SR, and SER, higher than last week but at roughly 50% of the highest weekly levels recorded earlier in during the summer of 2010. While numbers are lower, local leaders now constitute half of the victims. These include two tribal elders, a pro-government Mullah, the deputy mayor of Kandahar, a former district commissioner and at least six ANSF officers. Additionally, the body of the head of a community development shura in Farah province was found beheaded. While not endearing the insurgents in the eyes of the population, these tactics effectively undermine support for the GoA throughout the country.

Two suicide attacks were recorded during the week, one each in the NR and SR, both BBIED and targeting IM. Preliminary reports state that two IM were killed and at least six were injured. In the NR the attack took place along the Baghlan-i-Jadid main road where a number of additional IED incidents were recorded. The area has experienced recently an AGE build up and the attack could have served as retribution of previous successful operation in adjacent areas. Overall these incidents were relatively consistent with 2010 trends in number, type and targeting, particularly balanced against last week's four SVBIED attacks.

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The month of September recorded approximately 2,285 security incidents, the highest monthly level recorded by UNDSS since 2001. See Figure 1. This is 13% higher than August, and 133% higher than September 2009 which recorded 983 total security incidents. This peak was not unexpected given the Parliamentary Elections and the significant security operations conducted in advance. Overall all regions recorded an increase compared to August except the SR, which recorded decreased levels of security incidents in Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan. Month to month, armed clashes remained consistent, while IEDs increased slightly. Stand-off attacks increased significantly month on month as a result of Election Day. Overall, intimidation, abduction and assassinations increased, though the number of individuals assassinated by AGE decreased substantially from 107 in August to 60 in September, primarily in the SR and SER. Conversely, abductions increased substantially countrywide. The twelve suicide attacks conducted remained consistent with the long term average, including one complex suicide attack on 24 September against the Gardez PRT. Suicide attacks continue to primarily target the international military (35%) and ANP (30%). The security incident figures for September were influenced by a slight decrease as a result of Eid Holidays, and a significant increase on Election Day. As during the previous year, the day of the elections alone recorded roughly one week's worth of security incidents. Of the 488 security incidents recorded by UNDSS, the majority of incidents on that day were armed clashes and stand-off attacks, accounting together for 74% of all events. No 'spectacular' incidents occurred on the day, rather insurgents used widespread, low level violence in an attempt to limit voter turnout and thereby delegitimize the election. Multiple waves of arrests and airstrikes in the lead up to Election Day are credited with disrupting planned spectacular attacks.

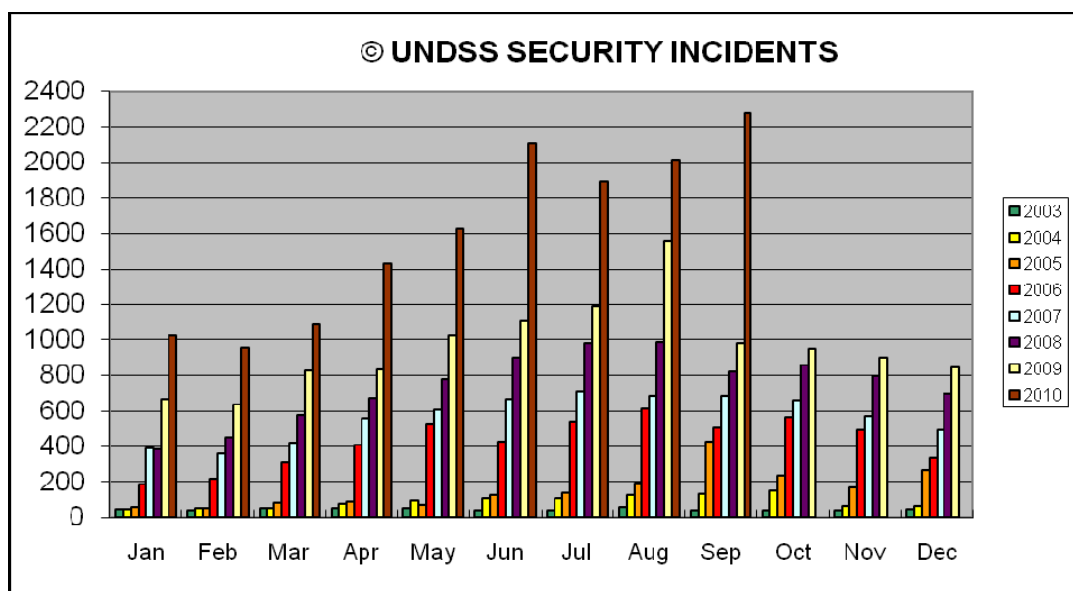


Figure 1. UNDSS Security Incidents January 2003 – September 2010

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 Events Since the End of the Reporting Period

On 8 October 2010, Takhar Province, Taloqan District, Taloqan City, Sarak Shirkat area, 1315 hrs, a large explosion was reported inside a mosque in Sarak Shirkat Area in Taloqan City. The Governor of Kunduz among other 15 civilians were killed. At least 33 other civilians were reported injured.

On 8 October, Ghazni Province, reportedly that the Civic Educator of Jaghori District kidnapped by AGE on 28 August has been released unharmed.

On 8 October, Khost Province, Nadir Shah Kot District, Muqbell area, at approx. 0500 hrs, reportedly an IM helicopter identified a group of individuals with weapons moving from a previously identified enemy position near Sinzai Kalay Village and opened fire on them. Six individuals were killed and two wounded, later report indicates tha the casualties were all Arbahkai – pro government militias. This incident was followed by a peaceful demonstration in Qalander District, Wargha area.

On 9 October, Western Region, Farah Province, Gulistan District, at approx. 0830 hrs, an IM vehicle was hit by a road side IED. Four IM solders were killed and one wounded. Later report indicates that the wounded solder also died.

On 9 October, media reports state that the international aid worker that was kidnapped by armed men in September has been killed by her captors on 8 October during a rescue mission by IM.

NORTH EASTERN REGION

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

Analysis of the Week's Events

Incident levels remained consistent with 32 incidents recorded for the second week after the election spike. As noted last week, armed clashes remained high with 16 recorded as compared to last week's 15. Of the 16 incidents, seven were recorded in Kunduz, five in Takhar and two each in Baghlan and Badakhshan. Overall, Kunduz again has recorded the majority of incidents, 12 followed by Takhar with eight, Baghlan with seven and Badakhshan with five.

In Kunduz, in the absence of major ANSF operations and waning/refocusing of the Special Forces effort, AGE seem to be regaining the initiative. Attacks were recorded on two occasions on ANSF and pro-government militia positions in Imam Sahib District, pro-government militia in Aliabad District and a pro-government militia commander in Kunduz City, while ANP disrupted AGE during the planting of an IED along the main highway transiting Khanabad. In addition, a community elder was assassinated in Imam Sahib. The lone operation against AGE, an IM night raid in Gortepa achieved some results with at least seven AGE killed. As a result of dithering and a lack of operational coherence the long awaited Fall offensive still has not progressed beyond expectations of many and there is a good chance that no major offensive will be conducted before the end of October.

The insecurity in Baghlan is becoming more acute with AGE build up in Dand-e-Shahabuddin and areas north of Baghlan-e-Jadid along the main road and in Dehana-e-Ghori District. In Dand-e-Shahabuddin, the Chashma-i-sheer area and the highway between Pul-i-Khumri and Kunduz, particularly the area of Jar-i-Khush are the most dangerous. There was one suicide attack targeting the IM and an IED targeting a private truck in Dand-e-Shahabuddin while IM was also attacked by RCIED in Baghlan-e-Jadid. A fourth IED was discovered in Khenjan District on the Pul-i-Khumri to Kabul main road. While there has been a proliferation of IEDs that point to involvement of specialists, there has also been the reported sighting of a

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known suicide vest specialist “Bahram” from Helmand Province in Old Baghlan, Baghlan-e-Jadid. In Dehana-e-Ghori with the growing presence and influence of AGE an attack on the DAC may be imminent. There was one election related incident in Pul-e-Khumri City where a group of around 200 locals, mainly from Burka District, staged a peaceful demonstration. Protestors registered discontent following rumours that the results from one of the PCs in which their favoured candidate had the most votes, was quarantined by the IEC. In addition, the preliminary results released by the IEC indicate that some candidates who were allegedly involved in fraudulent activity were in the lead. If this outcome is not altered then there is a likelihood of greater manifestations of discontent.

IM Special Forces operations are being employed to provide quick short term solutions to the surging AGE problem in Takhar where the ANSF has very weak presence. Even as AGE continues to pressure ANSF and Arbaki pro government militias, the Special Forces operations meant to redress that situation achieved significant results. There were no less than three operations in Khawaja Baha-u-din, Darqad and Yangi Qala Districts. In Darqad at least three AGE were arrested while in Yangi Qala at least 16 AGE including two top commanders were killed. However, without sustained operations and improved ANSF presence the result of these operations will be short lived.

In Badakhshan, the situation remains calm. The attack against the camp of an INGO in Shuhada District was reportedly committed by AGE operating on the border with Wardoj District. While this is not confirmed, the attackers seemingly lacked the motivation to kill and destroy. However, the INGO has temporarily suspended operations in the area.

Description of the Week’s Significant Events

Suicide Attack

There was one suicide attack. On 7 October in Baghlan Province, Pul-i-Khumri, Dand-e-Shahabuddin area, a BBIED attacker targeted IM. One IM soldier was killed and six others injured.

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 16 armed clashes recorded; seven in Kunduz, five in Takhar and two each in Baghlan and Badakhshan. Significant incidents were reported in all provinces. On 7 October in Kunduz City, Gortepa area an IM night raid led to seven AGE being killed while in the eastern part of Kunduz City AGE attacked the home of a pro-government militia commander. In Baghlan, Pul-i-Khumri, Chashma-i-Sher area, AGE attacked an IM convoy in which one IM was killed and in Baghlan-e-Jadid, Jar-i-Khush area AGE mounted a major attack on an IM/ANSF convoy in which seven AGE were killed. In Takhar, Darqad District a night raid was conducted by IM Special Forces in which three AGE were arrested and in Yangi Qala District IM Special Forces conducted a night operation in three villages supported by close air. At least 16 AGE including two top commanders were killed. In Badakhshan, Shuhada District, the camp of an INGO was attacked by unknown persons but no casualty resulted.

IED Detonated/Discovered

There were five IED incidents; three detonations and two discoveries. There were two detonations in Baghlan Province, Baghlan-e-Jadid and Pul-i-Khumri targeting IM and a private truck respectively. The third detonation was an accident at an IED factory in Chahar Dara District of Kunduz in which four AGE were killed. IEDs were discovered in Badakhshan Province, Kufab DAC and Kunduz City, Education Department compound.

Assassination

A community elder who was accused of cooperating with GoA was shot dead by AGE in Imam Sahib District of Kunduz.

Abduction

In Darqad District of Takhar Province an ANA soldier was abducted at an illegal CP.

Crime

Three crimes were recorded; two murders in Kunduz City and Bano District, Baghlan and an armed robbery in Jurm District, Badakhshan.

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Arrest

There were two arrests. In Dasht-e-Qala District, Takhar Province three illegal nationals were arrested by ABP and in Baharak DAC, Badakhshan a suspected AGE was arrested by ANP.

Demonstration

On 5 October, Pul-i-Khumri City, Baghlan, about 200 persons demonstrated against the preliminary election results released by the IEC.

Narcotic Incident

On 4 October, Kunduz Province, Kunduz city, ANP seized 19 kg of heroin at a CP and arrested two occupants of a private car.

Other

On 3 October in Yangi Qala District, Takhar Province, three AGE surrendered and handed over their weapons to ANSF.

NORTHERN REGION

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

Analysis of the Week's Events

During the week 33 security incidents were reported showing a minor decrease in comparison with 36 incidents recorded on previous week. Faryab Province had the highest number of security related incidents with 20 reported, followed by Balkh Province with 10, Sari Pul three and Samangan one incident. Jawzjan Province had no security related incidents during the reporting period.

Nine armed clashes were reported during the week and most of them, eight, occurred in Faryab Province and one in Balkh Province. However the incident that will have more significant impact on Faryab Province was the air strike conducted on 5 October by IM in support of IM/ANSF joint operation in Dawlatabad District. Seven AGE were reported as killed in the air strike and among them was a Taliban Shadow Governor of Faryab Province, Qari Ziyauddin. At this stage it is too early to assess what would be the exact implications on the AGE structure and activities in Faryab Province as a result of the death of a prominent AGE leader however fewer AGE related incidents are expected to occur in Dawlatabad District on the next week.

Stand-off attacks increased significantly in the region. In average one stand-off attack is reported per week in whole region however the current reporting period saw five stand-off attacks in Faryab, Balkh and Samangan Provinces. Though usually the target of stand-off attacks are the government installations, ANSF CPs and IM, the main incident of the week involved directly the humanitarian community and it was a stand-off attack in Samangan Province, Dara-i-Sufi Bala District. On 7 October a clearly marked international de-mining agency was targeted by AGE in Alamli Village of the named District. As a result of the attack, one national staff member was killed and three injured. Reports indicate that the same group, who abducted five international road construction company workers on 22 July and three INGO national staff members on 3 September in Dara-i-Sufi Payin District, are the ones behind this incident.

Two IEDs were reported as being detonated during the week, one in Ghormach District of Faryab and one in Chimtal District of Balkh Province. On both occasions the ANP were the target. The use of IEDs is the relatively common tactics of choice by the AGE in both districts however the IED incident in Chimtal District is first this year that actually hit the intended target. So far most of the IEDs reported in the District have been either discovered in advance or prematurely detonated.

AGE continued to be active on the Sari Pul – Shiberghan main road. On two consecutive days AGE established check posts on the above mentioned road and were searching vehicles for government and ANSF employees. Reports indicate that AGE leader Mullah Nadir, who is based in Sayyad District of Sari

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Pul Province, has the intention to broaden his area of operations and most likely one of his aims is to get at least partial control over the Sari Pul – Shiberghan Road.

In comparison to the previous week the number of abductions increased by one incident. In total four abductions were reported. However two abductions were related to AGE and two were criminally motivated. In Pashtun Kot District of Faryab Province a school watchman was taken by AGE from his house and also in Faryab Province, Almar District, three national workers of the international road construction company were abducted by AGE. On both occasions the exact motive is yet unclear however the road construction workers are employed by the same company, whose international staff member was abducted on 3 September in Qaysar District of Faryab Province and who is still in the AGE captivity. The background details and whereabouts of abducted persons is unknown. A growing fear is spreading among the aid workers and local population in Faryab Province due to the increase of abductions. An INGO operating in Faryab Province relocated its international staff due to the perceived threat against aid workers. Although the threat was not specific, direct and confirmed, the organisation reportedly received generic information regarding the possible abduction of foreign workers in Afghanistan. On a positive note, one of the IEC staff members, who were abducted by AGE during the elections in Chimtal District, Balkh Province, was released on 7 October, while two others remain in captivity.

In the overall analysis, there is no significant change in the general trend, frequency or pattern of AGE acts of hostility including the target profile. The UN programme delivery in Qush Tepa, Dara-i-Sufi Payin and Bala, Kishindih, Sayyad, Darzab, Qaysar and the rural areas of Balkh, Chimtal, Chahar Bolak, the eastern parts of Sholgara Districts of the region continue to be hampered due to the active presence of various AGE/IAG networks.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

Nine armed clashes were reported in Faryab and Balkh Provinces.

Stand-off Attack

Five stand-off attacks were reported.

IED Detonated

Two IEDs were reported as detonated.

Assassination

One incident was reported. On 4 October, a pro-government Mullah was assassinated in Maymana City, Faryab Province.

Abduction

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

WESTERN REGION

The security situation in Western Region remained unstable.

Analysis of the Week's Events

Incident levels remain relatively consistent in the Western Region. Although incident levels increased in Farah and Badghis; the nature and geographical spread remained consistent with the previous reporting period. There were 51 incidents recorded compared to 41 during the preceding week, representing a 24% increase.

Armed clashes equalled the previous week's and accounted for five incidents; four in Badghis and one in Ghor. Murghab District recorded three of the four incidents in Badghis. All the armed clashes were

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between the AGE and ANSF/IM except for one which was between ANP and locals in Murghab District of Badghis.

IED detonations decreased by one. There were six incidents compared to seven last week. Five were in Farah and one in Herat. The IED attacks were planned against IM/ANSF/PSC convoys. The six IED detonations resulted in the deaths of two civilians, two AGE and one ANP in Farah. While Farah accounted for most of the IED detonations, Herat accounted for all of the two IED discovered which were defused successfully.

Assassinations returned to the Western Region in Badghis and Farah where there were one and two incidents respectively. In Badghis Province, the body of an ANP officer who was abducted on 30 September was recovered in a bag. And, in Farah AGE shot and killed a local civilian and AGE beheaded the head of a community development Shura and his nephew.

Incidents of abduction increased to 10 from the five incidents reported last week. Four incidents were reported in Farah province, four in Herat, one in Ghor and one in Badghis. All the abductions involved local civilians except for the incident in Ghor where four national employee of an INGO en route to Chaghcharan were abducted by a group of seven armed AGE. The abductees were released shortly after when community elders intervened. The other incident not involving civilians was the incident in Badghis where an ANP was abducted. A sustained increase in asymmetric actions against the local population is noticed with the main motive being criminality.

Generic threat reporting of possible AGE intent continues unabated. Threat reports received suggested possible attacks on GIRoA, ANSF, IM and International Organizations including the UN offices in Hirat. The threats are still generic and continue to lack details but the insurgents' intent and capability to undertake these threats remain elevated. 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

Five incidents were reported. There were four in Badghis and one in Ghor. All the armed clashes were between the AGE and ANSF/IM except for one which was between ANP and locals in Murghab District of Badghis.

Air Strike

One incident was recorded in Farah Province, Pusht Rod District. AGE launched a BM1 rocket targeting the DAC. The rocket landed IVO of the DAC no damage or casualty was reported.

IED Detonated/Discovered

Six incidents were reported. Five were in Farah and one in Herat. A total of two IEDs were discovered and defused. Both were in Herat province.

Assassination

Three incidents were recorded. There were two in Farah and one in Badghis Province. In Badghis Province, the body of an ANP officer who was abducted on 30 September was recovered in a bag. And, in Farah AGE shot and killed a local civilian and AGE beheaded the head of a community development Shura and his nephew.

Abduction

Ten incidents were recorded. There were four incidents in Herat Province, four in Farah Province, one in Ghor and one in Badghis.

Crime

Two incidents of crime were reported. One was in Herat and the other in Ghor Province.

Arrest

Seven incidents of arrest were recorded. There were two incidents in Herat Province, one incident in Badghis Province, two in Farah and two in Ghor Province.

Confrontation

There was one report of confrontation in Ghor Province where an armed clash broke out between two IAG over a tribal dispute in the area. As a result of clash two individuals were killed and one wounded.

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 reporting period saw a second successive decrease in the number of security incidents in SR, with a total of 85 incidents reported, compared to the 106 incidents recorded during the past period; representing a decrease of approximately 19%. Much of the decrease was a result of decreased armed attacks in Kandahar, Hilmand, Zabul and Nimroz Provinces.

The incident pattern remained similar to that of the previous week with Kandahar Province being the main area of AGE activity, whereas under reporting from Hilmand Province continued. Kandahar Province recorded the greatest activity this week with 36 incidents while Hilmand recorded 17 and Uruzgan Province 16 incidents. Zabul Province experienced 15 incidents while Nimroz Province recorded only one incident. In Kandahar Province, Zhari, Panjwayi, Argandab and Kandahar Districts saw the highest activity, while in Hilmand Province, Marja District remained the most active followed by Sangin District.

The drop in activity levels experienced in the region could as well be attributed to the ongoing high profile IM/ANSF operation in Kandahar Province. This operation focused on Zhari, Panjwayi, Arghandab and Dand Districts. The operation which commenced last month met with robust opposition, however incident levels have steadily decreased as the operation progressed while IM/ANSF heavy artillery bombardments and air strikes have intensified. Despite the obvious successes of the operation, more than one thousand families have been displaced due to the ongoing fighting.

AGE largely focused on the use of IEDs while avoiding engagements with IM/ANSF where superior fire and air power may be introduced. AGE continued to place IEDs on the main supply routes with the intention of restricting and disrupting IM/ANSF movements. IED attacks continued with high degree of effectiveness targeting mainly the ANSF and civilians. This was particularly evident on 4 October when three IED explosions just minutes apart killed four Afghan police officers and wounded 12 in District 4, Kandahar City. As the police gathered to attend to the wounded after the first blast, two more explosions occurred. Also on 5 October, three simultaneous IED explosions killed nine people including one ANP officer and wounded 26 including six ANP officers on the second day of deadly blasts in Kandahar.

Five grenades launched at a short range from AK-47 impacted near the UN Kandahar compound on 1 October. Although the grenades had no significant effects, it was the second incident of that nature in less than one month. A suicide attack targeting an IM foot patrol in Nahri Sarraj District of Hilmand Province was one of the significant events in the region. The incident occurred on 2 October, when a suicide BBIED attacker detonated against an IM foot patrol in Grishk Valley. The attacker and one IM soldier were killed in the incident.

Assassination, abduction and intimidation incidents targeting government employees, ANSF and the civilian population significantly increased. Targeted killings increased from four to five people assassinated, with incidents reported mainly in Kandahar and Uruzgan Provinces. In Kandahar, the deputy mayor of Kandahar, a former District Commissioner and one ANP officer were assassinated, while a tribal elder and an ANP officer were killed in Uruzgan. It is likely that AGE carried out these attacks as part of their ongoing campaign of assassination and intimidation against Afghan officials in the region.

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Coupled with these assassinations were the abductions of two civilian vaccination officials and a civilian in Kandahar; another civilian was also abducted in Uruzgan. Also in Kandahar, a UN national staff member was threatened by being told to quit his job or face dire consequences. All these are believed to be designed for maximum intimidation purposes.

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 BBIED detonation occurred in Hilmand Province.

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 21 reported armed clashes/attacks over the period.

Stand-off Attack

One stand-off attack was reported during the week.

IED Detonated/Discovered

A total of 30 IED incidents including 19 detonations were recorded.

Assassination

Five incidents were recorded during the week.

Abduction

Three incidents were reported during the period.

Intimidation

One incident was reported in Kandahar Province.

SOUTH EASTERN REGION

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

Analysis of the Week's Events

The overall number of security incidents recorded this week reflected a significant increase from 96 incidents reported last week to 129 (including 13 late reportings) incidents this reporting period. Ghazni reported the highest number of incidents with 41, Paktika 38, Khost 28 and Patya 22.

Although the overall number of incidents increased considerably the types of incidents remained consistent except stand off attacks that were reduced from 44% of the total number of incidents reported last week to 39% this week. The sharp increase in the incidents recorded this week has been evenly distributed in all provinces. The numbers has returned to the recorded range of incidents before Eid holidays and the Election period, that were characterized by fluctuated numbers.

AGE initiated incidents this reporting period represents 90.7% of the total number of incidents recorded compared to 80% the previous week. Attacks/ Armed Clashes continue to dominate AGE initiated incidents with 43 attacks out of 50 recorded this week. The number and nature of security incidents recorded during the reporting period remained in line with the general regional trend. Although the vast majority of these incidents are considered harassing attacks, IED incidents have claimed a high number of civilian casualties compared to other attacks, out of 18 IED casualties in SER this week 13 are civilians.

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Insurgents continued to direct their attacks on ANSF/IM convoys, patrols, CPs and bases, as well as district centres and GoA officials. A high level of insurgent activity was observed in Dih Yak, Andar, Qarabagh, Ajristan and Ghazni Districts of Ghazni Province, Gardez, Shwak and Sayid Karam Districts of Paktya Province, Yahya Khel, Urgan, Dila, Gayan, Sar Hawza and Barmal Districts of Paktika and Sabari, Gurbuz, Tani, Spera and Khost Matun Districts of Khost Province.

There has been a consistent level of reporting of continued AGE infiltration into Khost, Paktya and Paktika Provinces, including suicide bombers with plans to target GoA officials and security entities, and some of the reports mention UN compound in the region to be among the targets.

It is likely that there will be dramatic escalation in AGE activity in the coming week. The AGE flurry of incidents in the Districts of Ajirstan, Qarabagh and Ab Band of Ghazni and Musa Kheil and Jaji Maidan of Khost Province continue to draw AGE members in the region to support their counterparts. It is also likely that IED incidents and other asymmetric actions in Paktika Province will remain high in the coming week, especially in the districts of Yahya Kheil, Yosuf Khel, Gayan, Barmal and Waza Khwa Districts. The AGE will seek to exploit possibilities as they arise and the risk of suicide attacks against the ANSF and IM will continue to remain high for most part of the region.

Collateral damage due to the close proximity to IEDs 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 threat to UN international/national staff for political or criminal motives is assessed as the third highest risk. The next reporting period is expected to experience similar levels and complexity of incidents.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

A total of 50 armed clashes reported compared to 42 last week, majority of these attacks remain harassing IM / ANSF / targets of opportunity.

Stand-off Attack

A total of 35 incidents recorded compared to 21 last week.

Air Strike

A total of three air strikes reported compared to four incidents last week.

IED Detonated/Discovered

A total of 29 IED incidents were reported as compared to 19 the week before, including 21 detonations compared to 16 last week.

Assassination

A total of three incidents were reported including one late reporting of three ANP who were killed by AGE on 30 September in Zurmat District on the way to Dih Yak District of Ghazni Province when they found ANP IDs on them.

Arrest

A total of 10 suspected AGE were arrested by IM/ANSF operations in Khost and Paktika.

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 and ANSF bases and convoys.

Analysis of the Week's Events

A total of 69 security incidents were recorded in the region matching the same total of 69 recorded during the past reporting period; this represents an approximate daily average of 10. The factors that are expected to impact on the security of the region in coming weeks include the intensified AGE and IM/ANSF operations, increased infiltration of foreign AGE into various districts of the region, the government's and ECC responses to the numerous complaints raised during the elections as well as the release of preliminary results.

Armed Clashes remained the predominant type of incidents with a total of 23 occurrences recorded which is a single incident higher than was reported for the past week. Kunar Province accounted for 65% with 15 attacks out of the total; while Nangarhar and Laghman Provinces recorded six and two respectively. The most prominent armed clash was recorded in Kunar Province in which the Provincial Governor's convoy was ambushed by AGE while he was returning to Asadabad from Nari District; this prompted IM forces to launch a counter attack; two civilians were reportedly killed and another was wounded in the cross fire. IM intensified air operations were reported in the Korangal Valley in Kunar Province during which two prominent Al-Qaida operatives killed.

A total of 13 IED incidents recorded in the region which is also a single incident higher than was reported for the previous period. While the seven detonations were almost evenly distributed among all provinces except Nuristan, all the six discoveries occurred in Nangarhar Province. There were two significant VBIED discoveries recorded in Nangarhar Province both of which occurred in Jalalabad City on 3 and 4 October. One was a 15 kgs explosive in a parked rickshaw taxi in the Narang Bagh area, Zone 5, and the second was a Toyota Corolla vehicle full of explosives on the main Jalalabad – Torkham Road, close to the ANA and PRT compound in Zone 4. These discoveries could be linked with the increased threat of a complex attack against an unnamed target in the Province and is a mark of increased ANSF vigilance in Province.

There were six stand-off attacks reported in the week as against the seven for the previous week. All occurred in Kunar Province except one that was recorded Nangarhar Province. The inaccurate targeting in these attacks continued to result in civilian casualties; a total of five civilians including three children were wounded in two separate attacks in Kunar Province.

In spite of the fact that only one abduction case was recorded as against an average of four per week in the month of September, the risk of abduction remains a threat to UN staff, government employees and workers of international organisations. Information was received about the release of the three Afghan workers who were abducted at Spin Jumat along the Jalalabad – Asadabad Highway last week; their female international staff remains missing.

There is imminent renewed conflict between Alishirkhail and Sepai tribes in Achin District and poses a threat to the security of Nangarhar Province.

There wasn't any incident against any humanitarian programme delivery agency recorded in the region during the period.

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

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Stand-off Attack

Six incidents were reported and targeted various DAC, ANSF and IM bases; five civilian injuries were recorded.

IED Detonated/Discovered

Thirteen incidents were reported, seven were detonations and six were discoveries.

Mine/UXO Incident

Two incidents were reported and occurred in Nangarhar Province.

Assassination

One incident was recorded involving the killing of an on duty ANP officer in Bati Kot District on 7 October.

Abductions

One incident was recorded in which AGE abducted two road construction company workers.

Crime

Three incidents were reported, all of them occurred in Nangarhar Province.

Arrests

Six arrests were reported and were related to criminal acts in Nangarhar Province.

Intimidation

Two incidents were recorded and involved AGE establishing illegal check point along roads in search for government workers in Laghman and threatened locals in the Ola Gul area of Bargi Matal District in Kunar.

Narcotic Incident

One incident was recorded and involved the seizure of 35 kg of raw hashish, 150 kg of opium seeds by a joint IM/ANSF anti-narcotics team.

Confrontation/Dispute

One incident was recorded on 1 October, Nangarhar Province, Chaparhar District, Kandi Bagh Village, when a fight erupted between two families as a result of a land dispute. One male person was shot and killed and three others were injured. ANP arrested two persons and they are under an ANP investigation.

Information

Reportedly the release of three abducted Afghan staff of an international development agency during on-going military operation in Chawkay District on 3 October.

CENTRAL REGION

The overall security situation in the Central Region remained unstable and marred with unpredictability as threat reports continue to flourish in and around the city of Kabul. Panjsher and Parwan remained calm while Kabul City and the Provinces of Wardak and Logar continued to show instability and thus as usual accounted for the bulk of the incidents.

Analysis of the Week's Events

There were 60 incidents recorded this week in contrast with the 55 incidents during the previous week. This in effect, represents a 9% increase in the number of recorded security incidents. This degree of variability in incident figures from week-to-week is without doubt, a dominant feature of the security landscape of the region. With the preponderance of threat reports suggesting potential attacks against indeterminate targets in Kabul City, the overall security situation continue to be blighted by apprehension with respect looming threats. Since no significant incident so far took place in Kabul since the elections,

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instinctively a supposition of a tactical conservation of AGE potency and logistics for a high impact attack capable of drawing widespread attention typically and subjectively comes to mind.

Consistent with the regional incident trend, Kabul, Logar and Wardak continue to record the highest incident numbers and thus jointly constituted 90% of all incidents. The active presence of AGE Cells in these provinces coupled with an intensified military campaign against them continues to trigger skirmishes which frequently raise incident figures. Abduction and assassination of ANSF personnel and locals alike for political and criminal motives continue to be reported in the region at a sustained pace.

There were three separate incidents of abduction over the period. The two that occurred in Kabul included the son of a former Attorney General and a location businessman. One ANP personnel who was also abducted in Jalrez District of Wardak was soon after assassinated and the body abandoned. The destruction of an antenna mast of a private telecommunication company in Azra District although not a emerging phenomena is another instance of intimidation with far-reaching repercussions to the public in terms of the consequential paralysis of communication. A sustained level of AGE campaign of violence and intimidation may continue to emerge which undoubtedly will negatively impact on the general security situation.

There were a combined total of 20 incidents of stand-off and armed attacks against selected targets including high profile locations such as District Administrative Centres in a number of Provinces and selected ANSF and IM positions. These stand-off attacks resulted in some degree of fatalities and injuries to locals and security forces alike. In another turn of events, IEDs prematurely detonated on three separate occasions as perpetrators attempt to lay them on roads which incidents resulted in five AGE fatalities.

The post-election period remain critical and in line with earlier assessments, violent attacks and other forms of intimidation targeting selected individuals including members of IC is a significant risk. The situation in the region in general is likely to remain unpredictable in the short to the medium term with a likelihood of witnessing higher levels of insurgent activities throughout the region.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were 14 reported armed clashes/attacks during the week. All attacks were AGE initiated attacks against ANSF and PSCs escorting IM logistics. A total of six AGE and one ANP were killed and one injured.

Stand-off Attack

A total of eight stand-off attacks mainly rocket attacks. One of these was in Kabul, two in Logar and five in Wardak. A total of one IM was killed and four other IM injured and also total of ten civilians were also injured in the attacks.

IED Detonated/ Discovered

There were three incidents of IED detonations. All detonations were premature as AGE laid them on roads. A combined total of five AGE were killed and three injured in all the incidents. Nine reports of IED discoveries were recorded. All the devices were defused by EOD teams.

Mine/UXO Incident

One local was killed and four others were injured in an UXO explosion in Muhammad Agha District of Logar Province.

Cache

Three discoveries of cache were reported which included four hand grenades and an assortment of a range of ammunitions recovered at diverse places.

Assassination

One ANP abducted by AGE in Jalrez District of Wardak was later assassinated and the body abandoned.

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Abduction

Three incidents of abduction and one attempt were recorded. A local businessman was abducted and the son of a former Attorney General in Kabul. In Jalrez and Nirkh Districts of Wardak, an ANP personnel was abducted and later assassinated and also a driver of a road construction company was attempted to be abducted but rescued by ANP.

Crime

Five criminal incidents were reported. Unknown perpetrator hauled hand grenades in two separate incidents in Kabul and Wardak with casualties in the former and four injured in the latter. A local was shot and killed in Parwan by an unknown perpetrator while in two separate incidents in Kabul two unidentified corpses were discovered in PD1 and PD 9.

Arrest

There were eight incidents of arrest. A total of 13 AGE/suspected AGE were arrested in all the incidents.

Intimidation

In Azra District of Logar, AGE attacked and destroyed the mast of a private Telecommunication Company.

Information

There were many threat reports received during the week with respect to a potential attack on an indeterminate target in Kabul City to include IC.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION

The security situation in Central Highlands Region remained calm. Only one crime related incident was recorded during the reporting period.

Analysis of the Week's Events

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 Baghlan Province in NER to Shikary Valley. In Daykundi Province, Kijran District is still of concern as it relates to IAG and AGE activities, coming from Uruzgan/Hilmand Province in the Southern Region.

UN activities are open all over the region except Kajran District and road missions Bamyān-Kabul, both directions, are still suspended due to the threat from Ghorban Valley in the CR side.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Crime

On 6 October, Bamyān Province, Shibar District, Shikari Valley, Sang Par area, at about 1300 hrs, a group of three armed criminals robbed the passengers' valuables from two local trucks.

END OF REPORT

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