DECEMBER 2020

# REPORT

# CBRNE EVENTS IN THE WORLD

## ISSUE NUMBER 12/2020

**OSDIFE**
Observatory on
Security and CBRNe Defence

**University of the Republic of San Marino
Center for Security Studies**

**University of Rome Tor Vergata
Department of Electronic Engineering**

# Monitoring CBRNE risks worldwide

The Observatory on Security and CBRNE Defence - **OSDIFE**, the **University of Rome "Tor Vergata"**, Department of Electronic Engineering - DIE and the State University of Republic of **San Marino, Center for Security Studies** – CUFS are pleased to present the "OSDIFE Report on CBRNe Events in the World".

The Report aims to disseminate information related to a wide range of unconventional events worldwide, selected and systematised by our international editorial team on a weekly basis over the whole month, with relation to Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania.

The Report covers issues related to **CBRNE threats**, and also has special coverage for **COVID-19 pandemic**, **terrorism and counter-terrorism**, security and defence **technological innovations**.

This Report endeavours to build a **network of mutual information exchange**.
To this aim, **we invite you to contribute** to the Report by sending news, events and initiatives of relevance to CBRNE and WMD, by email to ***news.report@osdife.org***

*The OSDIFE Staff is thankful for your interest and wishes you a pleasant reading.*

**PROF. ROBERTO MUGAVERO**

Scientific committee coordinator

**www.osdife.org**

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# OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As the most significant international biological threat in the past 100 years, this brief introductory section presents the June milestones of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The analysis is based on the consultation of various reliable international open sources (found and available on the International Maritime Organization – IMO, International Labour Organization – ILO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund – UNICEF, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS – UNAIDS, and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – UNHCHR websites) and the meticulous statistical data processed by the World Health Organization – WHO.

Key international actions and procedures to fight the virus and better deal with the increasing concerns are also presented below.
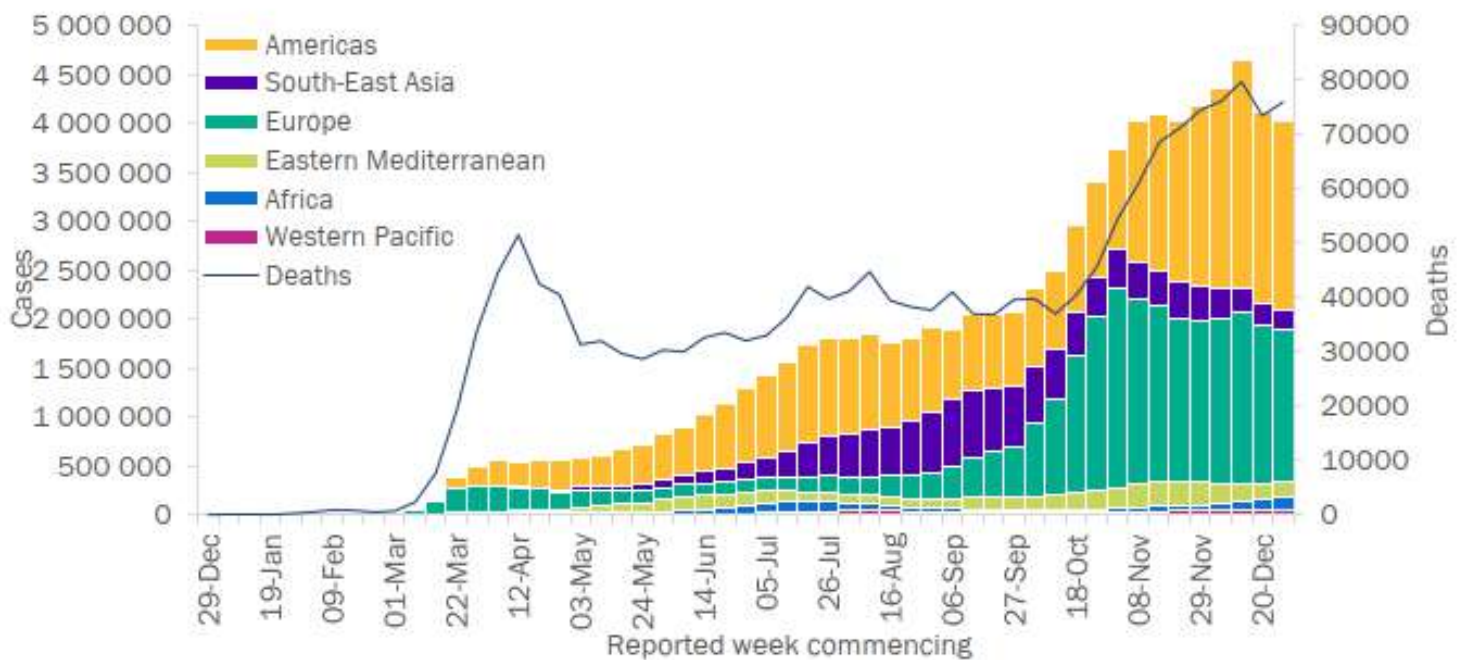
*Last month news*

# OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Over the month of December, an average 4 million new cases were reported globally per week, meaning a slight decrease compared to the previous period. Data should be interpreted with caution owing to the end-of-year holiday season (numbers may be influenced by reporting delays).
- Recent reports of different variants of SARS-CoV-2 have again raised interest in and concern about the impact of viral changes. In the last months, two different variants of SARS-CoV-2 have been reported to WHO as unusual public health events from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, referred to as VOC 202012/01, and the Republic of South Africa, named 501Y.V2.
- Preliminary epidemiologic, modelling, phylogenetic and clinical findings suggest that SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01 has increased transmissibility, and preliminary data also indicates that there is no change in disease severity.

**Figure 1: COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 3 January 2021\*\***

*Last month news*

# OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- In the past week, over 130 000 new cases were reported in the **African Region**, a 13% increase compared to the previous week, and over 3000 deaths, a 4% increase over the previous week. South Africa reported the highest number of new cases (93 978 new cases; 1585 new cases per 1 million population).
- In the **Region of the Americas**, the number of new weekly cases remained at similar levels to last week with over 1.9 million new cases and 32 000 new deaths reported. The highest new case counts were reported in the United States of America (1 325 424 new cases, 4004 new cases per 1 million).
- The **Eastern Mediterranean Region** reported over 154 000 new cases and over 3000 new deaths, a decrease of 1% and 12%, respectively compared to the previous week. Cases and deaths in the Region decreased for the sixth consecutive week. The highest number of new cases were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (42 511 new cases, 506 new cases per 1 million)
- The **European Region** continues to report a large number of cases with over 1.5 million new cases and 3200 new deaths, a 3% decrease and 2% increase compared to the previous week, respectively. New weekly cases have decreased for the past two weeks. Last week, the country reporting the highest number of new cases was the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (343 784 new cases, 5064 new cases per 1 million).
- New cases and deaths in the **South-East Region** have continued to decrease, a trend observed since early September. Just over 200 000 new cases and 3700 new deaths were reported this week, a 10% and 3% decrease respectively, compared to the previous week. The country reporting the highest number of new cases and new deaths was India (136 115 new cases; 99 new cases per 1 million; 1813 new deaths; 1 new death per 1 million).
- There has been little change in the number of new cases (just under 53 000) reported in the **Western Pacific Region**, while new deaths increased by 10% (over 700) compared to the previous week. The plateau in new cases over the past week comes after four weeks of increasing trends. The country reporting the highest number of new cases this week was Japan (23 642 new cases; 187 new cases per 1 million)

**Source**: Weekly epidemiological update - 3 January 2021 | Emergency Situational Updates
https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update---5-january-202

*Last month news*

# OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Data summary and trends** (December variations in cases and deaths)

Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 3 January 2021**

| WHO Region | New cases in last 7 days (%) | Change in new cases in last 7 days * | Cumulative cases (%) | New deaths in last 7 days (%) | Change in new deaths in last 7 days * | Cumulative deaths (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Americas | 1 935 621 (47%) | -1% | 36 337 439 (43%) | 32 283 (42%) | 3% | 872 486 (47%) |
| Europe | 1 553 332 (38%) | -3% | 26 885 471 (32%) | 32 898 (43%) | 3% | 588 770 (32%) |
| South-East Asia | 208 592 (5%) | -10% | 12 051 014 (14%) | 3 756 (4%) | -3% | 184 493 (10%) |
| Eastern Mediterranean | 154 695 (3%) | -1% | 4 977 852 (5%) | 3 057 (4%) | -12% | 122 061 (6%) |
| Africa | 130 007 (3%) | 13% | 1 961 234 (2%) | 3 293 (4%) | 28% | 43 592 (2%) |
| Western Pacific | 52 979 (1%) | 0% | 1 112 724 (1%) | 730 (0%) | 10% | 20 288 (1%) |
| Global | 4 035 226 (100%) | -2% | 83 326 479 (100%) | 76 017 (100%) | 3% | 1 831 703 (100%) |

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior. Regional percentages rounded to the nearest whole number, global totals may not equal 100%.

**Note**: data proposed in the tables below are collected through the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS), that is a collaborative effort across public health organisations worldwide to facilitate the early detection of and response to potential health threats using publicly available information. World Health Organization (WHO) leads the EIOS initiatives since 2017. Additional information about EIOS: https://www.who.int/eios
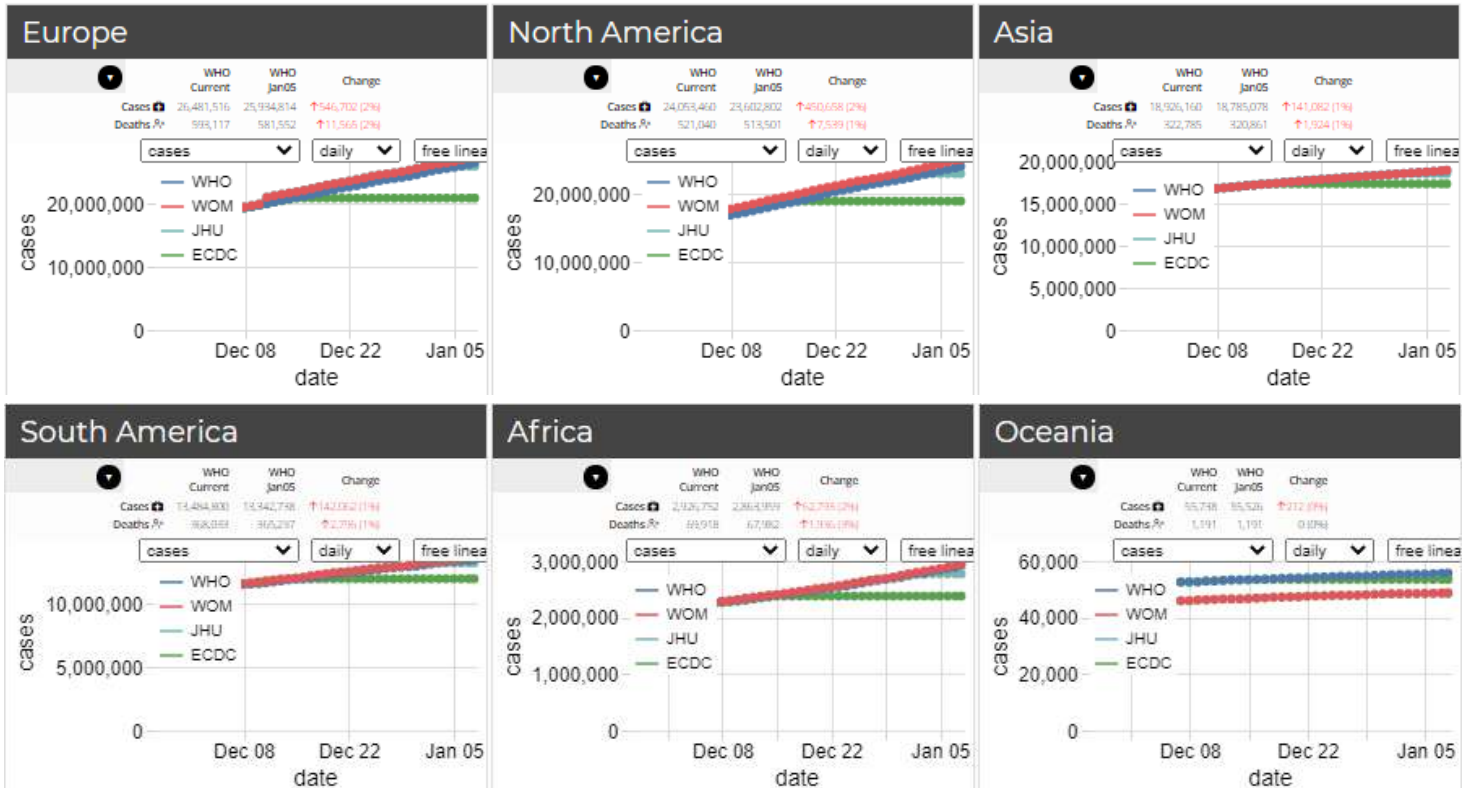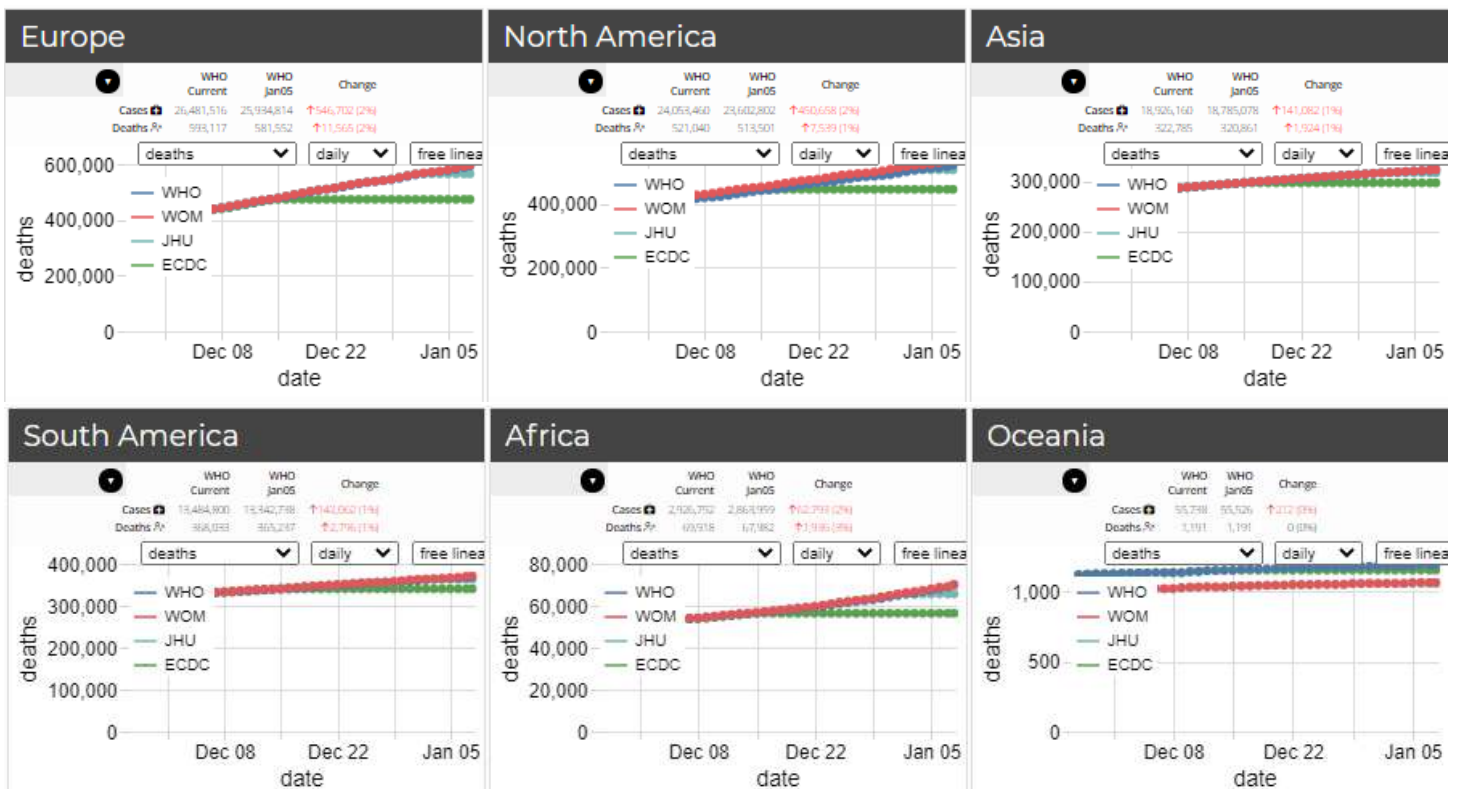
*Last month news*

# OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## Worldwide cases compared trends



### Europe

| | WHO Current | WHO Jan05 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases | 26,481,516 | 25,934,814 | ↑546,702 (2%) |
| Deaths | 593,117 | 581,552 | ↑11,565 (2%) |

### North America

| | WHO Current | WHO Jan05 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases | 24,053,460 | 23,602,802 | ↑450,658 (2%) |
| Deaths | 521,040 | 513,501 | ↑7,539 (1%) |

### Asia

| | WHO Current | WHO Jan05 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases | 18,926,160 | 18,785,078 | ↑141,082 (1%) |
| Deaths | 322,785 | 320,861 | ↑1,924 (1%) |

### South America

| | WHO Current | WHO Jan05 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases | 13,484,800 | 13,342,748 | ↑142,062 (1%) |
| Deaths | 368,043 | 365,247 | ↑2,796 (1%) |

### Africa

| | WHO Current | WHO Jan05 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases | 2,926,752 | 2,863,959 | ↑62,793 (2%) |
| Deaths | 69,918 | 67,982 | ↑1,936 (3%) |

### Oceania

| | WHO Current | WHO Jan05 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases | 55,738 | 55,526 | ↑212 (0%) |
| Deaths | 1,191 | 1,191 | 0 (0%) |

## Worldwide deaths compared trends



### Europe

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# AFRICA NEWS ON CBRNE EVENTS

This section gathers news collected from sources related to the African continent, including sub-saharian and southern regions. The section is organized in four areas:

- chemical
- biological
- radiological and nuclear
- explosives

News are proposed in cronological order.

# CHEMICALS



## Egypt

**Chemical Export**

**Event –** Egyptian Commercial Service expects $2bln export opportunities in chemical, fertiliser industries.

**Summary –** The Egyptian Commercial Service (ECS) estimates that export opportunities available in the country's chemical and fertiliser industries stand at about $2bn in the 37 countries in which it operates, according a recent study by the entity.

**Source:**https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Egyptian_Commercial_Service_expects_2bln_export_opportunities_in_chemical_fertiliser_industries-SNG_192874711/

Reported: 07/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

## Central African Republic

**HIV**
**Event –** Central African Republic faces critical HIV situation.
**Summary –** Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported that half of CAR's estimated 110,000 people living with the virus are under antiretroviral treatment. The situation is more alarming for children under the age of 15 who are aware of their HIV status, but less than a quarter of them are under treatment. The CAR is also dependent on insufficient external funding for its response to HIV.
**Source:** https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/central-african-republic-faces-critical-hiv-situation/2062870
Reported: 02/12/2020

## Uganda

**Malaria**
**Event –** Malaria cases increase by 42 percent.
**Summary –** According to Ministry of Health, Malaria cases have increased by 42 per cent from 10,483,412 cases in 2018/19 to 14,904,773 in 2019/20.
**Source**: https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/malaria-cases-increase-by-42-percent-3216024
Reported: 02/12/2020

## South Africa

**SARS–CoV–2**
**Event –** New lineage discovered.
**Summary –** The South Africa National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) announced changes in SARS–CoV–2, the virus which causes COVID–19. The Network for Genomics Surveillance in South Africa (NGS–SA) reports detecting a new lineage, which is a group of mutated viruses, of SARS–CoV–2 in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu–Natal Provinces. This lineage possesses between 10–20 mutations that were not previously seen in viruses from South Africa prior to September 2020.
**Source:** https://www.nicd.ac.za/the-emergence-of-a-mutated-sars-cov-2-lineage-in-south-africa/
Reported: 18/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

## Guinea

**Yellow Fever**

**Event –** Outbreak update.

**Summary –** A total of 50 cases were reported from the health district of Koundara in north–west Guinea, one from the health district of Dubreka (near Conakry, in the south–west) and one from the health district of Kouroussa, in the center of the country. Analysis performed at the Nongo, Conakry Laboratory of Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers revealed that 10 cases of suspected YF were IgM positive for YF. Of these, 8 were from unvaccinated suspect cases from Koundara, 1 was from Dubreka, and 1 from Kouroussa.

**Source:** https://www.who.int/csr/don/23–december–2020–yellow–fever–guinea/en/

Reported: 23/12/2020

## Nigeria

**COVID-19**

**Event –** COVID-19 variant discovered.

**Summary –** According to the head of Africa's disease control body, a new variant of the COVID-19 seems to have emerged in Nigeria. The new, faster-spreading variant that South Africa detected on 18 December is now the predominant one in the country.

**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-africa/another-new-coronavirus-variant-found-in-nigeria-says-africa-cdc-idUSKBN28Y1B7

Reported: 24/12/2020

## Nigeria

**Lassa Fever**

**Event –** Outbreak update.

**Summary –** There were 59 suspected cases, 5 were laboratory confirmed and no death was recorded from 28 Local Government Areas in 10 States. National Lassa fever multi–partner, multi–sectoral Technical Working Group (TWG) continues to coordinate response activities at all levels. State Public Health Emergency Operations Centre have been activated in affected States.

**Source:** https://ncdc.gov.ng/reports/weekly

Reported: 31/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

### Egypt-Russia

**Nuclear Project**
**Event –** Russian, Egyptian top diplomats discuss El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant project.
**Summary –** The foreign ministers of Russia and Egypt, Sergei Lavrov and Sameh Shoukry, discussed by phone the implementation of projects to build the El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant and a Russian industrial zone in Egypt.
**Source:** https://tass.com/politics/1239999
Reported: 23/12/2020

### Morocco

**Nuclear Instruments**
**Event –** IAEA supports Morocco's alignment with civil liability convention.
**Summary –** "Morocco has shown a clear interest in participating in the modernised nuclear liability instruments," Karim El-Assefry, head of the Nuclear Applications and Safety Division of the country's Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment, said at a recent virtual seminar on civil liability for nuclear damage.
**Source:** https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-supports-Morocco-s-alignment-with-civil-liabi?feed=feed
Reported: 30/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES



<u>**Cameroon**</u>

**Precursors**
**Event –** HME precursors.
**Summary –** Customs officers have intercepted, at Douala, churns (mixing tools) containing hydrogen peroxide, a chemical compound used in the manufacture of homemade explosives; this while the misuse of explosives is multiplying in the big cities of the country including the capital Yaounde.
**Source:** http://afrique.le360.ma/autres-pays/politique/2020/12/01/32715-cameroun-saisie-de-substances-chimiques-pour-la-fabrication-des-bombes-artisanales-32715
Reported: 02/12/2020

<u>**South Africa**</u>

**Oil Refinery Explosion**
**Event –** Explosion rocks oil refinery in Durban.
**Summary –** 7 people have been injured after an explosion rocked South Africa's second-largest crude oil refinery in Durban. According to Plant operators the cause of the blast is under investigation.
**Source:** https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/4/blast-rocks-south-african-oil-refinery-seven-injured
Reported: 04/12/2020

<u>**Mali**</u>

**IED**
**Event –** Soldier killed and 5 others injured.
**Summary –** Soldier died and 5 others were injured due to targeting by an Improvised Explosive Device, placed in his vehicle, during a patrol in the surroundings of Hombori in the province of Mopti.
**Source:** https://www.noticiasde.es/espana/muere-un-militar-y-cinco-resultan-heridos-en-un-atentado-en-el-centro-de-mali/
Reported: 16/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Egypt

**Roadside IEDs**

**Event –** 3 security forces members killed.

**Summary –** 2 roadside Improvised Explosive Devices detonated near separate checkpoints in the town of Sheikh Zuwei, northern Sinai Peninsula, killing 3 members of security forces and wounding 10 others.

**Source:** https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/world-news-two-bomb-explosions-kill-3-security-forces-in-peninsula-sinai-egypt-officials/367632

Reported: 18/12/2020

## Somalia

**PBIED**

**Event –** Several military officers and civilians killed.

**Summary –** Senior military officers and civilians were killed in a suicide bomb attack outside a local stadium in Galkayo, where Prime minister Mohamed Roble was due to address a gathering.

**Source:** http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-12/18/c_139601490.htm

Reported: 18/12/2020

## Nigeria

**PBIED**

**Event –** 3 killed and 2 seriously injured.

**Summary –** Teenage girl blew herself up with explosives among a crowd at a hangout next to the local chief's home in Konduga town, Borno state, seriously injuring 2 people and killing 3.

**Source:** https://www.africanews.com/2020/12/19/suicide-bomb-attack-by-teenage-girl-in-borno-nigeria/

Reported: 19/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Ethiopia

**IED**
**Event –** 3 homeless killed and 5 others injured.
**Summary –** Abandoned improvised device exploded in Addis Ababa; the incident happened in Lideta area, near the centre of the capital, killing 3 homeless people and injuring 5 others.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/ethiopia-violence/three-people-killed-when-abandoned-bomb-explodes-in-ethiopian-capital-state-news-agency-idUSKBN28U0FT?il=0
Reported: 20/12/2020

## Somalia

**IED**
**Event –** Killed soldier and another injured.
**Summary –** Somali soldier was killed and another was injured due to the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device targeting former deputy's car along a road in Mogadishu's Karaan district.
**Source:** https://www.elnashra.com/news/show/1472892/-مقتل-جندي:-الصومالية-السلطات بانفجار-عبوة-استهدفت
Reported: 29/12/2020

## Nigeria

**IED**
**Event –** 7 insurgents hunters killed.
**Summary –** 7 insurgents hunters died after their vehicle stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device planted on a rough path near a village called Kayamla, in Jere local government of Borno state.
**Source:** https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/nnorth-east/433928-landmine-kills-seven-hunters-chasing-boko-haram-terrorists-in-borno.html
Reported: 30/12/2020

## Democratic Republic of Congo

**Grenade**
**Event –** 4 children killed.
**Summary –** 4 children were killed when a hand grenade they were playing with exploded; the incident took place in the village of Tsuro, placed in the province of Djugu, Baituri.
**Source:** https://www.barrons.com/news/four-children-killed-playing-with-grenade-in-dr-congo-01609353004
Reported: 31/12/2020

# ASIA NEWS ON CBRNE EVENTS

This section gathers news collected from sources related to the Asian continent, including the Middle East region, proposed in cronological order. The section is organized in four sections, according to news availability:

- chemical
- biological
- radiological and nuclear
- explosives

# CHEMICALS

## **Syria**

**Chemical Weapons Declaration**
**Event –** Syria's Chemical Weapons Declaration contested.
**Summary –** Syria's initial declaration of chemical weapons on its territory cannot be considered accurate and complete, the head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said during a Security Council videoconference meeting on 11 December, while Damascus and its allies insisted that those stockpiles had been confirmed all destroyed by 2014.
**Source:** https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-s-chemical-weapons-declaration-cannot-be-considered-accurate
Reported: 11/12/2020

## **China-Russia**

**Chemical Plant Cooperation**
**Event –** Russian petrochemical giant Sibur closes $11bn joint venture deal to build Amur Gas Chemical plant with China's Sinopec.
**Summary –** Russia's leading petrochemicals company and one of the most rapidly growing petrochemicals businesses globally, Sibur Holding, and China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), China's leading energy and chemical company, have closed a $11bn deal to set up a joint venture at the Amur Gas Chemical Complex (Amur GCC) after obtaining all the necessary approvals from the regulators of both countries
**Source:** https://intellinews.com/russian-petrochemical-giant-sibur-closes-11bn-joint-venture-deal-to-build-amur-gas-chemical-plant-with-china-s-sinopec-199328/?source=russia
Reported: 29/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

### Bahrein

**Approval of COVID-19 Vaccine**
**Event –** Registration for Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine.
**Summary –** Bahrain said on Sunday it had approved a COVID-19 vaccine developed by China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) and launched online registration for the vaccine for citizens and residents over 18. The kingdom had participated in Phase III trials of the approved vaccine and had previously authorised it for emergency use to frontline professionals.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-bahrain/bahrain-approves-registration-for-sinopharm-COVID-19-vaccine-idUSKBN28N07Z
Reported: 13/12/2020

### Israel

**COVID-19 Vaccine**
**Event –** Israel begins second-phase trial of potential COVID-19 vaccine.
**Summary –** Israel said it was beginning a second-phase trial with 1,000 people for its COVID-19 vaccine candidate which, if successful, could be ready for the general public by the end of next summer.
**Source:** https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201214-israel-begins-second-phase-trial-of-potential-COVID-19-vaccine/
Reported: 14/12/2020

### China

**COVID-19 Vaccine**
**Event –** Fosun Pharma to buy 100 million doses of BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for mainland China.
**Summary –** Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical Group Co Ltd on Wednesday said it will buy at least 100 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine from Germany's BioNTech SE for use in mainland China next year, if the vaccine receives approval.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-fosunpharma/fosun-pharma-to-buy-100-million-doses-of-biontechs-COVID-19-vaccine-for-mainland-china-idUSKBN28Q04N
Reported: 16/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

**China**

**COVID-19 Vaccine**
**Event –** China to vaccinate 50 million people for Lunar New Year.
**Summary –** China is planning to vaccinate 50 million people in the high-priority group against the Coronavirus before the start of the peak Lunar New Year travel season early next.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-vaccine/china-to-vaccinate-50-million-people-for-lunar-new-year-scmp-idUSKBN28S0FW
Reported: 18/12/2020

**China**

**COVID-19 Investigations**
**Event –** WHO investigators heading to China in early January to probe virus.
**Summary –** World Health Organization (WHO) officials said on Friday an international team led by the U.N. agency would be going to China in the first week of January to investigate the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-who/who-investigators-heading-to-china-in-early-january-to-probe-virus-idUSKBN28S2I6
Reported: 18/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## Iran

**Increase in Nuclear Enrichment**
**Event –** Iran watchdog passes law on hardening nuclear stance, halting UN inspections.
**Summary –** Iran's Guardian Council watchdog body approved a law on Wednesday that obliges the government to halt UN inspections of its nuclear sites and step up uranium enrichment beyond the limit set under Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal if sanctions are not eased in two months.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-law/iran-watchdog-passes-law-on-hardening-nuclear-stance-halting-u-n-inspections-idUSKBN28C2F7
Reported: 02/12/2020

## UAE

**Nuclear Development**
**Event –** Nuclear energy unit reaches full power capacity, commercial operations to start in 2021.
**Summary –** The Barakah nuclear energy plant has achieved full capacity at its unit 1 operation, and is now capable of supplying 1,400 megawatts to the UAE's power grid, the largest single source of electricity in the country.
**Source:** https://www.albawaba.com/business/uae-nuclear-energy-unit-reaches-full-power-capacity-commercial-operations-start-2021
Reported: 08/12/2020

## China

**Nuclear Development**
**Event –** China turns on nuclear-powered 'artificial sun' for first time.
**Summary –** China has powered up its nuclear fusion reactor for the first time, in a step forward for technology which would ultimately provide a powerful and limitless source of energy.
**Source:** https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/china-nuclear-fusion-reactor-artificial-sun-chengdu-b1767393.html?fbclid=IwAR35awEPf-Ak6HTUWUbWVEPP_PvpRuYglC6bQKedfbmKiXTtouoNc53mrms
Reported: 08/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## Iran

**Nuclear Deal**

**Event –** Rouhani: 'No negotiations' needed to restore Iran nuclear deal.

**Summary –** Iran's nuclear deal can be restored without negotiations despite recent escalations following the assassination of a top nuclear scientist, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has told world powers.

**Source:** https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/9/iran-rouhani-no-negotiations-on-nuclear-deal

Reported: 09/12/2020

## Israel

**Nuclear Weapons**

**Event –** UNGA: 153 countries called on Israel to 'renounce' nuclear weapons.

**Summary –** A United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled "The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East" had 153 supporting votes against only six who did not support it, with 25 abstentions. The US, Israel's ally, was among the six countries that did not vote for the resolution.

**Source:** https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201210-unga-153-countries-called-on-israel-to-renounce-nuclear-weapons/

Reported: 10/12/2020

## China

**Nuclear Development**

**Event –** China boosts nuclear strike capability in face of growing rivalry with US, report says.

**Summary –** The Chinese military has increased the number of ballistic missile brigades by around a third in the past three years to enhance its nuclear strike capabilities amid escalating tensions with the US, a report has concluded.

**Source:** https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3113639/china-boosts-nuclear-strike-capability-face-growing-rivalry-us

Reported: 11/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## China

Nuclear Stockpile
Event – Report estimates Chinese nuclear stockpile at 350 warheads.
Summary – A paper published by the Chicago, Illinois-based Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has estimated that China has 350 nuclear warheads, significantly more than that estimated by the US Defense Department.
Source: https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2020/12/14/report-estimates-chinese-nuclear-stockpile-at-350-warheads/
Reported: 14/12/2020

## Iran

**Iran Nuclear Deal**
**Event –** New negotiations needed.
**Summary –** The head of the UN agency in charge of policing the Iran nuclear deal said a new agreement would need to be struck among signatories before President-elect Joe Biden could bring the United States back into the deal. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi also stressed the need for Iran to roll back breaches of the nuclear deal that came after US withdrawal.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-iaea-exclusive/new-agreement-needed-to-revive-iran-nuclear-deal-under-biden-iaea-chief-says-idUSKBN28R1V9
Reported: 17/12/2020

## Iran

**Nuclear Site**
**Event –** Satellite images at Iranian nuclear site reveal new building work has been going on since September at underground plant.
**Summary –** Iran has begun construction on a site at its underground nuclear facility at Fordo amid tensions with the US over its atomic programme, new satellite photos show.
**Source:** https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9066809/Iran-builds-underground-nuclear-facility-amid-US-tensions.html
Reported: 18/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**Motorcycle IED**
**Event** – 3 policemen killed.
**Summary -** Three policemen were killed and two further wounded, including a civilian, by the blast of a motorcycle Improvised Explosive Device near a police checkpoint in Herat.
**Source:**https://www.khaama.com/3-police-killed-in-herat-blast-1-civilian-wounded-34534/
Reported: 01/11/2020

## Afghanistan

**Drone Attack**
**Event –** Deadly attack. Probably used drone.
**Summary** – A Taliban attack, most likely carried out by a drone, killed at least four security officers in northern Afghanistan on Sunday, according to senior and local Afghan officials, representing what could be the group's first publicly known use of the method in the 19-year war.
**Source**: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/01/world/asia/taliban-drone-afghanistan.html
Reported: 01/11/2020

## Afghanistan

**IED**
**Event** – ANP engineering teams discovered and defused IEDs.
**Summary** – The engineering teams of Afghan National Police following point-to-point search operations, managed to discover and naturalize four roadside bombs in Herat province. Meanwhile, ANP detained two Taliban mine planters while they were planting roadside bombs in Gardiz City of Paktiya.
**Source**: https://twitter.com/moiafghanistan/status/1322798713786564608
Reported: 01/11/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event** – 7 civilians killed.
**Summary** – Seven civilians were killed in the southern province of Helmand; a vehicle struck a roadside Improvised Explosive Device at the outskirts of Lashkar Gah: women and children were among the dead.
**Source**: http://www.afghanistantimes.af/landmine-blast-kills-at-least-7-in-helmand/
Reported: 02/11/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event** – Civilians injured in market.
**Summary** – Improvised Explosive Device targeted Al-Khodear market in Al-Ghoza injuring several civilians and producing physical damage.
**Source**: https://www.dostor.org/3244012
Reported: 02/11/2020

## Syria

**Motorcycle IED**
**Event** – Damage and several injured.
**Summary** – Booby-trapped motorcycle Improvised Explosive Device exploded in the village of Bajlia, close to the town of Tal Abyadlnorth of Raqqa, causing physical damage and several injured among civilians.
**Source**: https://www.alalamtv.net/news/5256511/
Reported: 03/11/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**VBIED**
**Event –** 3 killed in military camp.
**Summary –** Three militants, including a suicide bomber, were killed in a car bomb explosion hitting an Afghan Border Forces' military camp in Imam Sahib district, Kunduz province.
**Source:** http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202011/03/WS5fa1285ca31024ad0ba82d95.html
Reported: 03/11/2020

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event** – 2 civilians killed.
**Summary** – Roadside Improvised Explosive Device blast killed two civilians and wounded one in Ghond area of Shinkai, district of Zabul.
**Source**: http://www.afghanistantimes.af/bomb-blast-kills-2-in-zabul/
Reported: 04/11/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Iraq

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** Peshmerga killed and 3 wounded.
**Summary –** Peshmerga was killed and three others were wounded as a roadside IED blast hit their vehicle in Chamanke sub-district of Amedi, northeast of Duhok.
**Source:** https://estamedia.net/en/11233/
Reported: 04/11/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** 6 women killed and several injured.
**Summary** – 6 women were killed and several others injured by IED blast and its backup; the device went off in the ferry area NW of Baquba and its backup exploded as forces came to evacuate the victims of the first event.
**Source:** http://burathanews.com/arabic/news/379856
Reported: 05/11/2020

## Iraq

**Roadside IEDs**
**Event** – 3 women and a policeman killed.
**Summary –** Three women and a policeman were killed in two roadside IED explosions; the blasts took place in the morning in a village near
the town of Abbara, northeast of the provincial capital Baquba.
**Source:** http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2020-11/05/content_76880388.htm
Reported:
05/11/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event** – 3 Police officers killed and 2 injured.
**Summary –** Three Police officers have been killed and two more injured by the blast of a roadside Improvised Explosive Device in the southern province of Kandahar.
**Source:** https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/three-police-officers-killed-two-injured-by-1077929.html
Reported: 06/11/2020

## Myanmar

**IED**
**Event –** No one injured but physical damage only.
**Summary –** Two days ahead of Myanmar's general election, the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device damaged the compound of Bago Region's election sub-commission office.
**Source:** https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/ahead-sunday-polls-election-office-myanmar-attacked-explosives.html
Reported: 06/11/2020

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Child killed and another injured.
**Summary –** Child was killed and another injured due to the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device in Mosul, north of Baghdad; the device exploded in one of the swamps in which children play.
**Source**: https://www.masrawy.com/news/news_publicaffairs/details/2020/11/7/1908019/
Reported: 07/11/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** 3 policemen killed.
**Summary –** 3 elements of the engineering division of Al-Bab city Police, east of Aleppo, were killed as an Improvised Explosive Device detonated after being dismantled and transferred into their car.
**Source:** https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/430121
Reported: 07/11/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

**Afghanistan**

**Car IED**
**Event –** 2 civilians killed and 12 wounded.
**Summary –** 2 civilians were killed and 12 others wounded when a car Improvised Explosive Device detonated outside provincial council office in Qalat city, Zabul province.
**Source:** http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-11/07/c_139498690.htm
Reported: 07/11/2020

**Afghanistan**

**Pressure-plate IED**
**Event –** 5 killed and 2 wounded.
**Summary –** 5 civilians were killed and 2 wounded, in Arghandab district of Kandahar province, as a pressure-plate Improvised Explosive Device exploded after a tricycle touched off the device.
**Source:** http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-11/07/c_139498690.htm
Reported: 07/11/2020

**India**

**IED**
**Event –** No one injured in Assam school blast.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device hit a primary school in Assam as tensions on the Assam-Mizoram border continue; the blast took place near the inter-state boundary in Cachar district.
**Source:** https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/guwahati/story/bomb-blast-at-another-primary-school-as-assam-mizoram-border-remains-tense-1738931-2020-11-07
Reported: 07/11/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

### Syria

**UXO**
**Event –** Child killed.
**Summary –** Death of a child in the village of Abu Harij in eastern Hama countryside, as a result of a cluster bomb explosion left over from earlier shelling.
**Source:** https://www.syriahr.com/en/194014/
Reported: 01/12/2020

### Afghanistan

**IED**
**Event –** One injured and Russian embassy car damaged.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device detonated near the Russian embassy complex in Kabul, along the route of the vehicle belonging to the Russian diplomatic mission.
**Source:** https://elaph.com/Web/News/2020/12/1312384.html
Reported: 01/12/2020

### Palestine

I**ED**
**Event –** 2 young men killed and 1 injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device blast killed 2 persons and injured the third, in a serious condition after he was hospitalized; the accident took place in Al-Samra Al-Labab region.
**Source:** https://www.alrakoba.net/31488608/
Reported: 01/12/2020

### Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** Military officer killed.
**Summary –** Officer Aslam Khaplwak, head of the highway battalion in Zabul, was on his way to home when his car was targeted by a roadside improvised explosive device.
**Source:** https://bakhtarnews.com.af/mine-blast-took-the-life-of-military-official-in-zabul/
Reported: 01/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

### Afghanistan

**VBIED**
**Event –** Several people killed and injured.
**Summary –** Suicide car bomb attack killed and injured several people in the afghan province of Khost.
**Source:** https://regionaltelegraph.com/?p=9057
Reported: 02/12/2020

### Afghanistan

**VBIED**
**Event –** 3 NDS members killed and 19 civilians injured.
**Summary –** Car bomb explosion in Gardez city, province of Paktia, killed 3 National Directorate of Security members and injured 19 civilians; in addition, there has been material damage to nearby markets, shops and public property.
**Source:** https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-168224
Reported: 03/12/2020

### Pakistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 1 killed and 7 injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device detonated in a parked rickshaw at Pirwadhai Bus Stand in the city of Rawalpindi, killing at least 1 person and wounding 7 others.
**Source:** https://world-news-monitor.com/hotspots/pakistan/2020/12/04/roadside-bomb-kills-1-in-pakistani-city-of-rawalpindi/
Reported: 04/12/2020

### Syria

**IED**
**Event –** 1 killed and 3 injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device, planted in a car, exploded in the main street of Ginderes, countryside of Afrin city, killing 1 person and injuring 3 others.
**Source:** https://syria.news/0590199b-04122012.html
Reported: 04/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**VBIED**
**Event –** 3 officers killed and 7 injured.
**Summary –** Car bomb explosion targeting a police checkpoint in the southern province of Kandahar killed 3 law enforcement officers and injured 7 more.
**Source:** https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/car-bomb-attack-in-southern-afghanistan-kills-3-police-officers/articleshow/79583404.cms
Reported: 05/12/2020

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Officer and 2 soldiers injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device blast on a military patrol in an agricultural road in Kholi district, on the outskirts of Khanaqin district northeast of Baquba, injured an officer and 2 soldiers.
**Source:** https://hathalyoum.net/articles/2559150-عبوة-انفجار-اثر-جنديين-وإصابة-ضابط-مقتل-في-ناسفة
Reported: 05/12/2020

## Yemen

**IED**
**Event –** Tribal sheikh killed.
**Summary –** Prominent tribal sheikh who was a member of the General People's Congress political party was killed in a car bombing outside the Canadian hospital in the city of Ibb, Ibb Governorate.
**Source:** https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/409096/yemen-car-bomb-kills-prominent-tribal-sheikh-in-ibb-city-ibb-governorate-dec-5
Reported: 05/12/2020

## India

**IIDs**
**Event –** Several BJP workers injured.
**Summary –** Several Bharatiya Janata Party workers were injured in clashes with TMC ones; Improvised Incendiary Devices were hurled and shots were also fired during clashes at Jamgram area.
**Source:** https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/tmc-bjp-workers-clash-bengal-durgapur-bomb-hurled-tmc-worker-house-1748905-2020-12-12
Reported: 05/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

### Afghanistan

**Sticky IED**
**Event –** 2 people injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device blast in the Angoor Bagh area of Jalalabad's Police District 5, triggered by a device attached to a vehicle, severely injured 2 people.
**Source:** https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/409426/afghanistan-at-least-two-injured-following-explosion-in-jalalabad-dec-6
Reported: 06/12/2020

### Afghanistan

**VBIED**
**Event –** 9 Policemen and 22 civilians wounded.
**Summary –** Car bomb exploded near the Daman district police HQ and the governor's compound in southern Kandahar wounding over 30 people, at least 22 civilians, and the police chief.
**Source:** https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-168312
Reported: 07/12/2020

### India

**Grenade**
**Event –** 4 civilians injured.
**Summary –** 4 civilians were injured in a grenade attack launched in Baramula region, indian part of Kashmir, by unknowns targeting a security forces vehicle on Srinagar-Paramula highway.
**Source:** https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=09122020&id=d61c1d78-0144-4f07-ae9b-3534965197da
Reported: 09/12/2020

### Syria

**VBIED**
**Event –** 11 killed and 13 wounded.
**Summary –** Explosion was caused by a car bomb that ripped through a checkpoint in the city of Ras al-Ayn in the countryside of Hasakah: 11 people were killed and 13 others wounded.
**Source:** http://english.sina.com/world/m/2020-12-10/detail-iiznezxs6278689.shtml
Reported: 10/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Civilian injured.
**Summary –** Civilian was injured after an Improvised Explosive Device detonated on an agricultural road near Al-Jadida village south of Baquba city, Diyala governorate center.
**Source:** https://www.raya.com/2020/12/11/إصابة-مدني-جراء-انفجار-عبوة-ناسفة-شمال
Reported: 11/12/2020

## Russia

**PBIED**
**Event –** 6 police officers injured.
**Summary –** Suicide bomber blew himself up in Russia's North Caucasus region of Karachay-Cherkessia injuring 6 police officers; the blast occurred in the village of Uchkeken.
**Source:** https://www.malaymail.com/news/world/2020/12/11/suicide-bomber-injures-six-police-in-russias-north-caucasus/1931161
Reported: 11/12/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** Child killed and another injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device beside a van car in the surroundings of Ra'ed Al-Ain in Al-Darbasiyah city, north of al Hasakah, killing a child and injuring another.
**Source:** http://furat.alwehda.gov.sy/local/68744--في-قنبلة-بانفجار-أخرى-وإصابة-طفلة-استشهاد مدينة-الدرباسية-بريف-الحسكة
Reported: 12/12/2020

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Civilian seriously injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device blast took place near Baghdad International Airport, in the area between Ala air base and the fast response school fence: 1 civilian was seriously injured in the incident.
**Source:** https://en.mehrnews.com/news/167061/Explosion-hits-near-Baghdad-intl-airport
Reported: 12/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Policeman killed and 4 others injured.
**Summary –** Policeman was killed and 4 others were injured as a parked car bomb targeted the convoy of the police chief in Nineveh province, 400 km north of Baghdad and 20km south of Mosul.
**Source:** https://www.elbalad.news/4609885
Reported: 12/12/2020

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Security officer killed and 2 others injured.
**Summary –** Officer was killed and 2 others were injured, due to an Improvised Explosive Device detonation, as they broke into a tunnel near Al-Dabbs district, northwest of Kirkuk governorate.
**Source:** https://www.dostor.org/3292061
Reported: 12/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**Sticky IED**
**Event –** 2 killed and 2 injured.
**Summary –** Sticky Improvised Explosive Device attached to an armoured vehicle in northern Kabul killed 2 people and injured at least 2 others.
**Source:** https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/national/18941046.three-killed-bomb-gun-attacks-kabul/
Reported: 13/12/2020

## Yemen

**IED**
**Event –** Security official targeted and killed.
**Summary –** Security official specifically targeted, was killed by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device placed in his vehicle in Aden's Sheikh Othman neighbourhood.
**Source:** https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/414581/yemen-bomb-kills-security-official-in-adens-sheikh-othman-neighborhood-early-dec-13
Reported: 13/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 4 civilians killed.
**Summary –** Incident occurred when a car carrying civilians hit a roadside Improvised Explosive Device in Khogyani area in Nangarhar.
**Source:** https://en.mehrnews.com/news/167122/4-civilians-killed-in-bomb-blast-in-Afghanistan
Reported: 13/12/2020

## Pakistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 23 persons injured.
**Summary –** 23 persons were injured by the blast of a roadside device at a filtration plant, opposite the Ganj Mandi police station in Rawalpind city Punjab region, northeast of the Country.
**Source:** https://www.jpnews-sy.com/ar/news.php?id=198266
Reported: 13/12/2020

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Soldier killed and 2 others injured.
**Summary –** Soldier was killed and 2 others wounded by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device in Kirkuk province; the device was placed at the entrance of a shelter used by the Islamic State terrorists.
**Source:** https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201213-soldier-killed-in-daesh-attack-in-kirkuk-iraq/
Reported: 13/12/2020

## Lebanon

**IEDs**
**Event –** Citizen injured.
**Summary –** First Improvised Explosive Device was thrown by a nearby bank in exchange and a citizen was injured; a second explosion happened in Al-Kharab district in Tire.
**Source:** https://www.elnashra.com/news/show/1469186/
Reported: 13/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Saudi Arabia

**VBIED**
**Event –** Ship attacked by small boat.
**Summary –** Singapore flagged oil tanker, while moored at a fuel terminal in Jeddah, was targeted by a small boat packed with explosives; explosion caused a fire on board but all 22 seafarers escaped without injury.
**Source:** https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9050027/Explosion-reportedly-strikes-ship-Jiddah-Saudi-Arabia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490
Reported: 14/12/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** 2 soldiers killed and others injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device detonated near a building belonging to the Air Intelligence Division and the Recruitment Center in Khan Arnbe, Quneitra, killing 2 elements and injuring others.
**Source:** https://www.elnashra.com/news/show/1469442/
Reported: 14/12/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** 2 militants killed and vehicle destroyed.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device planted in a military vehicle around the town of Al-Hos, killed 2 gunmen and destroyed the car.
**Source:** http://www.sana.sy/?p=1278750
Reported: 16/12/2020

## Pakistan

**Cracker IED**
**Event –** 4 injured at University of Karachi.
**Summary –** 4 people, including two Rangers officials and a security guard, were injured in a cracker Improvised Explosive Device attack at the gate of the University of Karachi's Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre (SZIC) on University Road.
**Source:** https://tribune.com.pk/story/2276129/four-injured-in-blast-at-ku
Reported: 16/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**Motorcycle IED**
**Event –** 15 children killed.
**Summary –** 15 children were killed when a motorcycle Improvised Explosive Device blew up near a religious gathering; 3 children gathered at a home in Ghazni province, when the blast happened.
**Source:** https://www.dhakatribune.com/world/south-asia/2020/12/18/15-children-killed-in-afghanistan-bomb-blast
Reported: 18/12/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** Several civilians injured.
**Summary –** Motorcycle Improvised Explosive Device detonated near the entrance of the hospital of the city of Al-basira, north of Deir el Zor, causing injuries to several civilians.
**Source:** http://www.sana.sy/es/?p=163432
Reported: 19/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 2 killed and 4 injured.
**Summary –** Two people were killed and four others were injured in a roadside improvised explosive device blast, targeting a Toyota Van carrying passengers, in Grishk district of Helmand province.
**Source:** https://www.khaama.com/helmand-roadside-mine-blast-claim-2-wounds-2-656777/
Reported: 19/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Iraq

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 3 civilians injured.
**Summary –** Roadside Improvised Explosive Device targeted a civilian vehicle east of Mosul wounding 3 civilians passengers.
**Source:** https://hathalyoum.net/articles/2572840-اصابة-ثلاثةمدنيين-بانفجار-عبوة-شرق
Reported: 20/12/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** 4 civilians, including 2 children, injured.
**Summary –** 4 civilians, including 2 children, were injured by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device in the north western city of Ras Al-Ain, province of Al-Hasakah.
**Source:** http://www.sana.sy/?p=1281234
Reported: 20/12/2020

## Iraq

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 3 persons injured.
**Summary –** 3 persons were injured by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device targeting a logistic support convoy of the coalition forces on Al-Nasiriya highway near Al-Nasiriya city.
**Source:** http://www.sana.sy/?cat=78367
Reported: 20/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**IED**
**Event –** 9 people killed and 20 injured.
**Summary –** Car Improvised Explosive Device targeting a lawmaker
in Kabul killed at least 9 people; the target survived the blast but is among 20 injured including women and children.
**Source:**https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/story/Nine_dead_as_Kabul_car_bombing_targets_Afghan_lawmaker-TR20201220nL4N2J0062X1/
Reported: 20/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

**Afghanistan**

**IED**
**Event –** 4 civilians, including 2 teenagers, killed.
**Summary –** 4 civilians, including 2 teenage boys, were killed and one civilian wounded when a tricycle vehicle was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device in Bodahi village, Arghandab district of Kandahar.
**Source:** http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-12/21/c_139607632.htm
Reported: 21/12/2020

**Afghanistan**

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 5 policemen killed.
**Summary –** 5 Afghan policemen were killed by the blast of a roadside Improvised Explosive Device targeting their vehicle on the highway in the Abdi Bai area of Parwan province, north of Kabul.
**Source:** https://almanar.com.lb/7633320
Reported: 21/12/2020

**Afghanistan**

**IED**
**Event –** 2 civilians killed and another wounded.
**Summary –** As a cargo truck was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device in Mucor area of western Badghis, 2 civilians were killed and another severely wounded.
**Source:** https://almanar.com.lb/7633364
Reported: 21/12/2020

**Afghanistan**

**Magnetic IED**
**Event –** Civilian and security force member injured.
**Summary –** Civilian and a security force member were wounded by the blast of a magnetic Improvised Explosive Device targeting a Ranger type vehicle in Kabul, Mahbas square, PD12 of Kabul province.
**Source:** https://www.khaama.com/2-injured-in-kabul-magnetic-ied-blast-556644/
Reported: 21/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** Council's joint chairman killed.
**Summary –** Joint chairman of Al-Kabir Council in the western Deir el-Zor village was killed by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device, placed in his car, in the countryside of Deir el-Zor province.
**Source:** https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/442209
Reported: 22/12/2020

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** 7 policemen injured.
**Summary –** 7 policemen were injured by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device, targeting emergency Police forces, near Shikhi village in Abi Saida district of Diyala province.
**Source:** https://hathalyoum.net/articles/2574236-اصابة-عناصر-من-الشرطة-بانفجار-في-ديالى
Reported: 22/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**VBIED**
**Event –** 2 soldiers killed and 5 others injured.
**Summary –** 2 Afghan soldiers have been killed and 5 others wounded by the blast of a suicide bomber's car beside a national Army checkpoint in Dawlatabad district of Faryab province.
**Source:** http://www.alquds.com/articles/1608634027315879000/
Reported: 22/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 5 prison doctors and health workers killed.
**Summary –** Roadside Improvised Explosive Device killed 5 prison doctors and health workers in Kabul while they were on their way to the Pul-i-Charkhi prison.
**Source:** https://uk.reuters.com/article/afghanistan-blast-healthcare/roadside-bomb-kills-prison-doctors-in-afghan-capital-idUSKBN28W16H
Reported: 22/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Targeted activist survived.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device targeted the house of Al Khafaji activist in Dhi Qar, Al-Ghuraf district; home's external walls were damaged but no injuries were reported.
**Source:** https://www.alsharqiya.com/ar/news/activist-amer-al-khafaji-survived-in-dhi-qar-when-a-bomb-was-detonated
Reported: 23/12/2020

## Syria

**IED**
**Event –** 2 civilians killed and 3 injured.
**Summary –** 2 civilians were killed and 3 others injured by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device planted in "Al-Namaa" petrol station, near Bab Al-Hawa crossing on the border with the Iskenderun region.
**Source:** https://www.syriahr.com/en/197264/
Reported: 23/12/2020

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Coalition forces' convoy targeted.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device blast hit a convoy of US Army and coalition forces in Babylon.
**Source:** http://aliwaa.com.lb/آخر-الأخبار/هجوم-بعبوات-ناسفة-على-رتل-للجيش-الأميركي-وقوات-التحالف-في-بابل
Reported: 23/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**IED**
**Event –** Elder and 2 school students killed.
**Summary –** Improvised explosive device blast, targeting a military convoy passing-by, killed three civilians and injured at least five others in Khost, Yaqoubi district: the victims are an elder and two school students.
**Source:** https://bakhtarnews.com.af/mine-explosion-took-the-lives-of-civilians-in-khost/
Reported: 23/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

**Afghanistan**

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** Police officer killed and 2 wounded including policewoman.
**Summary –** Police officer was killed and 2 others, including a policewoman, were wounded after a roadside Improvised Explosive Device hit a Police vehicle in Kabul near to a Police station.
**Source:** http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2020-12/23/content_77043373.htm
Reported: 23/12/2020

**Afghanistan**

**IED**
**Event –** 2 killed in Kabul.
**Summary –** Attack in Kabul with assault rifles and Improvised Explosive Device killed 2 people, including the head of an independent supervisor of Afghan elections.
**Source:** https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4085097
Reported: 23/12/2020

**Syria**

**IED**
**Event –** 2 civilians killed.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device detonated inside a house in north western Syria leaving 2 civilians dead; the explosion occurred in a village located in Tel Abyad province.
**Source:** https://en.haberler.com/ypg-pkk-terrorists-kill-civilians-in-northeastern-1544465/
Reported: 24/12/2020

**Syria**

**UXOs**
**Event –** 2 young men killed and woman injured.
**Summary –** 2 young men from Ibizmou town were killed by the explosion of a mine while they were harvesting olives; at the same way, a woman sustained injuries while working in a farm in the neighbourhood of Jasim city.
**Source:** https://www.syriahr.com/en/197421/
Reported: 24/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Iraq

**IED**
**Event –** Driver injured.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device targeted an international coalition convoy in Diwaniya, hitting a vehicle belonging to an Iraqi company contractor and injuring the driver.
**Source:** https://mangish.net/رتلاً-لل-استهدف-بتفجير-عجلة-سائق-إصابة
Reported: 25/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** 2 officers killed.
**Summary –** 2 Afghan Army officers including a battalion commander were killed when their vehicle was hit by a roadside Improvised Explosive Device in the northern Balkh province.
**Source:** https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/dec/25/afghan-army-2-officers-killed-by-roadside-bomb-in-/
Reported: 25/12/2020

## Pakistan

**IED**
**Event –** 2 killed and 8 others injured.
**Summary –** 2 people were killed and 8 others injured by the blast of an IED near a football ground in Panjgur district, southwestern Balochistan province, when teams and spectators were leaving the ground.
**Source:** http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2020-12/27/content_77053938.htm
Reported: 26/12/2020

## Lebanon

**IED**
**Event –** IDF members injured.
**Summary –** Israeli Defense Forces members were injured by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device during their patrol in front of Al-Adisa town, Marjayoun district, south of Lebanon.
**Source:** http://www.moi.gov.sy/index.php?content=2&article=MzM1NTQ=
Reported: 26/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Afghanistan

**IEDs**

**Event –** 2 killed and 5 injured of security forces

**Summary –** 2 members of the Afghan security forces were killed and 5 others injured, in four explosions happened in three hours, in different parts of Kabul city: the first explosion took place at about 7 a.m. local time.

**Source:** https://mangish.net/مقتل-2-وإصابة-5-أخرين-من-قوات-الأمن-الأفغ

Reported: 26/12/2020

## Iraq

**EM**

**Event –** 5 killed including the driver.

**Summary –** Tanker vehicle loaded with petrol ignited fire and exploded on Al-Khales district road in Kirkuk, Dur Al-Agriculture region north of Al-Khales, killing 5 people including the tank driver.

**Source:** https://mangish.net/تفاصيل-انفجار-صهريج-محمل-بوقود-البنزي

Reported: 29/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**

**Event –** Targeted market but no casualties.

**Summary –** Roadside Improvised Explosive Device hit a market in the center-western part of Kabul, the Ab Rasani area, resulting in no casualties.

**Source:** https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/roadside-bomb-detonates-in-central-kabul-no-1126795.html

Reported: 29/12/2020

## Yemen

**IED**

**Event –** 26 killed and 12+ wounded.

**Summary –** 26 people were killed and dozens more wounded in an Improvised Explosive Device attack on Aden airport, shortly after a plane carrying a newly formed government for Yemen arrived from Saudi Arabia.

**Source:** https://www.africanews.com/2020/12/30/huge-bomb-blast-at-aden-airport-in-yemen-claims-at-least-26-lives/

Reported: 30/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## India

**Pressure IED**

**Event –** CAF junior soldier injured.

**Summary –** Chhattisgarh Armed Force junior soldier was injured when a pressure Improvised Explosive Device detonated while it was being defused by security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.

**Source:** https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/caf-jawan-injured-in-ied-blast-by-naxals%C2%A0-in-chhattisgarh-191432

Reported: 30/12/2020

## Syria

**IED**

**Event –** 25 killed and 13 injured.

**Summary –** 25 people were killed and 13 injured due to the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device targeting a bus in the province of Deir El Zor, east of the Country.

**Source:** https://espanol.almayadeen.net/news/politics/1445664/ataque-terrorista-contra-un-autob%C3%BAs-en-siria-deja-25-muertos

Reported: 30/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**IED**

**Event –** Civilian killed and 2 soldiers injured.

**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device targeted a police car in Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad killing 1 civilian and injuring 2 soldiers.

**Source:** https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/explosion-kills-1-civilian-injures-2-soldier-1128994.html

Reported: 31/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**IED**

**Event –** Person killed and 2 others injured.

**Summary –** Person was killed and 2 others were injured by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device in Chihil Stone region, Kabul.

**Source:** https://www.masrawy.com/news/news_publicaffairs/details/2020/12/31/1942129/مقتل-وإصابة-3-أشخاص-جراء-انفجار-عبوة-ناسفة-في-كابول

Reported: 31/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES



## Afghanistan

**IED**
**Event –** Official injured and his driver killed.
**Summary –** Head of the administrative office of the Afghan president was seriously injured, and his driver was killed, by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device targeting their car in Kabul.
**Source:** https://www.albayan.ae/world/global/2020-12-31-1.4054014
Reported: 31/12/2020

## Afghanistan

**VBIED**
**Event –** Casualties to Afghan commando forces.
**Summary –** Car Improvised Explosive Device blast caused casualties to Afghan commando forces in the Jalrez district of central Maidan Wardak.
**Source:** https://thefrontierpost.com/car-bomb-hits-afghan-special-forces-in-wardak/
Reported: 31/12/2020

## Syria

**UXO**
**Event –** 3 children injured.
**Summary –** Unexploded cluster bomb fired earlier on Sarmin town in the eastern countryside of Idlib; the explosion injured 3 children seriously.
**Source:** https://www.syriahr.com/en/198352/
Reported: 31/12/2020

## Iraq

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** Damaged military coalition's truck.
**Summary –** Roadside Improvised Explosive Device detonated in Basra, in al-Yousufia district close to the Jerishan crossing near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, targeting a military coalition's logistics support convoy.
**Source:** https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/12/31/641963/Iraq-US-Basra-blast-convoy
Reported: 31/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES



## Afghanistan

**Roadside IED**
**Event –** Reporter's brother killed.
**Summary –** Man was killed by the blast of a roadside Improvised Explosive Device near Bagh-e-Zanana, placed in First Police zone PD1 of Jalalabad city.
**Source:** https://www.khaama.com/journalist-in-nangarhar-realizes-individual-killed-by-ied-blast-is-his-brother-334435/
Reported: 31/12/2020

# EUROPE NEWS ON CBRNE EVENTS

This section gathers news collected from sources related to the European continent, in cronological order. The section is organized in four sections, according to news availability,:

- chemical
- biological
- radiological and nuclear
- explosives

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## Sweden

**Nuclear Plant**
**Event –** Sweden builds new nuclear power plants in Estonia.
**Summary –** Sweden has decided to close the nuclear power plants on its territory, for environmental safety reasons, and to build new nuclear power plants abroad, which will be operational in ten years.
**Source:** https://www.tellerreport.com/news/2020-12-13-%0A---vattenfall-is-building-new-nuclear-power-plants-in-estonia%0A--.HkX6vRiX2v.html
Reported: 13/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## United Kingdom

**Explosion**
**Event –** 4 killed and one injured.
**Summary –** Explosion involved one of the chemical tanks at the sewage processing plant in the Wessex Water site of Avonmouth, near Bristol.
**Source:** https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/13371966/bristol-avonmouth-explosion-four-dead-chemical-tank-blast/
Reported: 03/12/2020

## Cyprus

**IED**
**Event –** Office extensively damaged.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device blast caused extensive damages to an insurance office situated on Grivas Dighenis Avenue in central Nicosia.
**Source:** https://in-cyprus.philenews.com/bomb-explosion-targets-insurance-office-on-grivas-dighenis-ave/
Reported: 04/12/2020

## The Netherlands

**IED**
**Event –** Building damaged.
**Summary –** Improvised Explosive Device targeted 3 Polish goods store in the Dutch town of Biverick for the third time in 24 hours: while no casualties were reported, the explosion caused great damages in the building.
**Source:** https://www.euronews.com/2020/12/08/netherlands-explosions-hit-two-polish-supermarkets-with-the-same-name
Reported: 09/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

## Northern Ireland

**IED**

**Event –** Man appears in court charged in connection with 'spate' of pipe bomb attacks in Derry in recent years.

**Summary –** A 33-year-old man appeared in court today charged in connection with a 'spate' of pipe bomb attacks in Derry. Noel Logan, from Nelson Drive, appeared at a special sitting of Derry Magistrates Court. He is charged with making explosive substances and being in possession of Improvised Explosive Devices on three separate occasions in recent years. The alleged offences took place on dates between August 1, 2017, and November 14, 2017, between January 1, 2019, and April 1, 2019, and between July 1, 2019, and August 4, 2019.

**Source:** https://www.derrynow.com/news/news/595527/man-appears-in-court-charged-in-connection-with-spate-of-pipe-bomb-attacks-in-derry-in-recent-years.html

Reported: 12/12/2020

## Turkey

**Clearing Mines**

**Event –** Turkish team begins clearing mines in Upper Karabakh.

**Summary –** Turkey's Defense Ministry said on Dec. 16 that 136 members of the Special Mine Detection and Clearance Team (OMAT) began clearing mined areas of Upper Karabakh that were liberated from Armenian occupation. "Clearing of mines and handmade explosives continues in [territories of] Karabakh which were heroically and selflessly liberated from Armenian occupation by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces," the Ministry said in a statement on its website. It said the Turkish specialist troops will also train Azerbaijani soldiers in mine detection and clearance techniques and tactics.

**Source:** https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-team-begins-clearing-mines-in-upper-karabakh-160910

Reported: 17/12/2020

# LATIN-AMERICA NEWS ON CBRNE EVENTS

This section gathers news collected from sources related to the Latin-American continent, proposed in cronological order. The section is organized in four areas, according to news availabilty:

- chemical
- biological
- radiological and nuclear
- explosives

# CHEMICALS

**Chemical Risk**

**Event –** Fire in scrap metal company.

**Summary –** A fire was registered in the municipality of Guadalupe in the state of Nuevo León. During the day to put out the fire, where no injured people were registered , more than 140 elements have participated with the support of 15 fire engines, 40 rapid response units and the collaboration of personnel from the Water and Drainage Services company, as well as crews from the Federal Electricity Commission.

**Source:** https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/estados/continua-incendio-en-empresa-acerera-de-nuevo-leon-tras-casi-24-horas?fbclid=IwAR28baq8jWJ8LRGYRKdmDqaWqQOL2-oTfDpRVhKKli2xBODPQsYKhQs092M

Reported: 16/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

## Mexico

**COVID-19 Vaccine**
**Event –** Mexico's Army and navy prepare to vaccinate their staff against COVID-19.
**Summary –** Mexican armed forces will being vaccinating their military health and naval health personnel and then their troops involved in distributing inputs to face COVID-19 from the third week of December, once the Mexican government has received the 250,000 doses of vaccines to prevent Coronavirus.
**Source:** https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-54850024
Reported: 01/12/2020

## Cuba

**Molecular Biology Laboratory**
**Event –** Construction of molecular biology laboratory.
**Summary –** The construction work of the first molecular biology laboratory in Pinar del Río is progressing. It will constitute a strength for the province in the battle against COVID-19 by decreasing the time for the delivery of PCR results. The structure is complemented by a sterilization room in autoclaves where the biological risk for people and environmental contamination are reduced
**Source:** http://www.telepinar.cu/avanza-construccion-de-laboratorio-de-biologia-molecular-en-pinar-del-rio/
Reported: 07/12/2020

## Brazil

**COVID-19 Vaccine**
**Event –** Brazil health regulator sets rules for emergency use of COVID-19 vaccine.
**Summary –** Brazil's health regulator decided Thursday to allow temporary emergency use authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines and established rules for companies to request options that did not exist in the country, which now faces the world's third-worst Coronavirus outbreak.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/salud-coronavirus-brasil-regulador-idESKBN28K2GH
Reported: 10/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

## Mexico

**Ventilators Donated**

**Event –** Mechanical breathing medical devices sent to Caribbean.

**Summary –** The Ministry of Foreign Relations (SRE), through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (Amexcid), shipped the first mechanical breathing medical devices made in Mexico to Caribbean countries. With this, the agreed commitment to send the devices developed in Mexico to Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago is fulfilled.

**Source:** https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/envian-donacion-de-ventiladores-mexicanos-a-paises-del-caribe?
state=published&fbclid=IwAR1XDMOkBd7qiHjYXpQVtVbZNQdCKKonk9awEmeEgM9Ryf WhiRlkP8CDQJ4

Reported: 11/12/2020

## Mexico

**HIV Vaccine Testing**

**Event –** Phase III of the HIV vaccine starts.

**Summary –** In the double-blind clinical trial, 300 Mexican volunteers with a higher risk of acquiring HIV will participate as men who have sex with men and transgender people, it will be carried out at the INCMNSZ, at the Condesa de Iztapalapa Specialized Clinic, at the Benjamín Sepúlveda Amor Clinic in Mexico City, at El Hospital Civil de Guadalajara and at the Unit for Medical Care and Health Research (UNAMIS) in Mérida.

**Source:** https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/arteseideas/Llega-la-vacuna-contra-VIH-a-Mexico-esta-en-fase-de-prueba-20201218-0049.html?fbclid=IwAR0-jBQpf4USvtJRZe_BuiGi_sOb88A87MwwtJwYl-QGAlLzuUO1KyoEBoA

Reported: 18/12/2020

## Argentina

**Vaccine**

**Event –** Argentina to launch COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

**Summary –** Argentina will begin vaccinating its citizens against Coronavirus using the recently delivered Russian Sputnik-V vaccine, following its approval by health authorities for emergency use. The Russian vaccine is set to arrive in each province of the South American nation, and the first doses will be administered, the government said in a statement.

**Source:** https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-argentina-vaccine-idUKKBN29100A

Reported: 24/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

## Chile

**Vaccine**
**Event –** Chile starts first COVID-19 vaccination campaign in South America as Pfizer doses arrive.
**Summary –** Chile, the first country in South America to begin vaccinating against COVID-19, started inoculations after receiving its initial 10,000 doses from Pfizer-BioNtech. Specialist nurse Zulema Riquelme, 46, a 26-year veteran at the public hospital in a poor area of the capital, was the first Chilean to receive the vaccine. Chile's doses arrived at Santiago airport from Pfizer's manufacturing hub in Belgium, just before 7 a.m. local time (1000 GMT) on Christmas Eve, according to the presidency.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-chile-vaccine-idUSKBN28Y180
Reported: 24/12/2020

## Chile

**New Variant of SARS-CoV-2**
**Event –** First case of the new variant of the COVID-19 virus.
**Summary –** Chilean authorities reported that they detected their first case of the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19 in a Chilean woman who travelled to the United Kingdom. The Deputy Minister of Health, Paula Daza, confirmed this information and pointed out that the passenger was subjected to a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR, for its acronym in English)-diagnostic test for coronavirus- at the airport once she reached the ground.
**Source:** https://aristeguinoticias.com/2912/mundo/chile-registra-su-primer-caso-de-la-nueva-variante-del-virus-de-COVID-19/?fbclid=IwAR3mS4VzXypa3McuE5A-BjEgRU-C7UJFMPkYffeoq8e4wIbjx1bn4npb9RM
Reported: 29/12/2020

## Mexico

**Novavax Vaccine**
**Event –** Fourth trial of vaccine against COVID-19 in Yucatan.
**Summary –** A group of Yucatecan volunteers will participate in another clinical trial to test the effectiveness of a vaccine against COVID-19 ; It is the biological one developed by the American laboratory Novavax , which is in its phase 3.
**Source:** https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/estados/inicia-en-yucatan-cuarto-ensayo-de-vacuna-novavax-contra-COVID?fbclid=IwAR07bfVDZc3709QNg5uOJJWo19x_1RmAkrNVHY8LHxE4SLPRSolNMhRmcbM
Reported: 29/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## **Brazil**

**First Nuclear Submarine**
**Event –** Approval of design of nuclear-powered attack submarine.
**Summary –** The Brazilian Navy approved the basic design of the future nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) for its SN-BR project. The PROSUB program calls for the design and construction of four Riachuelo-class conventional submarines (SB-R), the design of the future nuclear-powered submarine (SN-BR) and the design of a naval base in Itaguaï.
**Source:** https://www.marinha.mil.br/noticias/marinha-aprova-bases-do-projeto-preliminar-do-submarino-convencional-com-propulsao-nuclear
Reported: 02/12/2020

## **Brazil**

**Uranium Mining Resumed**
**Event –** Brazil resumes uranium mining at Caetité.
**Summary –** Industrias Nucleares do Brasil (INB) has started mining uranium from the new open-pit Engenho mine at Caetité. INB performs the first two stages of the nuclear fuel cycle: uranium mining and milling. The unit covers an area of 1700 hectares, located in a mineral province with reserves reaching 99,100 tonnes of uranium and where over 17 ore deposits have been identified.
**Source:** https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2020/12/brasil-retoma-producao-de-uranio
Reported: 02/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

### El Salvador

**Attempted Attack with Explosives**

**Event –** Attempted attack with explosives against the Mayor.

**Summary –** Nahín Ferrufino, Mayor of San Francisco Gotera, department of Morazán, reported that unknown individuals placed a package with explosives at the door of his house. The anti-explosives division of the National Civil Police (PNC) confirmed to the mayor that inside the package there was a box with a mobile phone loaded with explosives, which was detonated in a controlled manner in the field of the fair, in the town.

**Source:** https://www.laprensagrafica.com/elsalvador/Alcalde-de-San-Francisco-Gotera-denuncia-intento-de-atentado-20201203-0094.html

Reported: 04/12/2020

### Colombia

**Grenade**

**Event –** 2 policemen killed.

**Summary –** 2 policemen were killed in a joint armed-grenade attack between the departments of Cauca and Valle.

**Source:** https://www.vanguardia.com/colombia/ataque-con-explosivos-deja-dos-policias-muertos-en-limites-de-cauca-y-valle-DA3200036

Reported: 12/12/2020

### Colombia

**Explosives Seized**

**Event –** Military Forces seize more than a ton of explosives.

**Summary –** Troops of the Colombian Military Forces, belonging to the Sixth Division of the National Army in a joint military operation with the Colombian Navy, achieved the seizure and subsequent controlled destruction of 1,150 kilograms of Anfo-type explosives in the area known as the Bajo Amaron village, in the municipality of San Miguel, Putumayo.

**Source:** https://www.cgfm.mil.co/es/blog/fuerzas-militares-incautan-mas-de-una-tonelada-de-explosivos-en-putumayo

Reported: 31/12/2020

# NORTH-AMERICA NEWS ON CBRNE EVENTS

This section gathers news collected from sources related to the  North-American continent, proposed in cronological order. The section is organized in four areas:

- chemical
- biological
- radiological and nuclear
- explosives

# CHEMICALS

**West Virginia**

**Chemical Explosion**

**Event –** 1 dead, 3 injured in explosion at a West Virginia chemical plant.

**Summary –** 1 person died, and 3 others were injured in an explosion and a fire that occurred in a chemical plant in Belle, West Virginia, on Tuesday night, officials said. Following the incident, local county officials in Belle ordered everyone in a 2-mile (3.2 km) radius around the plant to remain at home, but the order was lifted a few hours later.

**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/west-virginia-chemours-incident-idUSKBN28J0CC

Reported: 09/12/2020

# BIOLOGICAL

**COVID-19 Vaccine**

**Event –** US Food and Drug Administration voted overwhelmingly back authorizing Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

**Summary –** A panel of outside advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to endorse emergency use of Pfizer's Coronavirus vaccine, paving the way for the agency to authorize the shot for a nation that has lost more than 285,000 lives to COVID-19. The FDA said during the panel meeting that there was not enough data to support or contradict use of the vaccine in pregnant women. The agency recommends they make the decision on their own with advice from their doctors.

**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-pfizer-vaccine/us-fda-advisers-overwhelmingly-back-authorizing-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-idUSKBN28K1O5

Reported: 10/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## USA

**Nuclear**
**Event –** US has evidence hackers accessed its nuclear networks.
**Summary –** The US Energy Department and National Nuclear Security Administration, which manages the country's nuclear weapons stockpile, have evidence that hackers gained access to their networks as part of a massive cyber campaign.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-breach-nuclear/u-s-has-evidence-hackers-accessed-its-nuclear-networks-politico-idUSKBN28R34N
Reported: 17/12/2020

## USA

**Nuclear**
**Event –** Advanced reactor projects teams receive US federal risk reduction funding.
**Summary –** The US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) has selected five teams to receive USD30 million in initial funding for risk reduction projects under its Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP). All five of the selected designs have the potential to compete globally once deployed.
**Source:** https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Advanced-reactor-projects-teams-receive-US-federal
Reported: 17/12/2020

## USA

**Nuclear**
**Event –** US sets out key goals in new national strategy.
**Summary –** The US has announced a national strategy for the use of nuclear power and propulsion in space that defines key goals such as nuclear fuels, fission reactors for surface power, thermal propulsion technology, and radioisotope power systems for space exploration.
**Source:** https://www.nucnet.org/news/us-sets-out-key-goals-in-new-national-strategy-12-4-2020
Reported: 17/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## USA

**Nuclear**
**Event –** DOE announces $12 million for research on nuclear data.
**Summary –** The US Department of Energy has announced a plan to provide funding of up to $12m for new research on nuclear data. The DOE said the aim is to expand and improve the quality of data needed for a wide range of nuclear-related activities from basic research in nuclear science to isotope production and nuclear nonproliferation efforts.
**Source:** https://www.nucnet.org/news/doe-announces-usd12-million-for-research-on-nuclear-data-12-2-2020
Reported: 08/12/2020

## USA

**Nuclear**
**Event –** US looks to nuclear propulsion systems to achieve space ambitions.
**Summary –** The US government announced the release of the National Space Policy, which advocates for developing and deploying nuclear power and propulsion system on US space missions. Authorization for launches of spacecraft containing space nuclear systems will follow a tiered process based on the characteristics of the system, level of potential hazard, and national security considerations, the policy adds. NASA announced the 18 astronauts that will form the Artemis Team and "help pave the way for the next astronaut missions on and around the Moon as part of the Artemis programme".
**Source:** https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/US-looks-to-nuclear-propulsion-systems-to-reach-sp
Reported: 10/12/2020

## Canada

**Nuclear**
**Event –** Government to lay out next steps in bid for SMR deployment.
**Summary –** Canada plans to publish a Small Modular Reactor action plan by the end of the year that will lay out the next steps to develop and deploy the technology as part of a climate plan that calls for CAD15bn ($11.7bn) "with more to come" in federal investment towards the country's net-zero emissions goals.
**Source:** https://www.nucnet.org/news/government-to-lay-out-next-steps-in-bid-for-smr-deployment-12-2-2020
Reported: 15/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## USA

**Uranium**
**Event –** Uranium companies attracted by rare earth elements and vanadium.
**Summary** – US company Energy Fuels Inc will become a commercial rare earths supplier in 2021, having entered into a three-year supply agreement to acquire a minimum of 2500 tons per year of natural monazite sands from which it will also recover uranium at its White Mesa mill in Utah. Separately, Vancouver-based International Consolidated Uranium Inc said it had been attracted to its newly announced acquisition of the Laguna Salada uranium project in Argentina by the by-product vanadium.
**Source:** https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Uranium-companies-attracted-by-REE-and-vanadium
Reported: 15/12/2020

## USA

**Nuclear**
**Event –** Congress proves nuclear energy funding for FY2021.
**Summary** – The US Congress voted to approve appropriations for fiscal year 2021 that includes USD1.5 billion for the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy. The appropriations also include USD150 million to initiate the uranium reserve programme to address challenges to the production of domestic uranium.
**Source:** https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Congress-approves-nuclear-energy-funding-for-FY202
Reported: 22/12/2020

## USA

**Nuclear**
**Event –** Lessons from transport for reactor design harmonisation.
**Summary –** The nuclear plant licensing system should be rationalised to promote the extensive deployment at competitive cost of new reactors, according to a report issued this month by the Cooperation in Reactor Design Evaluation and Licensing (CORDEL) Working Group of World Nuclear Association.
**Source:** https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Transport-lessons-for-reactor-design-harmonisation
Reported: 24/12/2020

# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR

## USA

**Nuclear**

**Event –** Stimulus plan includes $1.5 billion for nuclear energy programmes.

**Summary –** A $908bn relief and stimulus plan approved by US Congress includes $1.5bn for nuclear energy programmes, signalling the importance of nuclear as the country tries to move towards an increasingly decarbonised economy. The plan includes $27.5m for Department of Energy expenses for nuclear waste disposal, including interim storage. The plan includes $150m for a uranium reserve to address challenges to the production of domestic uranium.

**Source:** https://www.nucnet.org/news/tagged/Bill

Reported: 24/12/2020

# EXPLOSIVES

**USA**

**Explosion**
**Event –** 4 injured in chemical plant.
**Summary –** Large explosion at a West Virginia chemical plant flung debris more than a mile away, injuring at least 4 people and forcing a nearby highway and some schools closed.
**Source:** https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/09/us/west-virginia-explosion.html
Reported: 09/12/2020

**USA**

**ATEX**
**Event –** 1 killed and 2 critically injured.
**Summary –** Home explosion in Omaha killed 1 person and critically injured 2 people; the blast levelled one home and severely damaged two homes next to it.
**Source:** https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2020/12/08/Omaha-home-explosion-kills-1-critically-injures-2/3151607446940/
Reported: 08/12/2020

**USA**

**IED**
**Event –** Teenager killed.
**Summary –** Teenager has been killed by the explosion of an Improvised Explosive Device at home, Main Street Highway of the rural town of Alamosa, Colorado.
**Source:** https://gazette.com/news/teen-killed-explosive-device-found-in-southern-colorado/article_4210baf8-446e-11eb-9489-8f62e5395ede.html
Reported: 22/12/2020

**USA**

**VBIED**
**Event –** 3 people wounded and several building damaged.
**Summary –** Powerful explosion rocked downtown Nashville early Christmas morning; a parked recreational vehicle exploded shattering windows, damaging buildings and wounding 3 people.
**Source:** https://finanz.dk/powerful-explosion-rocks-downtown-nashville/
Reported: 25/12/2020

# OCEANIA NEWS ON CBRNE EVENTS

This section gathers news collected from sources related to the Oceanic continent, proposed in cronologial order. The section is organized in four areas, according to news availability:

- chemical
- biological
- radiological and nuclear
- explosives

# CHEMICALS

## <u>Australia</u>

**Chemicals found**

**Event** – 4000 chemicals found in Great Barrier Reef turtules raises concerns od contamination hotspot.

**Summary** – Toxic chemicals are accumulating in Great Barrier Reef turtles and fish species popular with consumers. There have been tens of thousands of chemicals identified as contaminants of emerging concern, but Great Barrier Reef water quality programs only screen for sediment, nutrients, and pesticides.

**Source**: 4000 chemicals found in Great Barrier Reef turtles raises concerns of contamination hotspot – Griffith News

Reported: 04/12/2020

# TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM NEWS

This section gathers news collected from sources related terrorism and counter-terrorism.

News are proposed in cronological order.

# NEWS

## Algeria

**Terrorism**
**Event –** Algeria says three Islamists killed in Army clash.
**Summary –** Three Islamists were killed Tuesday in a clash with the Algerian Army in the country's northeast, the defense Ministry said, adding that an operation was ongoing. The Army killed "two terrorists following a clash with a dangerous" armed group in Jijel province, the ministry said in an initial statement, later revising the toll to three.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/01/algeria-three-islamists-killed/
Reported: 01/12/2020

## United Kingdom

**Counterterrorism**
**Event –** Manchester Arena inquiry: review 'reshaped UK counter-terrorism teams'.
**Summary –** "Fast-time learning" from the attack on Manchester Arena led to several changes in how UK counterterrorism teams work, the inquiry into the bombing has heard. The inquiry into the attack of 22 May 2017, which killed 22 people, was told senior officers reviewed what happened five days later to learn from it. Their 21 recommendations had mostly been implemented, the hearing was told. A senior officer said that at the time, counter-terrorism focused on the nature, not the timing, of a threat.
**Source:** https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-55130867
Reported: 01/12/2020

## Iraq

**Counterterrorism Operation**
**Event –** 6 IS militants killed in Makhmour.
**Summary –** 6 Islamic State militants were killed in a joint operation between the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service (ICTS) and coalition forces in Makhmour, according to the ICTS.
**Source:** https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/011220203
Reported: 01/12/2020

# NEWS

## Syria

**IS**
**Event –** IS resurges Deir ez-Zor countryside.
**Summary –** 7 militiamen of "Al-Quds Brigade", including a leader, were killed and others were injured yesterday, after a military convoy was ambushed by Islamic State cells on the road between the city of Al-Mayadeen and Fayda Ibn Moweni'e in eastern Deir ez-Zor countryside.
**Source:** https://www.syriahr.com/en/194506/
Reported: 02/12/2020

## Nigeria

**Terrorism**
**Event –** Boko Haram claims Nigeria farm massacre as toll rises to 76.
**Summary –** The Boko Haram jihadist group on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a brutal massacre of farm workers in northeast Nigeria over the weekend as the death toll rose to 76. The grim search for bodies continues after gunmen on motorbikes attacked the area outside Borno state's capital Maiduguri on Saturday, slaughtering dozens of laborers in rice fields near the village of Zabarmari.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/02/boko-haram-claims-nigeria-farm-massacre/
Reported: 02/12/2020

## Kenya

**Terrorist Attack**
**Event –** Suspected Al-Shabab attack in police patrol base in Fafi.
**Summary –** The attack occurred in Fafi, Garissa county along the Somali Border. The security forces were at the Amuda base when the armed gunmen fired. A Kenyan Police officer was seriously injured early, and another is missing. Nigerian security officers suspect that the attack was perpetrated by Al-Sjabab militants.
**Source:** https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/59713-suspected-al-shabaab-militants-attack-garissa-police-base
Reported: 02/12/2020

# NEWS

## Sahel

**Counterterrorism**
**Event –** G5 Sahel Chief cautions against early French troop cut.
**Summary –** The head of a five-nation force in the Sahel has warned against any early move by France to scale back its anti-jihadist mission in the troubled region. General Oumarou Namata Gazama, a Nigerien who commands the so-called G5 Sahel force, said the recent arrival of European special forces troops was not yet enough to compensate for a reduction in France's Barkhane mission.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/03/g5-sahel-cautions-french-troop-cut/
Reported: 03/12/2020

## Nigeria

**Terrorism**
**Event –** ISWAP Jihadists abduct aid worker and local officials in Nigeria.
**Summary –** A humanitarian aid worker and two local officials have been abducted by Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) fighters in conflict-plagued north-eastern Nigeria, two security officials said Wednesday. "The hostages included two local officials and an aid worker but it is not clear which organization he works for," one of the security sources said.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/03/iswap-jihadists-abduct-officials-nigeria/
Reported: 03/12/2020

## Somalia

**Counterterrorism Operation**
**Event –** US troop withdrawal.
**Summary –** The United States' government decide to pull down AFRICOM troops deployed in Somalia. US troops presence in the field threat al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab terrorists. Donald Trump's decision to pull US troops out of Somalia in the waning days of his presidency has triggered dismay from some Somalis, who appealed to the incoming President Joe Biden to reverse the decision.
**Source:** https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/5/some-somalis-dismayed-by-us-decision-to-withdraw-troops
Reported: 05/12/2020

# NEWS

## Afghanistan

**Counterterrorism Operation**
**Event –** Eight al-Qaeda militants killed in US air raid in Helmand.
**Summary –** Eight foreign members of al-Qaeda have been among two dozen militants who were killed in an air raid by US military in Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand.
**Source:** https://1tvnews.af/06/12/2020/6286/
Reported: 06/12/2020

## Egypt

**Counterterrorism Operation**
**Event –** Egyptian Army Says Killed 40 Suspected Jihadists.
**Summary –** The Egyptian Army said it had killed 40 suspected jihadist militants since September in air and ground operations in the Sinai region. According to official data, 970 suspected militants and dozens of security personnel were killed in the Sinai.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/08/egypt-says-killed-40-jihadists-sinai/
Reported: 08/12/2020

## Syria-Uzbekistan

**IS**
**Event –** Uzbekistan repatriates 98 IS-linked women and children from Syrian camps.
**Summary –** Uzbekistan brought home 25 women and 73 children on Tuesday from Syria where they had been staying at camps with other families of Islamic State fighters, the Tashkent government said.
**Source:** https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/world/2020/12/08/Uzbekistan-repatriates-98-ISIS-linked-women-and-children-from-Syrian-camps
Reported: 08/12/2020

# NEWS

### Turkey-UK

**IS**
**Event –** Turkey, Britain bases for IS weapons supply chains, research group says.
**Summary –** Small groups of individuals, families and companies in Turkey and Britain acted as conduits for goods and weapons acquired by Islamic State such as rocket and aerial drone components, the Conflict Armament Research group said in a report.
**Source:** https://www.conflictarm.com/reports/procurement-networks-behind-islamic-state-improvised-weapon-programmes/
Reported: 09/12/2020

### Nigeria

**Counterterrorism Operation**
**Event –** Operation against ISWAP Jihadists in Damboa district.
**Summary –** According to security sources, 10 Nigerian troops were killed and one was taken hostage in clashes with Islamic State-linked jihadists in northeast Nigerian Borno state. Nigerian soldiers attacked a camp of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in the village of Alagarno (Damoa district).
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/09/nigeria-troops-killed-clashes-iswap/
Reported: 09/12/2020

### Sinai

**Terrorism**
**Event –** IS steps up Sinai fight with bombs in civilian homes.
**Summary –** Residents of Egypt's restive North Sinai region ran for their lives when an Islamic State group affiliate occupied their villages. Now, they are returning to find their homes booby-trapped. Around 15 people have been killed by Improvised Explosive Devices since mid-October in villages around Bir al-Abd, in the northwest of the troubled province, say Egyptian security sources.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/09/is-steps-up-sinai-fight/
Reported: 09/12/2020

# NEWS

## Somalia

**Terrorist attack**

**Event –** Gunmen kill 6 in attack on Army convoy.

**Summary –** 6 soldiers were killed and others wounded after gunmen ambushed a convoy in central Somalia. No group has claimed responsibility of the attack, but Islamist militants are active in the region.

**Source:** https://www.garoweonline.com/en/news/somalia/somalia-ambush-gunmen-kill-5-in-attack-on-army-convoy

Reported: 09/12/2020

## Iraq

**Terrorist Attack**

**Event –** 2 small Iraqi oil wells set ablaze in 'terrorist attack', ministry says.

**Summary –** 2 wells in a small oilfield in northern Iraq were set ablaze by explosives on Wednesday in a "terrorist attack" but overall production from the field was not affected, the Oil Ministry and officials said Wednesday, Reuters reports.

**Source:** https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201209-two-small-iraqi-oil-wells-set-ablaze-in-terrorist-attack-ministry-says/

Reported: 09/12/2020

## Syria

**Terrorism**

**Event –** IS kills nine Iran-trained fighters in Syria.

**Summary –** The Islamic State group killed nine Iran-trained Syrian fighters in an attack on one of their positions in eastern Syria on Thursday, a war monitor said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said an IS sleeper cell carried out the dawn attack on the desert outpost outside the Euphrates Valley town of Al-Mayadeen. Observatory head Rami Abdul Rahman said the fighters killed were Syrians led and trained by Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards.

**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/10/is-kills-iran-trained-fighters-syria/

Reported: 10/12/2020

# NEWS



## Nigeria

**Terrorist Attack**
**Event –** Attack in a secondary school.
**Summary –** According to Anadolu Agency 17 students has been kidnapped by Boko Haram armed group in a Nigerian secondary school in Kankara (Katsina district).
**Source:** https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/13/parents-pray-for-hundreds-of-students-kidnapped-in-nigeria
Reported: 13/12/2020

## Nigeria

**Terrorist Attack**
**Event –** Attack in Niger's Diffa region.
**Summary –** According to Nigerien authorities and the United Nations, an attack blamed on Boko Haram killed 28 people and burned 800 homes in an attack in Niger's Diffa region.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-niger-security/gunmen-kill-28-burn-800-houses-in-niger-attack-blamed-on-boko-haram-idUSKBN28O2MN
Reported: 14/12/2020

## Turkey

**Counterterrorism Operation**
**Event –** Turkish security forces nab French terrorist with Red Notice.
**Summary –** Turkish security forces have caught a terrorist of French origin wanted on a Red Notice. The terrorist, C.G., was caught in the southern province of Hatay attempting to cross into Turkey from Syria.
**Source:** https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-security-forces-nab-french-terrorist-with-red-notice
Reported: 14/12/2020

## Russia

**Counterterrorism**
**Event –** Militant killed in special operation in Chechnya.
**Summary –** A member of an illegal armed group was killed in a special operation in Chechnya's Achkhoi-Martan district, the Russian North Caucasus Republic's head said in his Telegram channel on Tuesday. "Today, a member of an illegal armed group, identified as Kazbek Baidulayev, was killed during a successful counterterrorism special operation in the Achkhoi-Martan district. No casualties were reported among law enforcement officers," Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov wrote.
**Source:** https://tass.com/emergencies/1235465
Reported: 15/12/2020

# NEWS



<div align="center">

**Somalia**

</div>

**Counterterrorism Operation**

**Event –** AFRICOM operations

**Summary –** US Africa Command (AFRICOM) conducted 2 airstrikes targeting al–Shabaab explosives experts in the vicinity of Jilib, Somalia. At least 8 al Shabaab members instrumental in the production of explosives for the terror group. The group frequently uses Vehicle–Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) and suicide vests to target civilians and security targets in various regions of Somalia.

**Source:** https://intelligencebriefs.com/us–airstrikes–targeting–al–shabaab–bombmakers–kill–8–terrorists–in–jilib–somalia/

Reported: 15/12/2020

<div align="center">

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

</div>

**Terrorist Attack**

**Event –** ISCAP attack.

**Summary –** 12 people were killed and over 20 people kidnapped or missing following an attack by the Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) branch in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The attack occurred in Nzenga village located in the Rwenzori sector, Beni in North Kivu Province.

**Source:** https://intelligencebriefs.com/12–people–killed–at–least–20–kidnaped–by–iscap–in–nzenga–village–beni–in–drc/

Reported: 15/12/2020

<div align="center">

**Turkey/Syria**

</div>

**Terrorism**

**Event –** Iraq's KRG calls for efforts to stop YPG from exploiting foreign aid.

**Summary –** The prime minister of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Masrour Barzani, called for renewed efforts to stop the PKK's Syrian offshoot, the YPG, from exploiting foreign aid. In a phone call with US Syria envoy Joel Rayburn, the two discussed the complex situation in Syria.

**Source:** https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/iraqs-krg-calls-for-efforts-to-stop-ypg-from-exploiting-foreign-aid

Reported: 16/12/2020

# NEWS

## Egypt

**IS**
**Event –** IS steps up Sinai fight with bombs in civilian homes in Egypt.
**Summary –** Residents of Egypt's restive North Sinai region ran for their lives when an Islamic State group affiliate occupied their villages. Now, they are returning to find their homes booby-trapped.
**Source:** https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/isis-steps-up-sinai-fight-with-bombs-in-civilian-homes-in-egypt
Reported: 16/12/2020

## France

**Counterterrorism**
**Event –** 4 placed under formal investigation in France for suspected links to Paris cleaver attack.
**Summary –** French authorities have charged and detained four Pakistanis suspected of links to a meat cleaver attack by a compatriot outside the former offices of the Charlie Hebdo weekly that wounded two people, the national counter-terrorism prosecutor's office said Friday. The four male suspects, aged 17 to 21, were in contact with the attacker, said a source familiar with the case. They are suspected of being aware of the attacker's plot and inciting him to carry it out, according to another judicial source close to the investigation.
**Source:** https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20201219-four-placed-under-formal-investigation-in-france-for-suspected-links-to-paris-cleaver-attack?ref=tw_i
Reported: 19/12/2020

## Turkey/Syria

**Counterterrorism Operations**
**Event –** Turkey kills 177 IS, YPG/PKK members in northern Syria operations.
**Summary –** At least 177 members were killed in Turkish counterterrorism operations in northern Syria over the last 30 days, the Defense Ministry confirmed. According to a ministry statement, 148 were YPG/PKK members and 29 were fighting for the Islamic State.
**Source:** https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkey-kills-177-daesh-ypgpkk-terrorists-in-northern-syria-operations
Reported: 20/12/2020

# NEWS

## Nigeria

**Terrorism**
**Event –** Nigeria jihadists kill five soldiers, kidnap dozens of civilians.
**Summary –** 5 Nigerian soldiers were killed by Islamic State-aligned jihadists and dozens of civilians were kidnapped in a separate attack, military sources said Sunday, in the latest violence to grip the north of the country. A military convoy was hit in northeast Borno state on Saturday, and militants also attacked a transport convoy in the same region a day before, abducting 35 people and killing one woman.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/21/nigeria-jihadists-kill-five-soldiers/
Reported: 21/12/2020

## Sahel

**Terrorism**
**Event –** Illegal gold mining funding armed groups in Sahel.
**Summary –** Several "suspected terrorists" were arrested and more than 40,000 sticks of dynamite and detonator cords for illegal gold mining a new source of funding for armed groups in the Sahel were seized in a joint operation with the UN, Interpol said on Monday.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/21/illegal-mining-armed-groups-sahel/
Reported: 21/12/2020

## Algeria

**IS**
**Event –** Tunisia: IS-affiliated group accused of beheading farmer.
**Summary –** Tunisian authorities say a group that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group was behind the weekend beheading of a sheep farmer that has raised national concern.
**Source:** https://apnews.com/article/tunisia-terrorism-islamic-state-group-84b09d5ad4f2fc2ee7abdb4bc0e994a1
Reported: 21/12/2020

# NEWS



## Venezuela

**Terrorism**
**Event –** The route of Jihad through Venezuela.
**Summary –** Authorities from several South American countries have been alerted to the existence of a route of possible Islamic extremist elements, whose passage through Venezuela has been documented.
Those people in transit arrive at the international airports of Brazil; after a while they move to the border with Venezuela, a country they are trying to cross to reach Colombia and then probably continue their itinerary to Central America and perhaps the United States.
**Source:** https://israelnoticias.com/latam/ruta-yihad-venezuela/
Reported: 22/12/2020

## Peru

**Terrorist Attack**
**Event –** At least 1 soldier killed and 3 others injured after a narco-terrorist attack in Peru.
**Summary –** At least 1 soldier from the Peruvian Army Marine Corps died this Monday and 3 others were injured as a result of an attack perpetrated by "narco-terrorists" in the province of Satipo, in the central department of Junín, a region in which they still operate. residual groups of the Shining Path.
**Source:** https://www.infobae.com/america/america-latina/2020/12/22/al-menos-un-militar-muerto-y-otros-tres-heridos-tras-un-ataque-narcoterrorista-en-peru/
Reported: 22/12/2020

## Islamic State

**Terrorism**
**Event –** IS Magazine encourages terrorists to try vehicle arson, 'Sharpened Pencil' attacks.
**Summary –** The latest issue of an English-language magazine released by Islamic Stete supporters encourages would-be terrorists to use novel tactics — including vehicle arson and sharp pencils — and tells perpetrators that they should refrain from claiming an attack on behalf of the terror group if they think they can strike again.
**Source:** https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/isis-magazine-encourages-terrorists-to-try-vehicle-arson-sharpened-pencil-attacks/
Reported: 22/12/2020

# NEWS

## Ethiopia

**Terrorist Attack**
**Event –** Attack in western Bulen county.
**Summary –** According to state- run Ethiopian Human
Right commission, a gunmen killed more than 100 people in a dawn attack in the
village of Bekoji (Bulen county- Metezel county) in western Benishangul-Gumuz
region.
**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-violence/gunmen-kill-more-than-100-
in-attack-in-ethiopias-benishangul-gumuz-region-idUSKBN28X26Q
Reported: 23/12/2020

## Kenya

**Terrorism**
**Event –** Al Shabaab claims beheading of local chief in Kenya.
**Summary –** The Al Shabaab militant group abducted and beheaded the chief of a clutch of
villages in north-eastern Kenya near the border with Somalia, the Islamists and local police
sources said. Omar Adan Buul, the head of the Gumarey sub-location in Wajir
county, was kidnapped on Friday by jihadists who had raided the area and
"lectured the locals".
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/23/al-shabaab-beheads-local-chief-
kenya/
Reported: 23/12/2020

## Turkey/Syria

**Counterterrorism Operations**
**Event –** Turkey busts YPG cell in northern Syria
**Summary –** Turkish security forces dismantled a PKK cell in Syria's north western city of
Jarablous upon information obtained during an interrogation. A Syrian national, identified
by the initials B.H.F., was nabbed by Turkish forces and interrogated. Upon
interrogation, he disclosed key information about the group and the location of
a tractor loaded with 150 kilograms (330.6 pounds) of plastic explosives.
**Source:** https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkey-busts-ypg-terrorist-cell-
in-northern-syria
Reported: 24/12/2020

# NEWS

## Central African Republic

**Terrorist Attack**

**Event –** Attack against UN peacekeepers.

**Summary –** 3 UN peacekeepers were killed and 2 others were wounded by an unidentified armed group in south eastern Central African Republic. Un secretary General in person of Stephane Dujarric called on the CAR authorities to investigate and bring perpetrators to justice.

**Source:** https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/3-un-peacekeepers-killed-in-central-african-republic/2089504

Reported: 26/12/2020

## Turkey

**Terrorism and WMD**

**Event –** Turkey adopts law to prevent terror financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

**Summary –** The Turkish Parliament ratified a motion banning the commercial activities of organizations and individuals facing sanctions by the UN Security Council.  Parliament also adopted a law calling for the prevention of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The provisions of the new law also deal with the funding of terrorist groups. The definition of "asset" was updated to match the internationally recognized meaning. Those who commit the crime of "funding terrorism" will be subjected to heavier fines and penalties.

**Source:** https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkey-adopts-law-to-prevent-terror-financing-weapons-of-mass-destruction?gallery_image=undefined#big

Reported: 27/12/2020

## Tunisia

**Counterterrorism Operation**

**Event –** Algerian People's National Army (ANP) found Militants hideout linked to Rezkane Ahcene "Abu Dahdah", who was arrested on December 16 near El-Ancer, in Jijel Province.

**Summary –** A militant hideouts were discovered by ANP near El-Ancer in Jijel Province along with 80K Euros alleged to be from ransom paid to Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) in Mali prisoner exchange in October.

**Source:** https://twitter.com/Oded121351/status/1343816742460600322

Reported: 29/12/2020

# NEWS



## Algeria

**Counterterrorism Operation**

**Event –** Algeria's Army seizes nearly $100,000 militants' ransom cash.

Summary – Algeria's Army has retrieved a "slice of the ransom" cash paid out to free hostages held by "terrorist groups" in the troubled Sahel region, the Defense Ministry has said.

**Source:** https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/north-africa/2020/12/29/Algeria-s-army-seizes-nearly-100-000-militants-ransom-cash

Reported: 29/12/2020

# TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

This section gathers news collected from sources related technological innovations. News are proposed in cronological order.

# NEWS

*SYnergy of integrated Sensors and Technologies for urban sEcured environment (SYSTEM)* is a 42-month, € 9 million **H2020 project** coordinated by Fondazione FORMIT involving the participation of other 22 partners, amongst whom is OSDIFE. *Started in September 2018, it aims at developing and testing a* **customised sensing system for hazardous substances detection** *in complementary utility networks and public spaces which are tested and adapted in six urban areas.*

During 2020 the project kept carrying out a number of testing and deployment activities despite the many limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many field testing activities were expected to be jointly carried out to deploy the wide variety of sensing devices, thus testing the network as combination of different technological solutions sending data to a centralised monitoring centre.

Due to the limitations imposed to the EU Member States from the very beginning of the year to cope with the disease spreading, local working groups were set up, each including the technology providers and the stakeholders settled in each city to keep working on site. It is against this backdrop that from June onward local lab and field testing activities were carried out in Bratislava, Lavrio, Idstein, Latina and Rome.

Locations where to deploy sensing devices were agreed with the local law enforcement agencies and the utility network operators making them available, and testing activities were held to deploy such technologies in real environment to test them and their Technology Readiness Level (TRL) in the application scenarios agreed. In case of impairment to travel, online training sessions were carried out after shipping the technologies to be tested in another country for the same purpose. Further to this, video recordings and additional material were prepared and discussed with the Research Executive Agency (REA) during the review meeting held online in September 2020.

For further information about the project and the activities scheduled for 2021, **visit the project website**. A wide variety of activities have been planned to further foster the interaction with the project stakeholder groups, thus being provided with relevant suggestions and feedback on how the SYSTEM products and services can go to the market.

**https://www.systemproject.eu/**

# NEWS

## Israel-South Korea

**Military Development**

**Event** – Israel Rafael offers its next-gen combat vehicle suite to South Korea.

**Summary** – Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems has offered South Korea its Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Suite (NGCV-S) as the Republic of Korea Army (RoKA) prepares to upgrade its K1A2 main battle tanks (MBTs) and procure some 600 Hyundai-made armoured personnel carriers (APCs) as part of its Tiger 4.0 modernisation programme.

**Source**: https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/rafael-offers-its-next-gen-combat-vehicle-suite-to-south-korea

Reported: 08/12/2020

## Israel

**Quantum Technology**

**Event –** Rafael hopes quantum technology can help in GPS–denied environments.

**Summary –** Rafael Advanced Defense Systems has been investing in quantum technology in the hopes that it will improve existing sensors on the battlefield and could lead to a solution for GPS–denied environments. These sensors can exploit the quantum properties of atoms to measure acceleration and angular rates with unprecedented accuracy, which, in turn, allows for "dead–reckoning navigation for relatively long periods of time while essentially keeping GPS/GNSS accuracy."

**Source:** https://www.c4isrnet.com/industry/2020/12/08/rafael-hopes-quantum-technology-can-help-in-gps-denied-environments/#.X_Qw8jF1Q3c.link .

Reported: 08/12/2020

## Russia

**Drones**

**Event –** Russia announces first armed test of heavy strike stealth 'Hunter' drone.

**Summary –** The Russian heavy strike stealth drone, Okhotnik, or Hunter, has reportedly flown with simulated air–to–air missiles for the first time. Moscow is developing Okhotnik to fly with its fifth–generation Su–57 fighter to complement the aircraft during missions, providing it with enhanced combat capabilities and protection from enemy aircraft. During the flights, the unmanned aircraft's simulated armaments reportedly included infrared and radar homing heads.

**Source :** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/08/russia-okhotnik-drone-armed-test/

Reported: 09/12/2020

# NEWS

## China

**Military Development**

**Event** – Footage suggests 122 mm CTL181A-based SPH is in PLAGF service.

**Summary** – Video footage released by state-owned broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) on 8 December suggests that a new lightweight 122 mm self-propelled howitzer (SPH) based on a modified Dongfeng Mengshi 6×6 CTL181A armoured vehicle has entered service with the People's Liberation Army Ground Force (PLAGF).

**Source**: https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/footage-suggests-122-mm-ctl181a-based-sph-is-in-plagf-service

Reported: 10/12/2020

## Tunisia-Spain

**Military Development**

**Event –** Indra undercuts rivals to win military radar contract.

**Summary –** The Spanish technology firm Indra Sistemas has beaten off its French, American and Italian rivals to snap up the contract to supply medium- and long-range radar systems to the Tunisian air force.

**Source:** https://www.africaintelligence.com/north-africa_business/2020/12/10/indra-undercuts-rivals-to-win-military-radar-contract,109626722-ar1

Reported: 10/12/2020

## Korea

**Robotic Systems**

**Event –** South Korea accelerates deployment of unmanned systems.

**Summary –** South Korea has announced a series of contracts to develop and deploy indigenous unmanned and robotic systems in a bid to move to smaller but smarter armed forces fitted with high–tech technologies. The Defense Acquisition Program Administration, or DAPA, announced Dec. 9 it has signed a contract with LIG Nex1, a precision–guided missile maker in the country, to develop an underwater mine detector for naval operations. The underwater system is capable of self–driving for more than 20 hours to find mines and monitor the enemy's possible infiltration. It can also collect topographic information for rescue operations.

**Source:** https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2020/12/10/south-korea-accerlates-deployment-of-unmanned-systems/

Reported: 11/12/2020

# NEWS

## China

**Military Development**

**Event –** PLA border patrol unit in Tibet using new exoskeleton system.

**Summary –** Chinese broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) revealed in a 9 December report that a new, locally developed exoskeleton system is being used by at least one People's Liberation Army Ground Force (PLAGF) border defence unit in Tibet.

**Source:** https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/pla-border-patrol-unit-in-tibet-using-new-exoskeleton-system

Reported: 11/12/2020

## USA

**Combat Vehicle**

**Event –** Marine Corps' amphibious combat vehicle reaches full–rate production.

**Summary –** The Marine Corps has awarded BAE Systems with a $184 million contract to deliver Amphibious Combat Vehicles (ACV) at full–rate production, according to a December 10 company announcement. The first lot of FRP ACVs amounts to 36 vehicles but is expected to grow to 72 vehicles in early 2021, with the option for 80 vehicles annually over five years. The Marine Corps declared the ACV had met Initial Operational Capability (IOC) requirements on Nov. 13. The FRP decision was delayed due to issues related to the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Source:** https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/12/14/marines-new-amphibious-combat-vehicles-set-begin-full-rate-production.html

Reported: 11/12/2020

## Taiwan

**Military Development**

**Event –** Taiwan's purchase of US mobile communication system could help counter cyberattack.

**Summary –** A military Field Information Communications System the US has recently approved for sales to Taiwan could help the self-ruled island counter a cyberattack, which would be of great importance in the event of war, according to analysts.

**Source:** https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3113692/taiwans-purchase-us-mobile-communication-system-could-help

Reported: 13/12/2020

# NEWS

## Tunisia-Turkey

**UAV**
**Event –** Turkish aerospace industries to make 1st Anka UAV export to Tunisia.
**Summary –** Leading Turkish defense industry firm Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) is to make its first Anka medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) export to Tunisia, local media reported on Sunday.
**Source:** https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-aerospace-industries-to-make-1st-anka-uav-export-to-tunisia-local-media
Reported: 14/12/2020

## China

**AI Control System**
**Event –** JD builds AI control system that can save China's thermal power plants billions and reduce pollution.
**Summary –** JD Digits, the digital technology arm of e-commerce firm JD.com, has launched an artificial intelligence-driven system that improves the efficiency of thermal power plants, as China's tech giants continue to apply AI technologies to a range of traditional industries to improve performance.
**Source:** https://www.scmp.com/tech/innovation/article/3114030/jd-builds-ai-control-system-can-save-chinas-thermal-power-plants
Reported: 15/12/2020

## USA

**Technology**
**Event –** US Air Force AI program co-pilots spy plane in historic flight.
**Summary – T**he US Air Force has, for the first time, used an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm program as co-pilot aboard a U-2 spy plane. The AI algorithm, known as ARTUµ, flew a U-2 Dragon Lady and performed specific in-flight tasks that otherwise would be done by the pilot. "ARTUµ's ground-breaking flight culminates our three-year journey to becoming a digital force," said Dr. William Roper, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/17/usaf-ai-copilots-u2/
Reported: 17/12/2020

# NEWS



**USA**

**Technology**
**Event –** US Army striker vehicles being prepared for laser combat competition.
**Summary –** In response to a variety of next-generation threats such as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and more traditional threats such as mortars, artillery, and rockets, the US Army has been developing high energy lasers for tactical vehicles to provide an increased edge on the battlefield. A team of Army engineers is hard at work developing two of these combat lasers, classes of 50 kilowatt-class weapons to be attached to Stryker vehicles for combat deployment by 2022. They have begun work in Huntsville, Alabama integrating the two platforms and support equipment for a "combat shoot-off" at Fort Sill, Oklahoma to test the systems against a variety of scenarios.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/23/us-army-stryker-laser-combat/
Reported: 23/12/2020

**France**

**AI Technology**
**Event –** French Army to get AI system to identify enemy vehicles.
**Summary –** European missile manufacturer MBDA has developed an artificial intelligence system for the French Army that can identify moving and static enemy targets. The "2ACI" system was programmed with computer-generated images before being integrated into an embedded system, the company said in a statement. The developers produced two prototypes as part of the project. One was installed in a heavy armoured vehicle and tested under operational conditions with the other tested in a laboratory.
**Source:** https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/12/23/french-army-ai-identify-enemy/
Reported: 23/12/2020

**China**

**Underwater Drones**
**Event –** China Deploying 'Sea-Wing' underwater drones in Indian Ocean.
**Summary –** China has deployed a fleet of underwater drones called Sea Wing (Haiyi) glider in the Indian Ocean. The drones can reportedly operate for months on end and make observations for naval intelligence purposes.
**Source:** https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/china-deploying-en-masse-underwater-drones-in-indian-ocean-report-2345950
Reported: 30/12/2020

# NEWS



## China

**Technology Development**
**Event –** China plans to build sci-tech innovation community in Yangtze River Delta.
**Summary –** China has issued a plan to build a globally influential science and technology innovation community in the Yangtze River Delta.
**Source:** http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/02/c_139637028.htm
Reported: 31/12/2020

## Israel

**Remote Weapon Station**
**Event –** Rafael's latest Samson Integrated RWS enters production.
**Summary –** Israel's Rafael said its latest-generation Samson 30 mm Integrated Remote Weapon Station (RWS) has entered production for an unidentified export customer. The turret consists of a modular aluminium structure to which an appliqué armour package can be fitted, depending on customer requirements. The Samson Integrated RWS's main armament is a Northrop Grumman Armament Systems 30 mm MK44S dual feed cannon, and a 7.62 mm co-axial machine gun (MG). The 30 mm cartridge cases are ejected outside of the turret after the MK44S has been fired. A typical ammunition load would be 220 rounds of 30 mm and 500 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, according to the company. The MK44S fires a complete family of 30x173 mm ammunition, including air bursting munition (ABM) rounds, and the weapon can be converted to fire 40x207 mm ammunition.
**Source:** https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/rafaels-latest-samson-integrated-rws-enters-production
Reported: 31/12/2020

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