



**SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL**

**UN Department of Safety and Security, Afghanistan  
Security Situation Report, Week 41  
8 – 14 October 2010**

**JOINT WEEKLY SECURITY ANALYSIS**

The number of security incidents decreased slightly compared with the previous weeks, with only the NR and SER recording increases. The increase in activity in the NR, particularly the continued deterioration of the situation along the main highways in Balkh, Jawzjan and Saripul, is severely hampering program delivery in the area. The types of incidents recorded during the week shifted slightly, with decreased armed clashes, particularly noted in the SR, ER and CR, while IED incidents remained consistent with the previous reporting period. Incidents initiated by security forces, particularly air strikes, arrests and cache finds, increased. These operations resulted in the death of several mid level insurgent leaders in Kunduz and Badghis as well as the arrest of two potential suicide attackers in Paktya. Suicide attacks also increased, including the first such attack ever recorded in Ghor Province. Insurgents increased targeting of the civilian population, specifically increased intimidation incidents and assassinations. The renewal of ISAF's mandate by the UN Security Council prompted a response by Taliban on their website condemning the decision.

While no incidents directly affected UN staff members, seven incidents affected the aid community. In Gulran District of Hirat Province, four separate robberies of UN food occurred, two convoys were robbed and food items were stolen from a school and a clinic. Two national staff of an INGO were shot and wounded by unknown gunmen in Faryab, and one NGO guard was abducted in the WR. Additionally, one INGO national staff member was killed in the assassination of the Kunduz Governor in Taluqan. The continued incidents affecting the aid community 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. While abductions by insurgents remained consistent, intimidation and assassinations increased. Twenty individuals were abducted by AGE during the week, including six ANA travelling in a civilian taxi in Ghor. They were later released unharmed following the intervention of local elders. Additionally, in Kunar an operation to free an international woman previously abducted by AGE resulted in her death and the death of nine of her captors. Intimidation incidents continue to be recorded country wide, the majority being illegal check points screening vehicles for ANSF and GoA officials. Intimidation against mobile phone companies to shut down service in the evenings continues. At least 22 individuals were assassinated during the week in the NER, WR, SR, SER and CR. This includes the assassination of the Kunduz Governor in a mosque in Taluqan, two education officials, a Kandahar Shura member killed during prayers in a mosque and the head of the District Development Shura in Dehrawud, Uruzgan. Insurgents continue to effectively target key local figures. Additionally, killings of alleged "spies" continued, including three civilians publicly executed by AGE in Badghis in the days following an air strike that killed several provincial level insurgent leaders. Similar retaliatory attacks are to be expected in areas where air strikes kill AGE leadership. Overall these incidents have a sustained impact on support for the GoA throughout the country.

Suicide attacks increased to four during the week, and two potential suicide attackers were arrested in Paktya Province. This includes the BBIED attack targeting the Kunduz Governor in the Taluqan Mosque, a SVBIED attack targeting the IM in Khost, and two separate BBIED attacks, one in Ghor and one in Helmand, where the perpetrator was identified by security forces and was the only casualty. The attack targeting the PRT in Chagcharan is the first suicide attack ever recorded in Ghor where overall AGE activity has to date been relatively limited. Overall these incidents were consistent with 2010 trends in number, type and targeting while the geographic spread was slightly unusual.

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## **RISK ANALYSIS**

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.

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### **Significant Events Since the End of the Reporting Period**

On 15 October, Sari-Pul Province, Sari-Pul City at about 0120 hrs, AGE simultaneously attacked provincial jail and ANA HQ from 3 different directions with RPG and SAF as a result 1 ANP was killed and 3 others were injured, ANSF repelled the attack, the fire fight lasted an hour before AGE withdrew towards the direction of Sayaad District. The UNAMA provincial office is located 300 mtrs from the location. Two UN staff were relocated to Mazar-i-sharif.

On 16 October. Kandahar City, due to multiple attacks/explosions in different districts started before 2000 hrs, number of IEDs found in several places in town and heavy IM/ANSF bombardments, "WHITE CITY" has been declared in Kandahar City from 23:00 hrs 16 Oct till 10:30 hrs 17 Oct. All international staff was accounted for.

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## **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 which had remained consistent at 32 after the election spike saw a 28% reduction with 23 incidents recorded. Of this total, 10 were recorded in Kunduz, seven in Baghlan and three each in Takhar and Badakhshan. Armed clashes which had remained high at an average weekly rate of 15 reduced to five over the last week with two each in Kunduz and Baghlan and one in Takhar. While in the preceding week the high number of armed clashes was attributed to a series of Special Forces operations in Takhar and a resurging Taliban in Kunduz, over the last period the Special Forces operations were refocused on Kunduz. However, the most significant incident over the past week was the assassination of the Governor of Kunduz, Eng Mohammad Omar in Taloqan City, Takhar.

In Kunduz, following the resurgence of the AGE over the previous week, IM/ANSF conducted a series of successful operations. These operations were also anticipated as a response to the assassination in Takhar which has been attributed to elements in Kunduz. IM conducted two air strikes in which at least eight AGE were killed, IM Special Forces conducted two night raids in the north of Kunduz City, in Gortepa and Zarkharid in which six AGE were arrested and IM/ANSF conducted extensive search operations in Chahar Dara, Nahri Sufi area which were largely unopposed. AGE who seemingly learnt from previous exchanges have fought only limited engagement battles, pulling back to lure IM into IED ambushes. In one such ambush, an IM vehicle was significantly damaged. The 3 m crater suggests that at least 100 lbs of explosive was used and that the IED had been laid over a considerable period of time and was remotely detonated. IM/ANP continue to plan for the long awaited Fall offensive to target Aliabad

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and Imam Sahib Districts initially based on the approved ALP Tashkill. However, amidst these plans there are other concerns being raised about the capacity of the ANP to 'manage' the Arbaki who will form the ALP. It has been suggested that while the NDS had penetrated these groups and had the assets and capacity to monitor their activities, the ANP was not similarly structured or resourced.

The insecurity in Baghlan particularly along the main highways continues to present challenges to the security forces. One IED was discovered along the Pul-e-Khumri to Mazar highway, and a temporary CP was established along the Baghlan to Kunduz highway by AGE. However, the most significant incident involved a series of attacks conducted against ANP CPs over a period of six hours in Surkh Kotel, Gurgurak, Puli Khatol, Tajikha Street and Chashma-i-Sher areas of Pul-i-Khumri. Since the BBIED attack against IM during the previous week there have been increased threat warnings of suicide attacks in Pul-e-Khumri City with likely targets being IM/ANSF/GoA.

In Takhar IM Special Forces operations were used successfully over the previous period to ease the AGE pressure on ANSF and pro government militia particularly in the northern districts. While the Governor of Kunduz was assassinated within Taloqan City, it is widely felt that the attack was planned and executed by Kunduz based TB with little or no support from elements in Takhar. The placing of a dummy IED in close proximity to the deceased governor's house and the affected mosque was a malicious attempt to intimidate persons in the area including relatives of the deceased and is not necessarily associated with AGE. The northern districts remain threatened with weak ANSF presence and the reported temporary re-assignment of ANP and ANBP from Badakhshan to Khawaja Baha-u-din is a welcome development.

In Badakhshan, the situation remains calm. The armed attack on a public transport vehicle in Arghanj Khwah District along the main highway was assessed as a criminal offence stemming from a long standing dispute. It was also alleged that the perpetrators are linked to ANSF and as such the investigation into the crime is likely to be inconclusive. There is therefore an anticipation of a reprisal attack in the near future.

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

#### **Suicide Attack**

There was one suicide attack. On 8 Oct in Taloqan City, Takhar, a BBIED attacker targeted the Governor of Kunduz in a mosque. 15 persons were killed including the governor, a national SM of an INGO, and an ANA officer. 35 others were injured.

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

There were five armed clashes recorded; two each in Kunduz and Baghlan and one in Takhar. Significantly, in Pul-e-Khumri District, Baghlan, on 13 Oct, AGE launched a series of attacks on ANP CPs over a period of six hours. In Kunduz Province, Imam Sahib District, AGE attacked an ANSF and pro-government militia position while in Char Dara, Nahri Sufi area AGE engaged in limited contact with IM/ANSF.

#### **Air Strike**

There were two air strikes in Kunduz Province on 11 Oct during the night. In Chahar District, Erganak area, two AGE including the notorious Sherin Agha were killed. Agha was an accused murderer who later joined TB. In Chahar Dara District, Qara Qasab area, six AGE were killed in the second attack.

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

There were four IED incidents; one detonation and three discoveries. In Nahri Sufi area, Chahar Dara District, AGE detonated a huge RCIED against an IM vehicle. Four IM soldiers and a civilian were injured and the vehicle extensively damaged. In Kunduz Province, Chahar Dara District an IED was discovered and defused by IM and a third was discovered in the main square in Kunduz City. In Baghlan Province, Pul-i-Khumri District an IED was discovered and defused.

#### **Cache**

In Argo District, Badakhshan a cache of weapons and ammunition from the Jihad era was recovered by ANP.

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### **Assassination**

In Kunduz Province, Kunduz City, AGE entered a compound and assassinated two off duty ANA soldiers and a civilian relative. This was in addition to the assassination of Governor Omar in a suicide attack.

### **Crime**

Five crimes were recorded; In Badakhshan, Arghanj Khwah District a feud resulted in an attack on a public transport vehicle in which one civilian was killed and four injured while in Zibak DAC, there was a murder/suicide following a relationship break-down. In Baghlan Province, Dushi District, AGE attacked a mobile phone tower while in Pul-i-Khumri district, along the main road a fuel tanker was stolen but was later recovered along with the driver and assistant. In Takhar Province, Khawaja Baha-u-din District a double murder was reported.

### **Arrest**

There were two arrests in Kunduz Province as a result of IM operations. In Kunduz City, Gortepa area three suspected AGE were arrested and in Kunduz City, Zarkharid area three AGE were arrested.

### **Intimidation**

On 10 Oct, Baghlan Province, Baghlan-e-Jadid District, along the Kunduz to Baghlan highway AGE established a temporary CP.

### **Demonstration**

On 13 October, Pul-e-Khumri City, Baghlan, a group of school teachers staged a demonstration in front of the PG office to protest the alleged 'grabbing' of school land.

## **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 45 security incidents were reported showing a significant increase of 36 % in comparison with 33 incidents recorded on previous week. Balkh Province had the highest number of security related incidents with 19 reported, followed by Faryab Province with 17, Sari Pul four and Jawzjan four incidents. Samangan Province had no security related incidents during the reporting period.

There was a significant increasing in armed clashes during the week, fourteen incident occurred in Balkh Province and eight in Faryab Province showing an increase of 178%. AGE continued to target mainly ANSF posts and Joint IM/ANSF patrols in Balkh and Faryab Provinces. The security along the Ring road, Mazar-Shibirghan which is extensively used by the UN to deliver programmes in Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab Provinces, has been deteriorating. Numerous AGE initiated armed clashes have been recorded along the Ring road as well as in the villages close to the Ring road during the reporting period. The main threat spots at this time, are those situated on the Ring road sector passing through Chahar Bolak District of Balkh Province which is of concern for UN community. In view of these developments UN programmes delivery was affected during the week. The insecurity on the Ring road and surrounding villages of Chimal and Chahar Bolak Districts of Balkh Province, which is known to be hotspots of AGE activity in Balkh Province and is becoming more acute with AGE build up in Gor Dara area of Alburz Mountains of Chimal District and infiltration of AGE from the other region with the intent to destabilize the security situation in Balkh Province, particularly the main supply Ring road. The ANSF seems to be reluctant to undertake the security of the Balkh Province giving lack of personal and proper coordination among the security forces as the reason.

Stand-off attacks decreased by one stand off attack reported in Jawzjan Province compare to the five stand-off attacks reported in the previous week. As usually the target of stand-off attacks remaine,government installations, ANSF CPs and IM. The main incident of the week was a stand-off attack against Qush Tepa District Administrative Centre.

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Three IEDs detonations were reported during the week, one in Chahar Bolak District of Balkh and two in Ghormach and Dawlatabad Districts, Faryab Province. On one occasion an ANA vehicle was the target and on the second occasion an IED detonated prematurely killing the two perpetrators of the IEDs. The most significant incident of the week was the RCIED detonation in a shop targeting the CPF commander in Dawlatabad District of Faryab Province killing the commander along with three other civilians. The use of IEDs is relatively common tactics of choice by the AGE.

AGE continued to be active on Sari Pul – Shibirghan main road. On the second consecutive week AGE established check posts on the abovementioned 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 Pul Province, intends to broaden his area of operations and most likely one of his aims is to get at least partial control over the Sari Pul – Shibirghan Road.

In comparison to the previous week the number of abductions decreased by one incident. In total, three abductions were reported. In Chahar Bolak District Balkh Province two private truck drivers were abducted after their trucks were set on fire. One ANP officer and a local civilian were abducted in Pashtun Kot and Sari Pul Districts of Faryab and Sari Pul Provinces. Both abductees were safely released due to intervention of the local elders.

In another development, AGE set fire to a secondary school, however, ANP with the support of local community extinguished the fire in Almar district of Faryab Province. AGE also warned all private telephone companies to shutdown their operation in Almar, Qaysar and Ghormach Districts of Faryab Province.

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 UN programme delivery in Qush Tepa, Dara-i-Sufi Payin and Bala, Kishindh, 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**

25 armed clashes were reported in Faryab and Balkh Provinces.

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

One stand-off attacks were reported in Jawzjan Province.

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

Three IEDs were reported as detonated in Balkh and Faryab Provinces.

#### **Abduction**

Three abductions were recorded during the week. In two occasions the local civilians were the target and in one occasion ANP.

## **WESTERN REGION**

The security situation in Western Region remained unstable.

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

The Incident level in Western Region remains consistent with that of the previous week. There were 50 incidents recorded compared to 51 during the preceding week, representing a 2% decrease. Hirat recorded the highest number of incidents followed by Farah, Badghis and Ghor respectively. All four provinces recorded significant incidents worth noting. A notorious AGE commander and a shadow deputy provincial AGE commander were among several AGE killed in Hirat and Badghis. In Badghis and Farah,

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total seven IM were killed by AGE while Ghor recorded its first BBIED targeting the PRT. Previous AGE attacks against the PRT in Chaghcharan City, until recently, were limited to rocket attacks.

Armed clashes and IM-initiated air attacks took significant tolls on the AGE especially in Hirat, Badghis and Farah where total 34 AGE were reportedly killed. The impact of these attacks can be seen in the drift of AGE activities to seemingly softer targets in neighbouring Ghor Province where the situation continues to escalate.

IED detonations increased by three, to a recorded nine incidents. The IED detonations resulted in the death of seven IM; four in Farah and 3 in Badghis. The IED detonation IVO Chaghcharan runway is yet another pointer to the resolve of the AGE who see the runway, under-construction, as a threat. It is perceived that the improved runway will facilitate increased IM air strikes in the future. There was a detonation in Hirat City which also confirms the ease with which AGE operate in a supposedly firm ANSF stronghold.

Assassinations continued unabated. In Badghis Province, AGE carried out a public execution of three civilians accused of spying for IM. In addition,, the ANP reportedly killed three unidentified persons in Hirat Province. With increased IM precision strikes in the Region, it is anticipated that more locals will be accused of spying for foreign forces and subsequently assassinated.

Abduction decreased from 10 incidents last week to three. Two in Ghor and one in Hirat Province. In Ghor Province, Passaband District, Senay village, AGE abducted a security guard of an NGO. His whereabouts are unknown.

Incidents targeting the aid community remain a concern. The AGE looting of UN provided food items from implementing partners in four separate incidents in Gulran District of Hirat Province is worrisome. Security forces' failure to prevent such incidents continues to adversely impact the aid community support for GoA.

Threat reports of possible attacks on GIRoA, ANSF, IM and International Organizations including the UN offices in Hirat remain extant. 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 and abduction for political or criminal motives.

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

#### **Suicide Attack**

One suicide attack was recorded in Ghor Province, Chaghcharan City, IM compound, where a BBIED detonated his device when challenged by IM and external guards at the gate. No casualties were reported apart from the BBIED himself.

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

Seven incidents were reported. There were three in Hirat, 2 in Farah and one each in Ghor and Badghis. All the armed clashes were between the AGE and ANSF/IM. The most significant clash was in Hirat Province, Kushk District, Qush Asia area, where an IM operation resulted in four AGE being killed, including a notorious Taliban shadow District Governor for Kushk District. In another operation in Hirat Province, Obe District, ANP killed three AGE and wounded six others including their commander. In all the clashes in the region, total ten (10) AGE were killed.

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

Three stand-off attacks initiated by AGE were recorded; 2 in Farah and one in Hirat. No fatalities were recorded.

#### **Air Strike**

There were seven incidents; three each in Farah and Badghis and one in Hirat Province. In a significant IM air strike in Badghis Province, Muqur District, Qariaq Shori area, five AGE including the Taliban shadow Deputy Governor for Badghis Province and another AGE commander were killed. In another

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incident in Hirat Province, Obe District, Tagab Yari Village, IM conducted an air strike in the area killing nine AGE including a commander. Air strikes account for 24 AGE fatalities in the region.

### **IED Detonated/Discovered**

Nine incidents were reported. Three in Farah Province; two each in Hirat and Ghor and; one in Badghis. In Badghis, in Muqur District, Shor Gul Pari area, three IM were killed. Another significant incident was in Farah Province, Gulistan District, where four IM were killed in a RCIED. Also, significantly, in Ghor Province, Chaghcharan City, airport area, IVO of runway, an RCIED detonated targeting an IM vehicle. No casualty or damage was reported. There was a detonation in Hirat city confirming the ease of AGE operations in a supposedly firm ANSF stronghold. Three IEDs were discovered and defused.

### **Assassination**

Two incidents were recorded. One in Hirat involving the ANP who shot dead 3 unknown men and another in Badghis Province, Murghab District, Qoloqai area where AGE publicly executed three civilians accused of spying for IM.

### **Abduction**

Three incidents were recorded. Two in Ghor and one in Hirat Province. In Ghor Province, Passaband District, Senay village, AGE abducted a security guard of an NGO. His whereabouts remains unknown. The abductees in the other incident have been released.

### **Crime**

Four incidents of crime were reported. All were in Herat Province, Gulran District involving the looting of UN provided food items from implementing partners. The food items were looted en route to and at a school and clinic.

### **Arrest**

Four incidents of arrest were recorded.

### **Intimidation**

There was one report of intimidation in Ghor Province Charsada District, where AGE set ablaze a house belonging to an ANP.

### **Confrontation/Dispute**

In one incident in Badghis Province, Ab Kamari District, an armed clash erupted between two tribes over an internal dispute that lasted two hours.

### **Information**

Four incidents of information were recorded.

### **Other**

Two other incidents were reported during reporting week.

## **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 region recorded 11% decrease with 75 incidents as compared to 85 during the previous week. Decreases were primarily recorded in Zabul Province (33%), Hilmand Province (23%) and Kandahar Province (5%), whilst Uruzgan and Nimroz Provinces recorded relatively consistent numbers. The types of incidents recorded remained consistent, with IEDs forming the bulk of all incidents reported.

Kandahar Province and Hilmand Province remained the main areas of AGE's activity in the region.

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Overall activity in Kandahar Province decreased slightly over the period, with the majority of reported incidents related to IED activities, cache discoveries, arrests and intimidation. Kandahar District remained the most active in Kandahar Province followed by Zhari District, while in Hilmand Province Nahri Sarraj, Nad Ali and Marja Districts experienced the highest activity.

A significant decrease in AGE initiated attacks/clashes were recorded throughout the region; 14 attacks as compared to 21 in the previous week. Of the 14 armed attacks/clashes reported during the week, six occurred in Kandahar Province while five occurred in Hilmand Province. Most of the attacks were directed towards IM/ANSF bases, patrols and IM supply convoys. The drop in activity levels experienced in the region would still be attributed to the ongoing high profile IM/ANSF operation in Kandahar Province. It is likely that most medium to high level AGE commanders have fled the province, in a bid to avoid capture and would likely wait until the operation is concluded before attempting to return to the area. Also, IM/ANSF continued to successfully suppress supplies to AGE on the western part of Kandahar.

The drop of incident figures for Hilmand Province is most likely linked to under reporting from the area. However, IM/ANSF focused on security and development activities in Hilmand and on attempts to maintain stability in the most populated urban centres.

IED activity again accounted for almost half of all the incidents, highlighting that they remain the major threat. Consistent with last week's trend in Kandahar and Hilmand Provinces, AGE used IED attacks as the preferred tactic rather than kinetic engagements with IM/ANSF. During the week, twenty-two IEDs targeted successfully the IM, ANSF and civilians throughout the region. There was a higher IED discovery rate in Kandahar Province which is linked to increasing willingness of population to report IEDs, possibly as a result of civilian IED casualties but also due to increasing rapport between IM/ANSF and the population. Furthermore, during the week large quantities of explosives and caches were intercepted and confiscated by the ANSF/IM especially in Kandahar and Zabol Provinces.

One BBIED premature detonation occurred in Marja District of Hilmand Province on 9 October, when a potential suicide bomber detonated in a residence while preparing his device. Only the bomber was killed. The potential suicide bomber reportedly hiding in a residence detonated his device before an IM/ANSF team acting on a tip-off could target him.

AGE continued to focus asymmetric tactics such as assassination, intimidation and abduction activities against the general population associated with, or perceived to be associated with the GoA and the international community and those perceived to be unsupportive of AGE activities with at least four individuals assassinated during the week. This included the killing of an Islamic scholar, an ex-ANP officer and a civilian accused of spying for the GoA and IM in Kandahar Province. In addition, the head of a District Development Association was assassinated in Uruzgan Province. AGE abduction activities were highlighted this week in Shah Joy District of Zabol Province, when two civilians accused of having links with the GoA and IM were abducted. A UN staff member in Uruzgan also received a threatening call from an unknown caller warning him to quit his job or face dire consequences.

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 premature detonation occurred in Hilmand Province.

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

There were 14 reported armed clashes/attacks over the period.

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

A total of 35 IED incidents including 22 detonations were recorded.



**Assassination**

Four incidents were recorded during the week.

**Abduction**

One incident was reported during the period.

**Cache**

Ten cache discoveries were reported 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**

There was a 4.7% increase in incidents, from 129 last week to 135 (including 12 late reported) this reporting period. AGE driven activities accounted for 75.6% of the overall incidents compared to 90.7% reported the previous week. By and large, incidents recorded in the region; Ghazni reported 45, Paktika 44, Khost 29 and Paktya 17. While armed attacks/clash decreased by 11.8%, the overall impact of the attacks greatly affected insurgents, out of 50 casualties reported this week 35 are claimed to be AGE. Of the 45 armed clash/attacks recorded, 25 occurred in Ghazni, 11 Paktika, 5 Paktya and 4 in Khost.

Although the overall number of incidents slightly increased the types of episodes remained consistent, except the arrests made by IM/ANSF operations throughout the region, which is believed to be having an impact on insurgency activities especially the IED making cells that are being dismantled and purportedly suicide bombers apprehended by security forces. This progress signifies the increase in security entities determination to disrupt AGE's augmented tempo in an attempt to reposition themselves in the population before the coming winter. Stand-off attacks and IED incidents remain consistent in the region for the last three consecutive weeks.

The number and nature of security incidents recorded during the reporting period remained in line with the general regional trend. But again this week, the civilian population suffered casualties, when caught in the cross fire, during an AGE initiated attack on DAC/IM convoy. On 10 Oct, in Mandozai District, thirteen civilians including three children were injured by AGE VBIED that struck the IM convoy and on 10 Oct 10, an AGE attack on Yahya Kheil DAC that claimed the lives of five civilians.

AGE intimidation tactics were concentrated towards individuals working with the GoA or allegedly providing service to ISAF and international entities. Tactics employed this week are; one abduction in Ghazni and four assassinations in Paktika Provinces.

The reporting of continued AGE infiltration into Khost, Paktya and Paktika Provinces including suicide bombers with plans to target GoA officials and security entities continues and can be supported by the IM attrition on insurgents through air strike and ground operations in border districts of SER. The enhanced security measures remains in place in response to the existing threats of attacks against UN facilities. While indication was that these attacks were to occur during the election period or thereafter, it is assessed that the combined efforts by the UN, ISAF and ANSF entities, as well as the covert hardening of protective measures at all UN compounds in the region may have served as a deterrent and impacted on the insurgent's plans and/or their ability to carry out these campaigns as the compounds might no longer be considered soft targets.

The current trend and intensity of security incidents in SER is expected to continue into the next reporting period. Collateral damage due to close proximity to IED and suicide attacks is the highest assessed general risk to UN staff members.

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

**Suicide Attack**

One VBIED was reported in Mandozai of Khost.

**Attack/Armed clash**

A total of 45 armed clashes reported compared to 50 last week, majority of these attacks remain as the harassing IM / ANSF / targets of opportunity.

**Stand-Off Attack**

A total of 37 incidents recorded compared to 35 last week.

**Air Strike**

A total of five air strikes reported compared to two incidents last week.

**IED Discovered/Detonated**

A total of 30 IED incidents were reported as compared to 29 the week before, including 20 detonations compared to 21 last week.

**Assassination**

A total of four incidents reported this week compared to the late report of three last week.

**Arrest**

A total of 12 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**

The region recorded a total of 64 security incidents as against a total of 69 recorded during the past reporting period; this represents a slight decrease of 8% with an approximate daily average of 9 incidents. The factors that are expected to impact on the security of the region in coming weeks continue to be 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 the Nuristan Province preliminary results on the 17 Oct 10.

Armed clashes dropped by 39% however remained the predominant incident with a total of 14 occurrences recorded against 23 for the previous period; all were recorded in Kunar Province alone. The most prominent armed clashes occurred in the Marawara District on 11 and 12 October between AGE and ABP personnel who had been deployed to secure the Ghakhay Kandaw area following IM withdrawal of a private security company they contracted for the security of the area. The withdrawal was in response to the recent decree issued by the Afghan Government regarding the disbandment of some categories of private security companies operating illegally in the country. The clashes resulted in several casualties to both sides.

IED incidents recorded in the region dropped by three from 13 to 10 for the week under review and occurred in all provinces except Nuristan. In the Matin Village of Mano Gai District of Kunar Province, AGE attempted to destroy a small bridge between Wata Pur and Mano Gai districts by detonating an IED which caused a minor damage because the amount of explosive was small. All the IED finds in Nangarhar Province were along routes used frequently by UN AFP missions and raises serious concerns because of the increased risk of wrong-time wrong-place collateral damage.

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There were six stand-off attacks reported in the week as against seven for the previous week and occurred in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. During clashes in Ghakhay Kandaw in Marawara District of Kunar Province on 12 Oct, AGE fired an RPG at an IM helicopter killing one ABP officer, one local civilian interpreter and four IM soldiers; five ABP officers and three IM soldiers were wounded. IM are reported to be making efforts to recover the damaged helicopter.

Abduction continues to be a threat in Kunar and Nangarhar Provinces as three cases were recorded for the period. A local male who runs a private security company for IM was abducted on 10 Oct and assassinated the following day by AGE in the Wazir area of Khogyani District, Nangarhar Province. The DAI British staff who was abducted along with three Afghan colleagues on the Jalalabad – Asadabad Highway on 26 Sep 10 was killed during an IM rescue operation in the Mahamod Kandow area of the Dewagal Valley in Chawkay District, Kunar Province on 9 Oct. There were conflicting reports about the cause of her death in the initial stages however, official ISAF statements indicate that her death could have been due to friendly fire, although there are claims that she may have been killed by her abductors before the IM grenade was lobbed into the room where she was being held. Nine AGE were also killed in that operation.

The possibility of renewed fighting between Alishirkhail and Sepai tribes in Achin District continues to be a looming threat to the security of Nangarhar Province as the factions have threatened to use the help of AGE to support their course if a clash ensues. It would be recalled that in March and July 2010, AGE took advantage of the conflict between the two and infiltrated fighters that included foreigners to support one of the factions.

There were no incidents against humanitarian programme delivery agency recorded in the region during the reporting 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**

Fourteen incidents were reported, all of which occurred in Kunar Province and targeted IM/ANSF locations and DAC.

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

Six incidents were reported and occurred in Kunar and Nangarhar Provinces.

#### **Air Strike**

Two incidents were reported and occurred in Kunar Province.

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

Ten incidents were reported, four were detonations and six were discoveries.

#### **Assassination**

Two incidents were reported and occurred in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces. AGE killed a tribal elder of the Oghuz Bagh area in Asmar District, Kunar Province for spying for IM/ANSF.

#### **Abduction**

Three incidents were recorded in Kunar and Nangarhar Provinces.

#### **Crime**

Four incidents were reported and occurred in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces.

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### **Arrest**

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

### **Intimidation**

Six incidents were recorded, five were illegal road blocks by AGE in search for government workers in Laghman Province and one was a threat against a construction company in Nangarhar Province.

### **Narcotic Incident**

One incident was recorded and involved the seizure of 18.5 kg opium along the Ring Road in Bihsud District of Nangarhar Province.

### **Information**

Nine reports of information being received were reported and were mainly regarding AGE infiltrations into various districts of the region

## **CENTRAL REGION**

The overall security situation in the Central Region remained unstable. Panjsher Province remained calm whilst Parwan Province was also calm. Kabul City and the Provinces of Wardak and Logar continued to show instability and together accounted for the majority of security incidents (83%).

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

A total of 52 incidents were recorded during the reporting period; a figure that presents a further decrease of 13 percent in comparison with the 60 incidents recorded during the last reporting period. Kabul Province recorded a total of 20 incidents whilst Wardak and Logar provinces reported a total of 16 incidents and nine incidents respectively. As mentioned earlier, a total of 83 percent of reported incidents occurred in these three provinces. For an extended period already, these three provinces have been experiencing the majority of security incidents in the Central region. Kapisa and Parwan Provinces are continuously reporting lower numbers of incidents whilst Panjsher Province did not report any incidents since election day.

Although no significant security incidents impacted the overall security situation during the reporting period, an aircraft crash incident that occurred on 12 October marked another significant incident this week that claimed lives. A cargo aircraft belonging to a civilian cargo company and contracted by IM, crashed en route to Kabul from Bagram Air Base. All eight international air crew were killed in the incident.

The nature of other security incidents during the week were more or less similar to the incidents reported last week. IED incidents, both detonations and discoveries were at the same level as those of last week whilst armed clashes were at a slightly lower level (11 incidents as compared to 14 last week).

Interestingly, AGE and the ANSF/IM each initiated a total of 22 incidents this week and the remaining eight incidents were initiated by different criminal groups and civilians.

On the 10 and 11 October, a group of Kuchis staged demonstrations against the government on Darulaman road in Kabul city. The protestors requested the government to protect their rights which were allegedly violated during the recent clashes with Hazaras. Both demonstrations ended peacefully and no action on the side of ANP was required.

Although no significant security incidents occurred during the period, a number of threats of possible suicide and complex attacks were received from different sources. In some cases, different sources claimed that AGE are planning to attack GoA facilities and other compounds belonging to different international organizations. In other cases, different sources were suggesting that AGE groups are conducting surveillance of shopping places and restaurants that are frequented by foreigners. Although a number of these reports could be attributed to circular reporting, we can not discount the fact that even though no spectacular attacks occurred in Kabul City for some time and certainly not after the election, It can be expected that AGE are positioning themselves to conduct an attack that may target places

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frequented by foreigners and/or compound belonging to different international organizations including the UN.

The reporting period has seen a decrease in the number of incidents but the probability of terrorist attacks on a variety of targets in the region, including the UN, remains high. The highest risk for the UN remains 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 11 reported armed clashes/attacks during the week. All attacks targeted the ANSF, IM and civilian convoys throughout the region. A total of seven persons were killed and four persons were injured in these attacks.

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

A total of five stand-off attacks were reported. In four cases, the DAC's were targeted and in one case an ANP CP was targeted. No casualties were reported in these attacks.

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

There were eight reports of IED discoveries. All the devices were defused by EOD teams. There were three incidents of IED detonations. In two cases, IM patrols were targeted and, in one case a local construction company vehicle targeted. Only casualties occurred in an IED incident on 12 October in Logar Province, when one IM soldier was killed and three other soldiers were injured.

#### **Cache**

Four discoveries of cache were reported. In these cases, the ANSF discovered various ammunition ranging from 7.62 calibre for AK-47 to mortar shells.

#### **Assassination**

There were a total of three assassination incidents during the period. One ANA soldier who was abducted earlier was found dead, one teacher was killed in Wardak by AGE whilst in the third case, a PSC driver was found dead in Wardak Province.

#### **Abduction**

Only one abduction incident occurred during the period when four individuals wearing NDS uniforms abducted a local businessmen in Kabul city.

#### **Crime**

Two criminal incidents were reported.

#### **Arrest**

There were 11 incidents of arrest. Reportedly, a total of 30 AGE/suspected AGE were arrested in all the incidents.

#### **Information**

A number of reports were received during the week suggesting that AGE are planning to conduct attacks against GoA facilities and other places such as restaurants frequented by foreigners in Kabul City.

### **CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION**

The security situation in Central Highlands Region remained calm. One crime related incident and one arrest were 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. A truck was attacked and the driver killed, meanwhile a minivan's passengers passing by were robbed by the same criminals.

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

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

**Crime**

One incident was reported, the driver of an attacked truck was killed, money and mobile phone sets stolen.

**Arrest**

One case was reported; ANP arrested two guards in relation with the above mentioned incident

**END OF REPORT**

AC/EM