

Recent significant attacks in Afghanistan include:

Kabul

- On 29 October, one insurgent carried out a suicide vehicle born IED (SVBIED) attack against an ISAF convoy on the Darulaman Road in Kabul City. The attack took place against an armoured 'Rhino' bus on the Darulaman Road, near an ANSF/ISAF installation to the south of the city centre. Reporting indicated that 13 passengers, including two British civilian contractors, were killed by the blast and another seven by-passers were also killed or injured. An insurgent spokesman claimed responsibility for the SVBIED attack on behalf of the Taliban. It is significant that insurgents carried out similar attacks against an ISAF convoy in the same area on 18 May 2010 and against an ANSF vehicle on 12 Nov 2010. The Darulaman Road may be considered to be a relative hotspot for Suicide Vehicle IED and SVBIED attacks in Kabul City. It is likely that insurgents will attempt similar attacks in the same area.
- On 13 September 2011, a complex attack was carried out against multiple targets, including the US embassy, in the Wazir Akbar Khan area of Kabul. The area is home to many international embassies and military installations.
- On 19 August 2011, an attack on the British Council Office in the Karte Parwan district of Kabul killed at least nine people.
- On the night of 28 June 2011, a team of at least eight insurgents carried out a attack at the Intercontinental Hotel in the west of Kabul City. The insurgents initially attacked the security guards with at least one suicide-IED as well as gun-fire and hand-grenades before gaining entry to the site's main accommodation building. Guests and hotel staff were targeted until ANSF personnel arrived at the scene. The Afghan Ministry of Interior reported that two ANSF personnel, eight Afghan civilians and at least eight insurgents were killed during the incident. One Spanish civilian was also killed during the attack. Another ten civilians were reported to have been wounded. It is likely that cells in Kabul will continue to target social venues such as guest houses, hotels and shops, particularly those which are popular with the expatriate community, on an irregular basis.
- On 21 May 2011, the military wing of the Mohammad Dawod Hospital, situated northern Wazir Akbar Khan, was subject to a suicide-IED attack. Security officials detailed that a suicide bomber detonated a device in a tent where lunch was being served to ANA personnel and medical staff. Unconfirmed reporting indicated that a second suicide bomber escaped, however this would not be in keeping with recent INS tactics involving a lone suicide bomber. At least six people were killed and over 20 other wounded as a result of the blast. It is likely the suicide bomber gained access to the facility through the use of counterfeit ANSF identification and/or by wearing an ANSF-style uniform. This is further substantiated by the arrest of five insurgents by the NDS on 23 May suspected of involvement in the attack, one of which was a newly trained ANA soldier. Threat reporting continues to indicate INS plans to conduct further suicide attack in KABUL city, it remains prudent for international agencies in the KABUL area to maintain a high degree of security vigilance.

Northern Afghanistan

- On 1 April 2011, a crowd gathered in Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province to demonstrate against the burning of a Quran by a pastor in the United States. A small group of armed insurgents stirred up the crowd and the demonstration soon turned violent. The insurgents then used the cover of the demonstration to break into the UNAMA compound where they killed three members of international UN staff from Norway, Sweden and Romania. A Russian member of staff was spared upon declaring he was a Muslim and reciting an Islamic prayer.

Eastern Afghanistan

- On 15 October 2011, a group of six insurgents carried out a complex suicide-IED attack in the Rokhah district of Panjshir Province. The insurgents targeted a large installation which houses the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). An insurgent spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack on behalf of the Taliban. Significantly, when asked why Panjshir PRT had been targeted, the spokesman commented that the attack was carried out in order to demonstrate that Taliban cells could carry out operations anywhere in Afghanistan and they would continue to do so. The physical effects of the incident were relatively limited but the effects have been much greater in terms of drawing attention to the Taliban movement. As a result of the attack, the Taliban have demonstrated their ability to plan and execute a high-profile suicide attack in an area which has been deemed one of the 'safest' in the country. The attack was the first of its type to be carried out in Panjshir province and should be seen as a warning against any form of complacency about security and the threat posed by insurgent groups anywhere in Afghanistan.
- On 23 May 2011, a suicide bomber armed with a suicide-IED detonated the device in the vicinity of a bazaar in Najeel Khail village in Alisheng District, Laghman Province. Reporting indicates that the attack resulted in four fatalities, including at least two Tribal Elders and 12 further casualties. The location was being utilised by civilians, Tribal Elders and other Afghan officials as a meeting area to discuss the possible implementation of Afghan Local Police (ALP) initiative and were clearly the intended targets. This attack is a departure from the majority of recent suicide attacks across Afghanistan which has involved targeting of ANSF or GIRoA installations and or personnel. Furthermore, this attack reaffirms that INS are prepared to conduct attacks in areas of civilian gatherings, despite the obvious collateral damage and risk of civilian casualties.

Southern Afghanistan

- On 31 October, another group of insurgents carried out an attack against the UNHCR compound and an Afghan NGO compound in PD-2 of Kandahar City. One suicide-VBIED was detonated at the perimeter wall of the UNHCR compound in a likely attempt to provide a point of entry for three other insurgents. The senior ANP officer stated that the insurgents were engaged by ANSF personnel during a fire-fight which lasted approximately five hours. The senior official added that the Chief of PD-6 ANP and four Afghan civilian guards were killed during the incident.
- On 27 October, four insurgents targeted the main Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) site (just outside Kandahar City) with small arms fire (SAF) and RPG-fire. In keeping with recent insurgent tactics, the insurgents attacked the installation from an adjacent building. One VBIED was detonated near the installation and a secondary VBIED was also found in the area during

the aftermath. An INS spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack on behalf of the Taliban. The attack was the sixth insurgent operation against a PRT site in Afghanistan during 2011, indicating that insurgents may be actively seeking to target PRTs and the reconstruction process.

- On 12 July 2011, Ahmad Wali KARZAI was killed during a small arms fire incident at his home in KANDAHAR. Ahmad Wali KARZAI was the head of the KANDAHAR Provincial Council and the half-brother of the Afghan President, Hamid KARZAI. During the incident, one of Ahmad KARZAI's security guards took control of a firearm and shot him twice. It is likely that the death of Ahmad Wali KARZAI will lead to considerable instability in the area, at least in the short-term, as attempts are made to fill the resulting power vacuum in KANDAHAR.
- On 23 May 2011, a civilian bus transporting employees of a road construction company detonated an IED in the Sparwan area of Panjva'i District, Kandahar Province. The detonation resulted in at least 12 fatalities and a further 20 casualties. It is fully anticipated that INS will continue to emplace a high volume of IEDs on Main Transit Routes (MSRs) and to a lesser degree minor routes, throughout the 'summer offensive' period.
- Insurgents carried out a sustained complex attack against key Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)/Afghan Government sites in KANDAHAR City on the afternoon of 7 May 2011 and again on the morning of 8 May 2011. Teams of insurgents reportedly targeted sites including the National Directorate of Security (NDS) Headquarters, the Provincial Governor's offices and the Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) Headquarters. After the incident, ANSF reporting indicated that seven suicide-IEDs were detonated, another 15 insurgents were shot dead by security forces and five insurgents were captured alive. The scale and duration of the attack suggest that it was well-planned and particularly aggressive.
- On 25 April 2011, 476 prisoners, many Taliban fighters, escaped from the Sarposa Prison in Kandahar Province via an underground tunnel. While some prisoners have been recaptured but a number remain at large. The Afghan Ministry of Justice and the National Directorate of Security are conducting a joint investigation and all other prisons in Afghanistan have reviewed and tightened their own security measures.
On 1 April 2011, protests in Kandahar in response to the US Quran burning culminated in an attack on the Governor's compound and the Iranian Embassy.

Western Afghanistan

- On 29 Aug 2010, five out of the ten abducted election staff who were working for the female parliamentary candidate Fawzia Gilani, were killed in western Herat province. The staff had been abducted by unidentified armed men between Adraskan and Farsi districts in Herat Province three days prior to their murder.
- On 29 Aug 2010, it was reported that two suicide bombers with explosives attached to their bodies attacked the governor's office in western Farah Province. According to security officials the attack was by followed small arms fire. No further details are known.