

Car bombs by Al Shabab kill 35 in central Somalia

REUTERS – MOGADISHU

Two car bombs detonated by al Shabab militants in central Somalia yesterday killed at least 35 people, including eight members of a single family, and wounded 40 more, a senior police officer said.

The attack in the town of Mahas was the latest in a series by Al Qaeda affiliate Al Shabaab since government forces and allied clan militias last year began pushing the insurgents out of territory they had long

held. "Most of the dead are civilians. They are women and children," Hassan-Kafi Mohamed Ibrahim, deputy police commissioner of Hirshabelle State, told Reuters. "Only one child survived from a family of nine members. Other families also lost half of their members. The two suicide car bombs burnt many civilian homes to ashes."

Mahas District Commissioner Mumin Mohamed Halane told state radio that one bomb targeted his house and the other

The victims included eight members of a single family, police said.

hit the home of a federal lawmaker.

Al Shabaab's media office claimed responsibility in a statement, saying it had targeted "apostate militias and soldiers" and put the number of dead at 87. Al Shabaab often gives higher casualty figures than local officials and residents. Al Shabaab has been

waging an insurgency against Somalia's government since 2007. It was pushed out of Hiraa, the region where Mahas is located, last year by government forces and allied clan militias known as macawisley.

The soldiers and militia men have received support from United States and African Union troops during their offensive.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's government says the operations have killed hundreds of Al Shabaab fighters and

recaptured dozens of settlements, although many battlefield claims cannot be independently verified.

Despite the offensive, al Shabaab has carried out frequent attacks in recent months, including several in the capital Mogadishu against government installations and hotels.

Al Shabaab's activities have also restricted deliveries of international aid, compounding the impact of the Horn of Africa's worst drought in four decades.

Palestine urges action to put end to Israeli terror

QNA – NEW YORK

Palestine called upon the Security Council and the international community as a whole to assume their responsibilities towards putting an end to the violence and terror practiced by the Israeli government, army and settler militias, for a long time, against the Palestinian people and their holy places.

This came in three identical messages sent by Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, Riyad Mansour, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, President of the Security Council for this month (Japan), and the President of the United Nations General Assembly, beginning with a call on the international community and the Security Council to take immediate action for "stopping the imminent explosion" of the situation in occupied Palestine.

The call comes based on the instructions of President Mahmoud Abbas to address the extremist minister Bin Gvir's storming of Al Aqsa Mosque, with immediate action in the United Nations and the Security Council, including through the Arab Group and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mansour stressed the need for the Security Council to demand that Israel, the occupying power, stop its violations and attacks on Al Aqsa Mosque and the Noble Sanctuary, fully comply with its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and immediately adhere to the historical and legal status quo in the Al Aqsa Mosque, respect for the authority of the Islamic Endowments and the guardianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

Two rockets target US army base in eastern Syria: CENTCOM

AFP – BEIRUT

Two rockets were fired yesterday at an army base in eastern Syria hosting a US-led anti-IS coalition, causing no casualties or damage, the US military said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, accused pro-Iranian groups of the attack a day after Iranians marked the third anniversary of the killing of a top general in a US drone strike. At a commemoration in Tehran on Tuesday, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi vowed "revenge" for the assassination of Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force, the foreign operations arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The US military's Central Command (CENTCOM), in a statement that avoided accusing any perpetrators, said "two rockets targeted coalition forces at Mission Support Site Conoco" in the eastern Deir Ezzor province "today at approximately 9 am (0600 GMT)".

"The attack resulted in no injuries or damage to the base

or coalition property," it added.

Members of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the US-backed outfit that defeated the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria, "visited the rocket origin site and found a third unfired rocket", CENTCOM said.

Hundreds of American troops remain in Syria as part of an international coalition fighting IS remnants.

CENTCOM spokesman Joe Bacon said "attacks of this kind place coalition forces and the civilian population at risk and undermine the hard-earned stability and security of Syria and the region".

Syrian bases hosting the US-led coalition have come under sporadic rocket fire aimed at pro-Iranian militias and IS. Two such attacks in November, targeting a US patrol base in the northeastern Hasakeh province and the coalition's Green Village base near the Iraqi border, caused no casualties or damage, CENTCOM said. The Syrian Observatory said IS was behind a November 26 attack that targeted the base in Hasakeh province's Al Shaddadi.



All set for Arabian Gulf Cup

Football fans walk along the Shatt Al Arab river waterfront in Iraq's southern city of Basra yesterday, ahead of the 25th Arabian Gulf Cup football championship. (AFP)

Tunisia ex-minister jailed over hazardous waste scandal

AFP – TUNIS

A Tunisian former environment minister has been sentenced to three years in prison for his role in the illegal import of 280 containers of waste from Italy, local media reported yesterday.

Mustapha Aroui and several ministry officials had been sacked and arrested in December 2020 as public anger mounted and authorities investigated how the waste had been imported.

A Tunis court sentenced Aroui and three others to three

years each in prison late on Tuesday, Tunisian media reported.

A former ministry staffer was handed a 10-year jail term, while another suspect who is on the run was sentenced in absentia to 15 years, they said.

The manager of the import firm is at large, and a further six people were acquitted.

The containers had been brought in from the Campania region in southern Italy by a Tunisian company that falsely claimed that they contained plastic for recycling, rather than

household waste which is barred from import under Tunisian law.

The containers sat for months in the port of Sousse, but 213 of them were finally returned in February last year after a deal between the two countries.

Consultations are ongoing over the fate of the remainder, which were damaged in a fire in December.

The company had signed a five-million-euro deal to dispose of up to 120,000 tonnes of waste.

Togo President in Mali amid Ivorian soldier row

AFP – BAMAKO

Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe, who is mediating in a diplomatic row over 46 Ivorian soldiers detained in Mali, arrived in Bamako yesterday for a "friendly working visit", the Malian presidency said in a statement.

A Malian court last month sentenced the troops, accused of being "mercenaries", to 20 years in prison, despite a threat of sanctions from West African leaders. The statement said that

Gnassingbe had been "welcomed" by junta leader Assimi Goita before heading for "a working session" at the Kouloba Palace presidency.

Malian authorities detained 49 Ivorian soldiers after they arrived at Bamako airport on July 10 to provide backup security for a UN peacekeeping mission. Three women soldiers were freed, but later sentenced to death in absentia.

The West African bloc ECOWAS had given Mali a deadline of January 1 to free the

troops or face sanctions. However, it has remained mum since the December 30 sentencing.

The troops were found guilty of an "attack and conspiracy against the government" and seeking to undermine state security, public prosecutor Ladji Sara said in a statement last month.

In his New Year's address, Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara promised that the imprisoned soldiers "will soon return to Ivorian soil".

Communications in the military

Military is a serious business.

Protecting the population and defending the country is not a simple task. It requires meticulous and timely responses, to prevent threats and execute tasks efficiently. For this, impeccable communication is primordial. The principle lies at the very core of the military training. Army professionals are, therefore, specifically instructed in communicating and transmitting information in a rapid, accurate and prompt manner.

However, essential human training is only a part of the equation of a correctly executed military operation. Nowadays, the army cannot function without specific and specialized technologies that will inevitably facilitate the task of information transmission and, by extent, improve the chances of a mission's success. Therefore, many of the most efficient communication technologies have initially been created and developed for the army.

It is no secret that the military uses RADAR in many of its communication technologies, namely those specialized on detection.

On such tool is Identification, friend, or foe, more commonly referred to as IFF. It helps determine whether an aircraft is an enemy vehicle, even if it's not in the visual range. Powerful and efficient, its origins stem from World War II. The principle is based on a signal transmission between the emitter and the flying object. The emission happens via a transponder, whose radar frequency reaches that of the target broadcaster. If the latter's own frequency matches the emitter, it is considered friendly. If, however, the returning signal is unrecognizable, the aircraft is considered as a foe. In addition to identifying the nature of the broadcaster, the technology also determines its bearing and range. This technology is



an essential addition to accurate and timely military communication. They can transmit very accurate information about the object in question, such as its position. This is essential for an effective military operation, as it is deviating by even a degree from the right course can result in a vast difference over large distances.

Communication systems in the military is numerous and varied and is by no means summarized by the technologies mentioned in this article. Its success in warfare has given way to its introduction into the civil aviation. Readapted for commercial and private flights, the same communications equipment is now used in everyday flights, all around the world.

To learn more about how the civil aviation makes use of these and many other technologies, visit www.bayanatengineering.qa.

Bayanat Engineering is a Qatari company, specialized in solutions for oil and gas industry, military, and civil aviation. Their high-end systems are developed for a range of clients and purposes and have been largely employed in Qatar's various infrastructures and industries.



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