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**UN Department of Safety and Security, Afghanistan
Security Situation Report, Week 42
15 – 21 October 2010**

JOINT SECURITY ANALYSIS

The number of security incidents increased slightly compared with the previous week. Only the NR recorded a decrease, and the WR, ER, CR and CHR recorded consistent levels of activity. The types of incidents recorded returned to normal patterns, with armed clashes and IEDs accounting for two thirds of all reports. Incidents initiated by security forces, particularly air strikes, arrests and cache finds, remained high. No suicide attacks occurred during the week, though one potential suicide bomber was arrested in Kabul Province and in a separate incident also in Kabul five suicide vests were seized. Insurgents continued targeting of the civilian population; though in slightly lower numbers than last week.

No incidents directly affected UN staff members; an additional six incidents affected the aid community. In the NR, armed men attempted to abduct a doctor, but failed when a nearby police patrol intervened. A civilian truck driver transporting UN materials was abducted in the WR. Also in the WR, a police officer attempted to assault an NGO staff member, others nearby intervened and the policeman was arrested. In the ER, three trucks transporting medical equipment were stolen; two have since been returned after intervention by local elders however the location of the third remains unknown. An IED detonated in a clinic in Khost, wounding three civilians including two children. In Logar, AGE entered an NGO run clinic, stole some medicine and equipment and set one room on fire. They warned the staff to shut down the clinic before leaving the area. The local shura has condemned the attack and requested the clinic remain in operation. Additionally, an ANP guard outside a UN compound in Uruzgan accidentally discharged his weapon, wounding himself. Incidents targeting the aid community continue to negatively affect programme delivery.

Asymmetric actions by insurgents against the population remained high, though lower than last week. Abductions by AGE increased slightly, with 27 individuals abducted during the week, including 20 road construction workers in Farah, an elder in Takhar and the son of an NDS member in Khost. Intimidation incidents decreased slightly compared to last week. Illegal check points screening vehicles for ANSF and GoA officials continued as did intimidation against mobile phone companies. Assassinations decreased to nine individuals killed and two more seriously injured in attempted assassinations in the NR, SR, SER and CR. This includes the assassination of a Nijrab District Council member in Kapisa and an NDS officer killed in Logar. Public executions also continued, with a woman killed by AGE in Ghazni for reportedly killing her mother in law and the public beheading of a civilian in Saydabad District of Wardak, accused of being a spy. Overall these incidents have a sustained impact on support for the GoA throughout the country.

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.

Significant Events Since the End of the Reporting Period

On 22 October, Nangarhar Province, Dur Baba District, Shegai area Village, at approximately 0700 hrs, an IED (AT) detonated against the District Governor of Dur Baba' vehicle. The District Governor, two ANP officers and a civilian were killed and one ANP officer was injured. The vehicle sustained extensive damage.

On 23 October, Hirat Province, Guzara District, Pashtoon Bridge area, approximately 1140 hrs, a group of four suicide attackers involving one SVBIED and three BBIEDs conducted a complex attack against a UN Compound. A sedan vehicle approached to the HMAc (Heart Multiagency Compound) rare gate/emergency exit (one driver and other three in Burqa). The men wearing Burqa got off the vehicle and the vehicle headed to the gate direction while warned and shot by UNPU guards. The VBIED detonated in distance of around 15 meters from the gate and other attackers fired RPG 7 followed by SAF. One rocket hit UNPU sentry box injuring two UNPU guards and another rocket hit the gate opening the gate for the attackers to enter. UNPU reinforcement arrived and shot one of the attackers while entering the compound. The wounded attacker detonated his device causing no damage to UNPU and the compound. Other two BBIEDs managed to enter the compound; one of the BBIEDs detonated his device near the dispatch office (10 meter from the gate) and the second BBIED run behind the parked vehicles and detonated his explosive devices when he saw the IDG/Gurkhas at the roof top. As a result, vehicle glasses were shattered and one room was partially damaged. A total of four attackers were killed and three UNPU were injured in the incident. Some office windows were also shattered.

On 22 October, Ghor Province, Cheghcharan City, at approximately 1200 hrs, a crowd of supporters of 2 unsuccessful candidates gathered at the IEC provincial office (PO) in Cheghcharan, and not allowed any staff to leave or enter the facility. One UN national staff member was amongst the staff trapped inside the building, The Chief of Police (CoP), Cheghcharan, was alerted and sent additional policemen to the scene. The number of demonstrators diminished during the night due to cold but have returned the next morning where stayed until late evening of 23 October. All IEC staff and the UN national staff were released. No reports of violence were reported.

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 reduced to 23 in the preceding period were up by 13% with 26 incidents recorded and this was attributed to IM/ANSF operations in Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar. Of the total, nine were recorded in Kunduz, eight in Takhar, six in Baghlan and three Badakhshan. During the period, the IM/ANSF achieved significant results in the three mentioned provinces with a strategy of negotiation backed up by overwhelming military force in Kunduz Province.

In Kunduz, following the generally unopposed IM/ANSF operation during the previous week in Nahri Sufi, Chahar Dara in which it was noted that members of the populace largely stayed in place, perhaps a sign of increasing confidence in the GoA, combined operations during the reporting period focused on Aliabad and southern areas of Chahar Dara. The operation that was led by ANP but supported by NDS and IM sought to establish contact with local commanders who were offered an option of reintegration. Over the past week and through the involvement and support of Commander Zia, most of the local commanders in Aliabad representing 16 villages and four villages in Chahar Dara changed sides and these areas were declared "insurgent free" even though there are some who are still not reconciled after fleeing. While it

SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

was reported that more than 60 fighters had 'surrendered' there is still a lot of confidence building that has to be done between both sides as the IM/ANSF prepare to reinforce/support these new 'comrades in arms' against the expected reprisals from more hard line TB. IM/ANSF have also been engaged in a deliberate information campaign to spread word of the successful 're-integration' in Aliabad ahead of planned operations in Imam Sahib District even as pressure is maintained on the Gortepa area with a night operation in which 16 AGE were arrested including two top commanders. In Imam Sahib District notably there was one RCIED that detonated against a tractor and four other IEDs that were discovered in the Ismael Qeshlaq area.

The insecurity in Baghlan particularly along the main highways continues to present challenges with unknown persons firing an RPG at a passing car in Khenjan District. However, IM Special Forces maintained pressure in Baghlan with two notable air strikes in Pul-i-Khumri in which 18 AGE including seven commanders were killed and Burka District in which four AGE including a commander and his deputy were killed. The increased IM targeting driven by improving intelligence is now the preferred option since the large scale operations such as Tawhid have failed repeatedly. However, once the battle space has been shaped sufficiently, there will be need for a ground force operation to clear residual elements that remain a threat along major routes.

In Takhar following the re-assignment of ANP and ABP from Badakhshan to Khawaja Baha-u-din in the preceding week, clearing operations began in the district with at least 11 AGE killed. While this is a welcome development, a much greater and sustained effort is required to clear other northern districts. In Taloqan City a demonstration staged by parliamentary candidates and supporters was held in front of the governor's office to protest against the result of the votes.

In Badakhshan, the situation remains calm. The investigation continues into the armed attack on a public transport vehicle in Arghanj Khwah District with the District CoP of Wardoj being summoned for questioning. This followed a stream of accusations which also implicate him in an earlier violent shooting. The action was also precipitated by a stand-off attack against the ANP HQ in Faizabad City and widespread allegations of police complicity in violent crimes.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were eight armed clashes recorded; four each in Kunduz and Takhar. Significantly in Kunduz, Khanabad District, there was an attack on the house of a pro-government commander and during the operations in Aliabad and southern Chahar Dara Districts, three AGE were killed, four wounded and three arrested. In Takhar, Khwaja Baha-u-din District as a result of the ongoing operation 11 AGE were killed and 13 wounded, including a top commander.

Stand-off Attack

There were two stand-off attacks recorded in Baghlan and Badakhshan. In Baghlan Province, Khenjan District unknown persons fired an RPG at a passing civilian vehicle while in Badakhshan, Faizabad City unknown persons fired two RPGs at the police headquarters.

Air Strike

There were two air strikes in Baghlan. In Pul-i-Khumri District during a night operation, an air strike killed 18 AGE including seven commanders while in Burka District an air strike killed four AGE including a commander and his deputy.

IED Detonated/Discovered

There were four IED incidents; one detonation and three discoveries in Kunduz. In Imam Sahib a RCIED detonated against a tractor injuring two civilians. On the same day in the Ismael Qeshlaq area, four more RCIEDs were discovered and defused. In Aliabad District, two other IEDs were discovered.

Mine/UXO Incident

SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

There were two mine incidents. In Badakhshan Province, Faizabad City a UXO detonated injuring a civilian while in Baghlan Province, Pul-i-Khumri District an anti personnel mine was discovered under a bridge close to the ANP HQ.

Cache

In Baghlan, Pul-i-Khumri District, four BM1 rockets were removed from the Baroq Ha area close to the river.

Abduction

In Takhar Province, Bangi District, a community elder was abducted from his residence but was later released.

Crime

Two crimes were recorded. In Baghlan, Nahrin District, an ANP was shot to death following a dispute and in Takhar Province, Dasht-e-Qala District a person was shot to death by an unknown perpetrator.

Arrest

There were three arrests. In Kunduz Province, Kunduz City during an IM/ANSF operation 16 AGE including two top commanders were arrested while in Badakhshan, Darayem District and Takhar, Yangi Qala District one person was arrested for alleged drug related offenses.

Demonstration

In Takhar Province, Taloqan City a group of about 300 persons supported by some parliamentary candidates protested in front of the Governor's office against the alleged refusal of IEC to accept cast votes.

NORTHERN REGION

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

Analysis of the Week's Events

The region witnessed a significant decrease in the number of security related incidents during this reporting period; 16 incidents were reported during the week compared to 45 reported during the previous week showing a decrease of 64%. Of these incidents, 13 are related to AGE activities

Seven of these incidents are AGE initiated armed clashes. AGE continued to target ANSF and IM in Faryab, Sari Pul, Jawzjan and Balkh Provinces. Significant among these attacks are the simultaneous attacks from 4 different directions of AGE against Sari Pul Provincial Jail and ANA HQ with RPG and SAF at the heart of the city where the UN provincial office is just about 300 meters away; this incident resulted in the killing of one ANP and the wounding of three other ANP, three of the inmates who tried to run off from the prison during the attack were also wounded. Despite the presence of a large number of ANSF and IM in the city, the AGE executed an attack which was planned well ahead of time utilizing a significant number of AGE; this was manifested by the manner in which they launched their attack with AGE coming from 4 different directions and this shows that AGE in the province are becoming more bold and that they have the numbers needed to conduct such an attack. This is the first incident in Sari Pul Province where AGE attacked an installation at the heart of Sari Pul City, its capital, an incident which is also not common in the region. This incident led to the temporary relocation of two international staff based in the province. In another development a joint IM/ANSF patrol was attacked in Dara-i-Sufi Payin District of Samangan Province. AGE presence was noted in the district on June of 2010 where a group of 40 AGE were seen in Sorkha and Zeraki Villages extorting money from locals and advocating against the government. Allegedly, the same AGE group attacked an INGO vehicle two weeks ago which resulted in fatalities. This AGE group is sowing terror in the mentioned district, which is resulting in the deterioration of the security situation there.

SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

The number of IED related incidents during this reporting period is consistent with that of the previous week; four IED incidents were reported. The most significant of these was the IED detonation against an IM reinforcement unit in Chimtal District of Balkh Province resulting in the killing of one IM and the wounding of another. In another development which occurred at the same district, two AGE were killed when the IED they were setting up/planting prematurely detonated. The security situation in the mentioned district continues to affect the security situation along the Mazar-Shibirghan Highway. However, we have not experienced any security incident along the main ring road during this reporting period. This could be attributed to the conduct of a two-day joint operation by the ANSF in the surrounding villages of Chimtal, Chahar Bolak and Balkh District of Balkh Province; though the operation ended with ANSF having no significant accomplishment.

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, Darzab, Dara-i-Sufi Payin and Bala, Kishindih, Sayyad, Kohistanat, Qaysar and the rural areas of Balkh, Chimtal, Chahar Bolak and the eastern part 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

Seven AGE initiated armed clashes were reported in Faryab, Sari Pul, Jawzjan and Balkh Provinces.

IED Detonated

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

WESTERN REGION

The security situation in Western Region remained unstable.

Analysis of the Week's Events

The Incident level in Western Region remained relatively consistent with that of the previous week. There were 48 recorded incidents compared to 50 during the preceding week, representing a 4% decrease.

There were 8 armed clashes of which all but one was initiated by the AGE and, no IN/ANSF air strikes; accounting for the low AGE fatality. Unlike last week where a total of 34 AGE were reportedly killed, this week saw only 6 killed and 6 arrested. 3 ANP were killed in the clashes. The most significant attack was in Hirat Province, Ghoryan District, Islam Qalat road, where AGE attacked an IM-contracted fuel supply convoy in which three fuel tankers were set ablaze. Islam Qalat road is a relatively safe avenue of approach from neighbouring Iran.

IED detonations and discoveries increased this week and maintained its reign as the tactical choice of the insurgents in targeting IM/ANSF. From the 12 detonations, 24 civilians were killed with 11 injured including a child. Most of the civilian casualties were recorded in Farah Province. Also 6 ANP were killed with 7 injured. Notable among the detonations was one in Hirat Province in which an IM vehicle was struck by a RCIED injuring two IM. Also significant was in Heart City, where a RCIED detonated and killed three civilians and injured 8 others including an ANP. The attack showed that the capacity of terrorists to strike at targets inside the city remains significant.

There were no suicide attacks or assassinations during the reporting period but there was one report of intimidation in Badghis where AGE established a checkpoint and searched the vehicles for GoA/ANSF employees.

Abductions increased to 5 from three last week. In the AGE attack on a road construction company in Farah Province 20 construction workers were reportedly abducted.

SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

Threat reporting of possible attacks on GIRoA, ANSF, IM and International Organizations including the UN offices in Herat remain extant. Suicide attack threat reports have increased with reporting indicating that 2 suicide attackers have entered Hirat City. Although these threats are generic, the insurgents' intent, willingness and capability to undertake these threats remain elevated. The main threats to UN staff are direct loss in suicide and IED attacks, collateral damage, suicide attacks and, abduction for political or criminal motives.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

Eight incidents were reported. There were four in Herat, two in Farah and one in Ghor. All the armed clashes were between the AGE and ANSF/IM. Of note: In Herat Three ANP were killed in an armed clash with AGE who were collecting Usher (Tax) from the local villagers in the area and, in Farah AGE attacked a road construction company in the area. Two AGE were killed and one worker wounded. Another 20 construction workers were abducted by AGE and one tractor and 13 motorcycles were taken away.

IED Detonated/Discovered

Twelve incidents were reported. There were six in Farah Province, five in Herat and one in Badghis. Most notable among the detonations was in Hirat Province where an IM vehicle was struck by a road side IED injuring two IM; In Herat an ANP vehicle was struck by a road side IED killing four ANP and injuring one; In Herat a RCIED detonated and killed three civilians and injured another eight including an ANP; In Farah, eight local civilian were killed when a road side IED detonated in the area; In Farah, a local mini-van was hit by a road side IED, killing 12 locals and injuring three. Six (6) IEDs were discovered and defused.

Mine/UXO incident

In Badghis Province a civilian was injured when an AP land-mine went off.

Abduction

Four (4) abductions were recorded. There were three in Herat and one in Badghis. In Herat ANP managed to release a teenaged boy unharmed who was abducted from Herat City. The perpetrators escaped from the scene. Criminality was said to be the motive. In Herat AGE stopped a vehicle belonging to a UN counterpart and abducted the driver along with another national employee. In Herat one local business man was abducted by unknown armed men. The motive behind the abduction is believed to be criminal. In Badghis AGE identified and abducted two individuals assumed to be affiliated to ANP while searching local vehicles. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Crime

Three (3) incidents of crime were reported. There was one (1) in Herat and two (2) in Ghor. In Herat Province, one local business man was abducted by unknown armed men. The motive behind the abduction was believed to be criminal. And, in Ghor, on the 17th and 19th in separate incidents a local civilian was shot dead by IAG. Personal dispute is said to be the motive in both incidents.

Arrest

Three (3) incidents of arrest were recorded. There was one in Herat and two in Badghis. In Herat, ANP arrested an AGE suspect in possession of 10 Kg of explosives. And, in Badghis, IM/ANSF conducted an operation and arrested two AGE suspects, while in another incident in Badghis IM/ANSF arrested four AGE suspects.

Intimidation

There was one report of intimidation in Badghis Province when AGE established a checkpoint and searched the vehicles for GoA/ANSF employees.

Demonstration

There was one report of a demonstration in Herat in front of the Governor's Office protesting against electoral fraud during the elections. The demonstration ended peacefully at 1030 hrs.

SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

Confrontation

Two (2) reports of confrontation were recorded. There was one in Ghor where a fight occurred between local villagers over an internal dispute causing injury to 12 persons in the process. And, there was one in Badghis where a conflict broke out between two tribes resulting in one person being injured.

Information

UPDATE – On 19 October, Badghis AGE identified and abducted two individuals assumed to be affiliated to ANP while searching local vehicles. They were later released after mediation by community elders.

Other

Three (3) other incidents were reported. In Herat a UNPU guard was hit by a motorcycle outside HMAc. He subsequently died. In Herat, AGE set ablaze construction company vehicle and, in Farah, an accident between a private vehicle and a bus caused the death of six civilians.

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 a 22% increase with 92 incidents as compared to 75 during the previous week. 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. 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 saw the highest activity.

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.

Joint ANSF/IM operations continue in Zhari, Panjwayi and Arghandab districts of Kandahar Province. It appears that AGE avoids direct confrontation, especially with IM forces, and many have either left the area or blended in with the population. As clearing operations in these districts are reportedly going on successfully, it will be crucial that the areas will be held secure long enough after the clearing phase. Arghandab District is currently moving into the hold phase of the joint operations.

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 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 Zabul Provinces. There is also a reported improvement in the detection of IEDs by ANSF.

AGE seem to face difficulties opposing the ANSF/IM clearing operations in the districts around Kandahar. This is attributed to successful operations by ANSF and IM that seized weapons and ammunition caches, found IED materials and either killed or detained AGE, including leadership/expert level individuals. This situation could push AGE to attempt ramping up the urban campaign within Kandahar City, including larger scale, spectacular attacks in order to influence public perception about their capabilities and presence in Kandahar.

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

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

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

IED Detonated/Discovered

A total of 20 IED incidents including 17 detonations were recorded.

Assassination

Four incidents were recorded during the week.

Cache

Seven cache discoveries were reported during the week.

SOUTH EASTERN REGION

The security situation in the southeast region remained volatile during the reporting period.

Analysis of the Week's Events

A thirty percent increase was registered during the reporting period in the general security incident statistics in the SER with a total of 176 security reports (including twenty-eight late) received as compared to 135 the week before. Despite such a spike in the incident numbers (one of the reasons being a large amount of late reports), the general security situation in the area has not substantially changed and appears to remain in absolute consistency with the previous trends. IM/ANSF have recently managed to achieve major operational successes and have reportedly inflicted considerable casualties on the AGE, however insurgents remain capable of maintaining a relatively high tempo of kinetic attacks on a variety of targets and keeping their manning and logistics functional.

A major increase was noted in the Khost province, which accounted for a total of 43 incidents (29 during the week before) – this phenomenon is rather traditional and occurs on eve of the 'winter season' and is a result of the 'routine AGE seasonal migration' into the province. Another major increase was registered in the Ghazni province where 67 incidents occurred (45 the week before) and is primarily attributed to increased AGE activity in the districts transited by Highway One, as well as in the Ghazni Center. 26 incidents were reported from the Paktya province as compared to 17 the week before while a slight decrease was registered in the Paktika province with a total of 40 incidents reported as compared to 44 during the preceding week.

During the reporting period IM/ANSF continued with various operations in the key terrain districts (population centers) as well as along the major transportation corridors aimed at disruption of insurgents' kinetic activity, logistics, and IED networks as well as at degrading AGE's fighting capabilities.

86 percent of the last week's security incidents are believed to be AGE initiated. Consistently with the earlier trends, the AGE tactics remained a variety of complex / armed / standoff / IED attacks targeting IM / ANSF / GoA facilities / supply convoys, road construction companies, local population, and targets of opportunity. During the reporting period AGE were particularly active in the districts of Andar, Ab Band, Zana Khan, Ghazni, and Gelan of the Ghazni province, the Khost (Matun), Sabari, and Tere Zayi districts of the Khost province, the Gardez, Zurmat, and Shwak districts of the Paktya province as well as the Barmal, Ziruk, and Gayan districts of Paktika.

SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

There are unconfirmed reports re AQ operatives moving into the Khost province from Pakistan, foreign fighters further infiltrating into southeast Paktika as well as the ongoing concentration of suicide bombers in Zormat Paktya.

At least 77 people were killed and 60 were wounded as a result the security incidents reported during last week in the SER (the number casualties is yet to be verified independently).

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

A total of 64 armed clashes reported (45 last week).

Stand-off Attack

A total of 40 incidents recorded (37 during the preceding week).

Air Strike

A total of seven air strikes reported compared to five the week before. A large cache of explosives as well as a VBIED reported destroyed and three AGE including a BBIED/VBIED expert were killed in Andar Ghazni on 15 October following an IM operation that also included a series of air strikes.

IED Discovered/Detonated

A total of 44 incidents reported as compared to 30 the week before, including 22 detonations (20 last week).

Assassination

One such incident reported when a local female was sentenced to death by TB on 14 October in Ab Band Ghazni for alleged killing of her mother-in law and was reportedly executed by one of her relatives. Another case of murder of a local government official while on the way to work on 15 October in Gurbuz Khost was reported by ANSF as crime-related.

Abduction

Khost NDS Department commander's son reported kidnapped on 16 October in Bak Khost.

Arrest

At least 18 suspected AGE were arrested as a result of several IM / ANSF search operations.

Intimidation

AGE burned the house of a local IEC DFC on 12 October in Gayan Paktika

EASTERN REGION

The security situation in the Eastern Region remained volatile.

Analysis of the Week's Events

There was a slight decline in the overall number of incidents from 64 the previous week to 62 this reporting period. AGE driven activities accounted for 69% of the overall incidents. Of the 16 attacks: 10 occurred in Kunar, 3 in Nangarhar and 3 in Laghman. Targeting profile remained consistent with IM, ANSF, DAC and IM supply contractor entities being equally targeted. While IM always the main target in stand-off attacks, again this week, a rocket fired against an IM Base in Kunar Province impacted near the main entrance as result of which a local security guard who was on duty during the time of attack was killed. However it is assessed that the intensity and frequency of such attack will most probably abate upon approaching winter session.

SIOC – Afghanistan: UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

IM/ANSF operations continue throughout various areas of the region, with major operations being conducted in Mano Gai District, Pech Valley area, Kunar Province. Air tactical operations have resulted in considerable AGE casualties, including the confirmed deaths of 14 AGE members. The intensity of these operations is expected to continue, with future efforts expanded to key locations in Chapadara and Sirkaney Districts (Kunar).

IED incidents recorded in the region increased by 37% from 10 to 16 for the week under review. 82% of IED incidents recorded in the region during the period occurred in Nangarhar Province. Such occurrence raises serious concerns since 53% of IED incidents in Nangarhar Province were along routes frequently used by UN AFP missions, therefore increases the risk of wrong time, wrong place collateral damage.

With the imminent announcement of the parliamentary election results, there is the probability of demonstrations by losing parties and/or those that challenge the results. As this is likely to draw additional threats towards UN entities, adjustments to UN operations and restrictions on staff movements will be required.

One incident involving the humanitarian community occurred in Kunar Province, Chapa Dara District, Sanji when an unknown armed group forcefully stopped three trucks hired by an international agency to transport medical supplies to Nuristan Province. The drivers were forced out of the trucks and the trucks were driven away by group members. Only two trucks were later released upon the tribal elder's mediation but the third truck is still under the armed group's possession.

Collateral damage due to the close proximity to IED and suicide attacks is the highest assessed general risk to UN staff members. Threat of direct loss in suicide and IED attacks is assessed as second and abduction of political or criminal motives is assessed as the third highest risk. The next reporting period is expected to experience a similar trend with the current.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

Sixteen incidents were reported, 10 in Kunar Province, three in Nangarhar Province and three in Laghman Province targeted IM/ANSF locations and DAC.

Air Strike

Two incidents were reported and both occurred in Kunar Province.

Stand-off Attack

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

IED Detonated/Discovered

Seventeen incidents were reported, 11 were detonations and six were discoveries.

Abductions

Two incidents were recorded both occurred in Kunar Province.

Crime

Nine incidents were reported and occurred in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces.

Arrests

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

Intimidation

Two incidents were recorded both occurred in Kunar Province.

Narcotic Incident

One incident was recorded and involved the seizure of 9 kg opium at Kama bridge, Kama District of Nangarhar Province.

CENTRAL REGION

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

Analysis of the Week's Events

There were 52 security related incidents reported this week. This week's incident figures has maintained a level of parity with those of the previous week. Although there is noticeable consistency in the nature and volume of incidents, AGE activities remain a prominent factor of insecurity in the region. Even though no significant security incident has been reported in Kabul for sometime now, the volume of threat reports continue to suggest AGE intent with respect to the possible staging of attacks in the city. Regardless of the reports describable as being cyclic in nature, the prospects of them maturing into actual attacks shouldn't be underrated. With the parliamentary election results soon be to be released, unsatisfied expectations of candidates and/or their supporters can be a trigger for sponsored devious activities.

As IED and stand-off continued at sustained levels, the number of armed clashes conversely continued to steadily rise in the region with the majority of them initiated by the AGE. There were numerous arrests of suspected AGE made during the week coupled with numerous seizures of arms and ammunitions which may be potential indicators that go to gauge the enhanced capacity of security forces to maintain security by the proactive interception of infiltrators capable of altering the security dynamics of the city.

While Parwan and Panjsher Provinces reported lower levels of insurgent activities, Wardak, Logar and Kabul Provinces remained active during the reporting period and thus accounted for over 85% of the total number of incidents. Kapisa Province, contrary to the usual trend of events, was calm over the period and registered only four incidents. The abduction and assassination of civilians continue at increased rates in the region over the period. Two businessmen in separate incidents were abducted in Kabul and Wardak and three people were assassinated elsewhere in the region. The assassination incidents included the killing of a District Council member of Nijrab District of Kapisa, an NDS employee in Logar and the gruesome public beheading of a local by insurgents in Logar, premised on an accusation of spying for the government. This incident of beheading further highlights the level and nature of AGE viciousness at the height of a wider campaign of intimidation and systematic violence directed towards members of the public who are viewed as being unsupportive or unsympathetic to their cause.

On a more positive note, a joint IM/ANSF search operation team are reported to have arrested fifteen insurgents (one of them a foreign national) at Alghawee area of Shakardara District of Kabul and also recovered IED components and explosive materials. The group is believed to have been preparing and indeed poised to conduct attacks within the city against selected and pre-determined targets.

Assassination and abduction of civilians, ANSF personnel and other government employees for political or criminal motives may likely continue at sustained levels over the next reporting period especially in Logar and Wardak Provinces.

The situation in the region in general is likely to remain unpredictable during the coming week with consistent level of AGE activities. The prospect of a major security incident despite the threat warnings, remain low cognizant of the existence of a very wide footprint of security forces in Kabul in anticipation to foil potential attacks within the city as indicative of threat reports.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

Attack/Armed Clash

There were ten reported armed clashes/attacks during the week. A total of two AGE, one ANP and one IM were killed, two civilians and one IM injured and two AGE arrested during the armed clashes.

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Stand-off Attack

A total of seven stand-off attacks were reported. In three incidents, DACs were the targets, ANP CPs in two incidents, an IM base and the site of a Road Construction Company. Three civilians were killed and one injured in all incidents.

IED Detonated/Discovered

There were eight reports of IED discoveries. All devices were defused by EOD teams. There were six IED detonations. Four occurred in Wardak, one in Logar and Parwan. A total of four AGE and two ANP were killed and four ANP wounded.

Cache

Three incidents of cache, two in Wardak and one in Kapisa. A total of one machinegun six IEDs, four AK 47 rifles, 17 pistols, 26 fuses, 29 RPG shells, 13 RCIEDs(already constructed),four boxes of an assortment of ammunition and an unspecified quantity of explosives were confiscated.

Mine/UXO Incident

There were three incidents of Mine/UXO and all occurred in Kabul Province. Five children sustained injuries in one explosion but the two other occasions involved mere discoveries and recovery by EOD teams for controlled demolition.

Assassination

There were a total of three assassination incidents during the period. A local was publicly beheaded in Wardak by AGE on accusation of spying for government, a member of Nijrab District council of Kapisa was shot dead by AGE and an employee of NDS was also shot dead by AGE in the bazaar of Charkh District Centre in Logar.

Abduction

Two incidents of abduction were reported Kabul and Saydabad District of Wardak. Both incidents involved businessmen abducted by gunmen. All abductees remain in captivity.

Crime

One local was arrested for unlawful possession of arms and ammunition during a search operation.

Arrest

There were eight incidents of arrest. Reportedly, a total of 21 AGE/suspected AGE were arrested in the incidents combined.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION

The security situation in Central Highlands Region remained calm. No security related incident was reported 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 ongoing throughout the region except Kajran District and road missions Bamyan-Kabul, both directions, are still suspended due to the threat from Ghorban valley in the CR side.

We do not expect changes in the security situation for the coming week.

Description of the Week's Significant Events

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Other

On 15 October, Daykundi Province, Shahristan District, Ghaf valley Zinjuk village, at around 1530hrs; a local mini-van turned over on the way from Jawz to Chaprasak Bazaar area, as a result seven local passengers died and eight others were injured.

On 17 and 18 October, Daykundi Province, Nili Center, for the period 1200h – 1730h on 17 Oct and 1630 – 2000h on 18 Oct an ex Chief of Police threatened hunger strike at UNAMA compound He asked for Government investigation of his case. The incident was reported in SIRS format dated 17 Oct 10 and sent to SIOC.

END OF REPORT

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