Asia-Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center
IED Monthly Report - May 2020

About the APCFC

APCFC is US Army Pacific's coordinating authority and DoD subject matter expert for C-IED, C-sUAS, and emerging improvised threats in the Indo-Pacific region. APCFC conducts irregular warfare analysis, supports identity activities, provides counter improvised threat (C-IT) training, facilitates engagements with US, Allies, and Partner Nations, and develops Indo-Pacific C-IT and EOD plans, policies and programs to minimize the impact of improvised threats.

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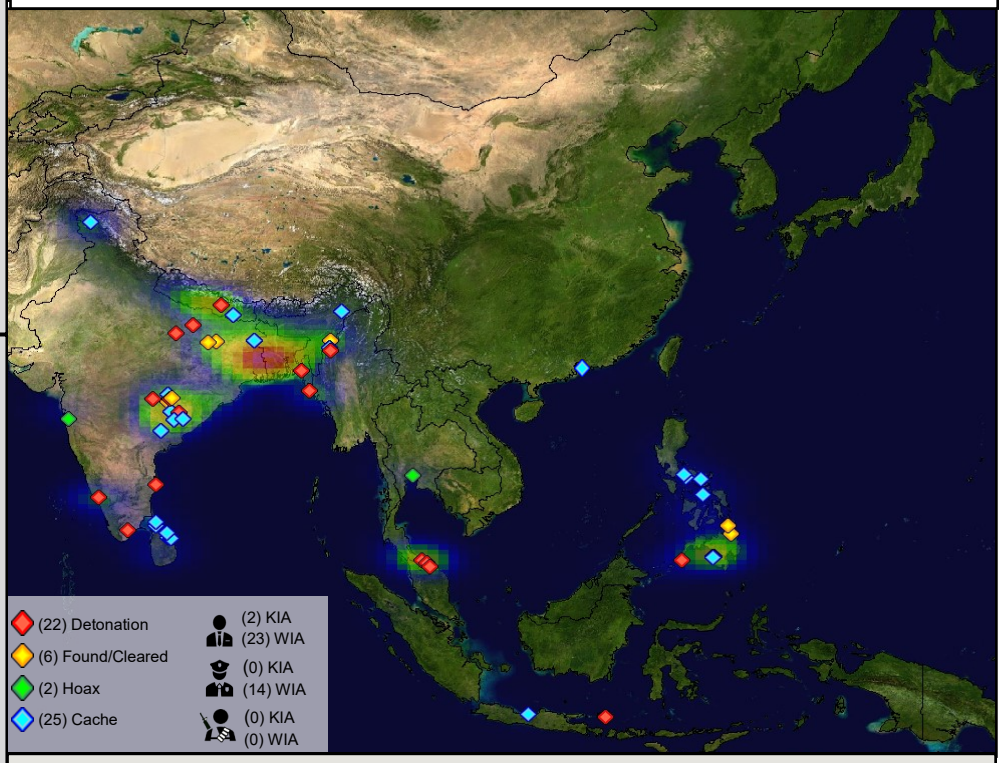
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Month at a Glance — May

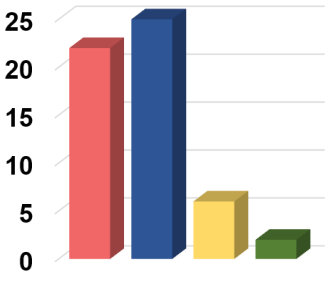
The Indo-Pacific region experienced 55 IED events in May: 34 events in South Asia, 20 events in Southeast Asia, and one event in Northeast Asia. These events consisted of 267 devices. In total, there were 22 IED detonation events, six IED found and cleared events, two hoax IED events, and 25 IED cache events. There were 39 casualties: two civilians killed, 23 civilians wounded and 14 Police, Military, Government (PMG) wounded.

There were 55 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in May 2020.

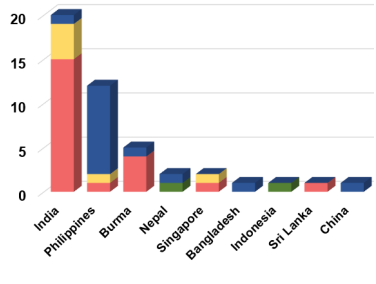


Icons depict events for May 2020; heat map depicts event density from May 2019—May 2020

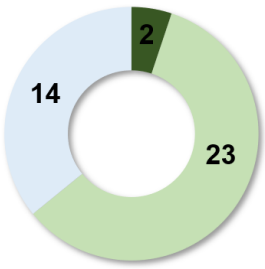
May IED events

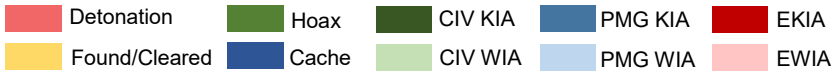


May IED events by Country

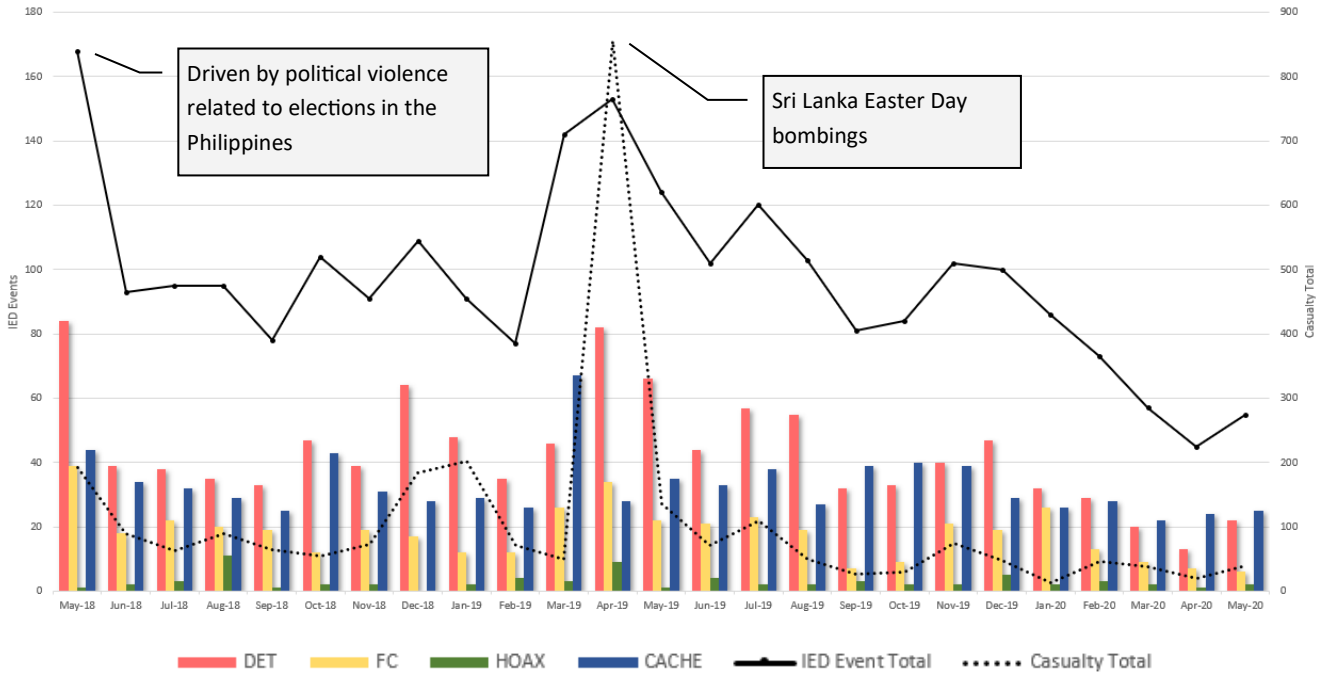


May IED Casualties





IED Activity - Past 24 Months



Switch Type

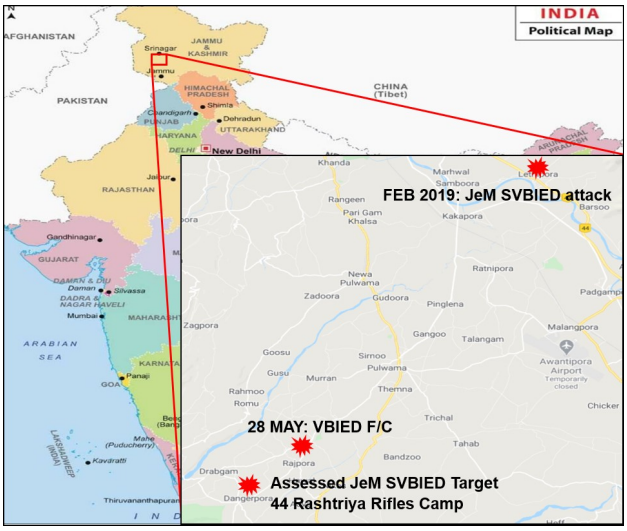


Main Charge Type

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Incident Highlight: 27-28 MAY SVBIED Attack in Jammu and Kashmir Prevented

On 27 May, Indian security forces acting on intelligence of a Jasih-e-Mohammad (JeM) VBIED in J&K, attempted to intercept a suspicious vehicle during checkpoint operations. The driver of the VBIED, identified as a Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant, abandoned the vehicle in Rajpora, where Indian security forces discovered a 40kg drum barrel filled with explosives inside the car. The next morning, an Indian bomb disposal squad arrived to blow-in-place the VBIED at the location of discovery.



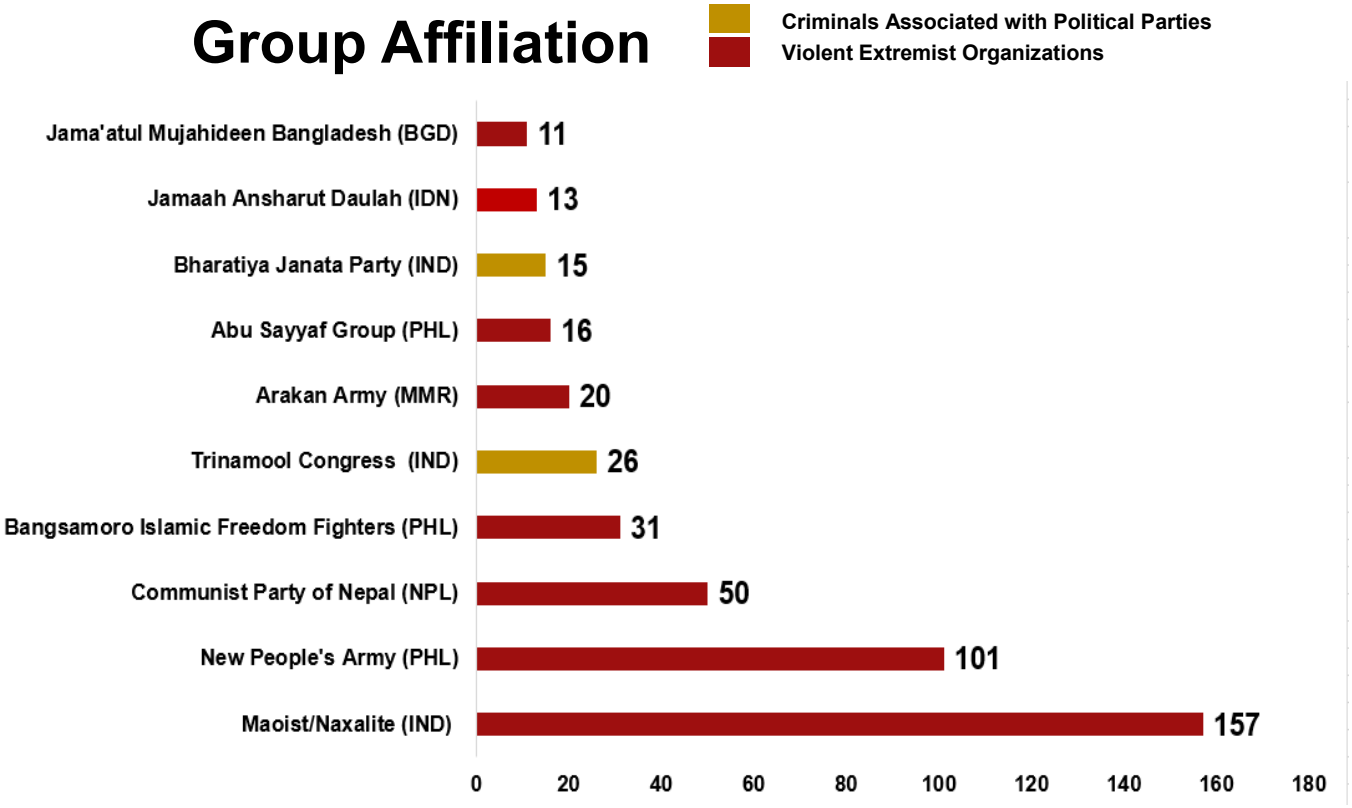
Police later discovered that the VBIED was being delivered to its final staging point to facilitate a SVBIED attack against the 44 Rashtriya Rifles camp located in Shadimarg, J&K. Following the delivery of the vehicle, a JeM terrorist, identified as Sameer Ahmed Dar, intended to receive the vehicle to conduct the SVBIED attack against the military camp. Sameer Dar is related to Adil Dar, the suicide bomber who conducted JeM's February 2019 high profile Pulwama SVBIED attack that caused 40x Indian KIA.

On 3 June, a JeM bomb maker and the primary attack planner for the failed 27 May VBIED incident, Fauji Bhai aka Abdul Rehman, was amongst the three terrorists killed during an engagement with Indian security forces. Indian security officials claim Abdul Rehman, a Pakistani national with combat experience in Afghanistan, fabricated a total of three VBIEDs, to include the VBIED intercepted on 27 May, making the likelihood for additional attacks within J&K high. Indian counterterrorism officials stated the VBIEDs are possibly in the Dugam and Kulgam areas of J&K and likely will have a similar IED design to the intercepted 27 May VBIED. Despite the recent successes in counterterrorism operations, Indian military officials assess the elimination of terrorists within J&K will result in an increase in cross-border infiltration attempts in the summer season.



Cache items and intercepted vehicle

Sources: Free Press Journal (5/28/20) Morung Express (5/28/20) Hindustan Times (6/4/20) Hindustan Times (6/4/20) Times Now News (6/1/20)



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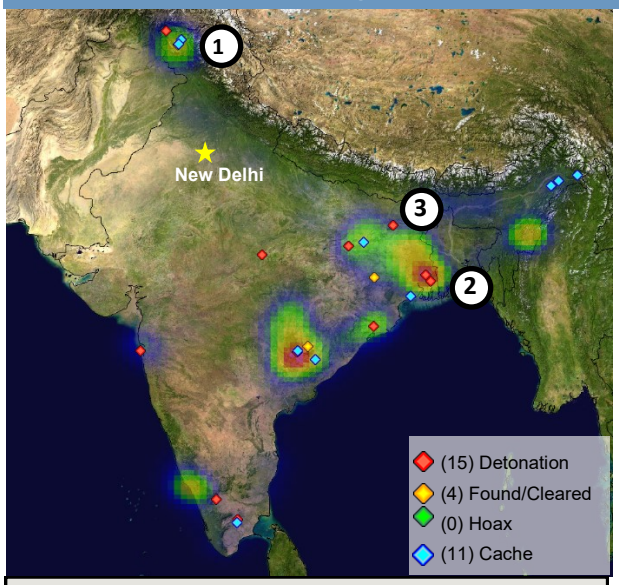
India
IED Activity

Total IED Events: 30 **Total Casualties: 34**

(2) KIA
(22) WIA

(0) KIA
(10) WIA

(0) KIA
(0) WIA



Icons depict events for May 2020; heat map depicts event density from May 2019—May 2020

1. From May 27-28, Indian security forces prevented a Jaish-e-Mohammed VBIED attack in Pulwama District, Jammu and Kashmir. A Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant facilitating the VBIED evaded a checkpoint and later abandoned the vehicle. An Indian bomb disposal squad arrived and BIP the VBIED at the location of discovery **(See incident highlight on page 3 for details)**.

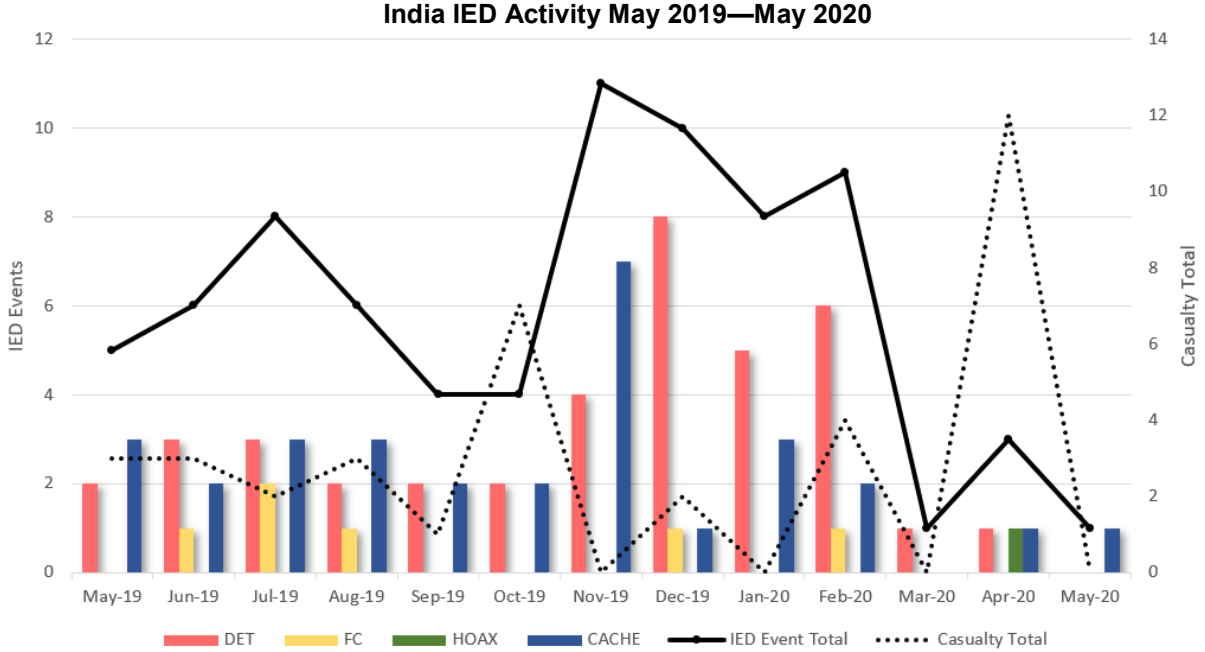
2. On May 12, Bhadreswar residents detonated approximately 10 IEDs in an altercation of communal violence, injuring ten police officers in Bhadeswar City in West Bengal. Following the altercation, local police recovered a cache of IEDs that included at least 14 petrol bombs, a dozen pipe bombs, and eight cylinders with detonators attached. **The Print (5/13/20)**

3. On May 30, an IED emplaced inside a residence detonated resulting in the death of a woman and her infant in Munger District, Bihar State. Police believe the attack was a result of a domestic dispute between the woman and her estranged husband. **Times of India (5/30/20)**

India saw a slight increase in IED activity this month compared to last month. The Seven Sisters region and Jammu & Kashmir experienced a slight increase to activity in the Month of May. Meanwhile, the Red Corridor showed a slight decrease in overall events. Activity levels continue to show a slow up-tick even as the struggle of combating COVID-19 lingers on. It remains likely this trend will continue in the coming months.

Jammu & Kashmir has seen a slight increase in activity in the month of May, one of which being a potential high profile attack that security forces successfully prevented. Jaish-e-Mohammed, acting through Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, attempted to recreate a similar act that occurred in February 2019 that killed 40 Indian security forces personnel. This type of high profile attack has a potential of destabilizing the region and leading to an escalation of hostilities along the Line of Control.

India IED Activity May 2019—May 2020



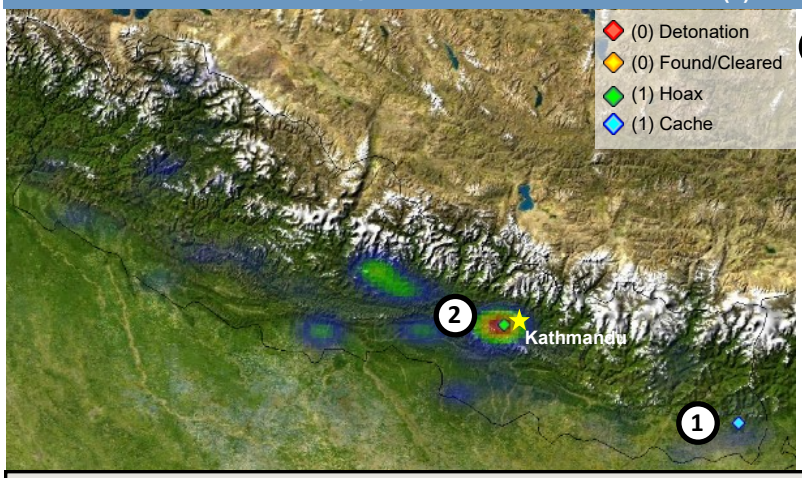
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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Nepal
IED Activity

Total IED Events: 2 **Total Casualties: 0**

(0) KIA (0) WIA | (0) KIA (0) WIA | (0) KIA (0) WIA



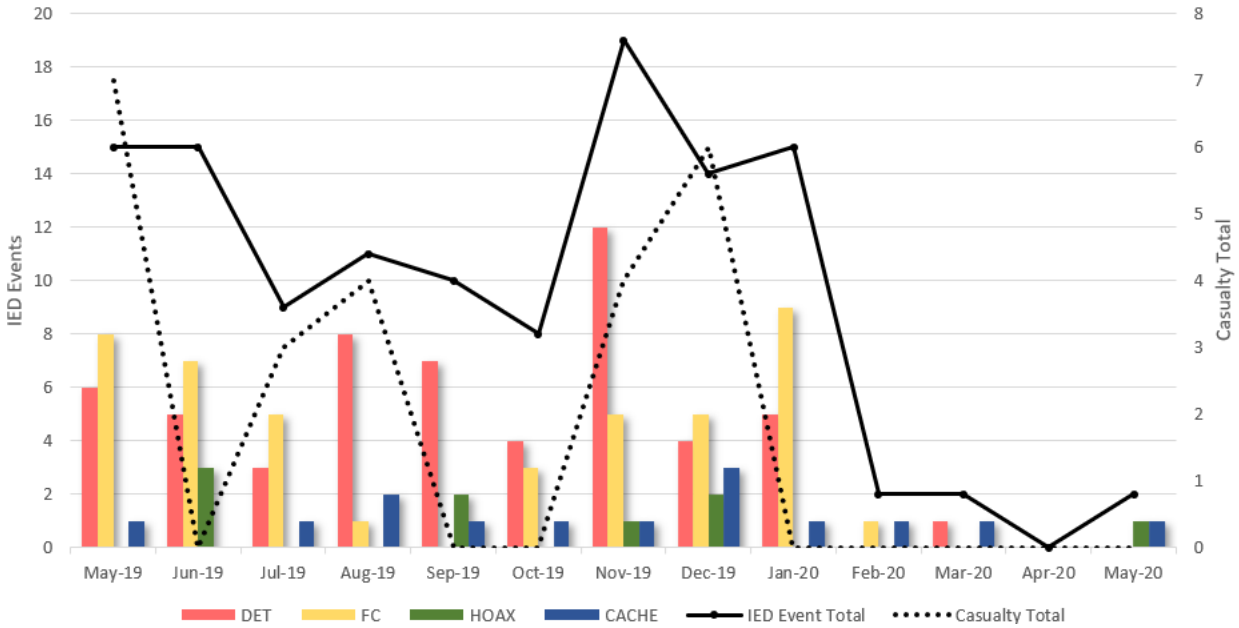
Icons depict events for May 2020; heat map depicts event density from May 2019—May 2020

1 On 4 May, police recovered a large IED cache following the arrest of three members of Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist during a raid in Mai Municipality. The cache contained one pressure cooker IED, three pipe bombs, one grenade, 19 detonator caps, 3 kg of raw materials used for making explosives, 67 feet of wire, a pair of binoculars, 12 matchsticks, two khukuri knives, eight mobile phones, and four remote controls. One of the pressure cooker IEDs found in the raid was described as fully prepared to be emplaced, according to the police. Those arrested include the Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist leader of Iam district, Pushpa Koirala, as well as two younger cadres. The day after the cache was recovered, local police also arrested Anil Sharma, a politburo member of Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist and chief of the party's Publicity Department while he was undergoing treatment at the College of Medical Sciences in Chitwan District of Province 3 on 5 May. **The Himalayan Times (5/5/20) People's Review (5/5/20) My Republica (5/5/20)**

2 On 5 May, Police recovered a hoax pressure cooker IED near a homeless encampment in Sinamangal, Kathmandu District. **Khabarhub (5/5/20)**

IED events remained at below normal levels for May, consistent with the trend of decreased activity in past months due to COVID-19. The Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M), announced on 23 March that it would cease activities until Nepal was free from COVID-19. In line with this promise, there have been no reports of IED detonations in NPL from CPN-M from 23 March to present day, however the large cache event on 4 May indicates that CPN-M may be preparing to ramp up activity once the pandemic threat has passed. Although Nepal police have been consistently arresting leaders and cadres on CPN-M since the outlawing of the party in March 2019, Anil Sharma is the senior-most leader of the CPN-M to be arrested to date. Nepal has implemented a strict lockdown policy due to COVID-19, with cross-border movement and air travel is suspended until 30 June and the army mobilized to worst-hit areas to implement the lockdown. It is likely that this strict lockdown policy could also be contributing to the low level of VEO activity seen in NPL during the past months.

Nepal IED Activity May 2019—May 2020



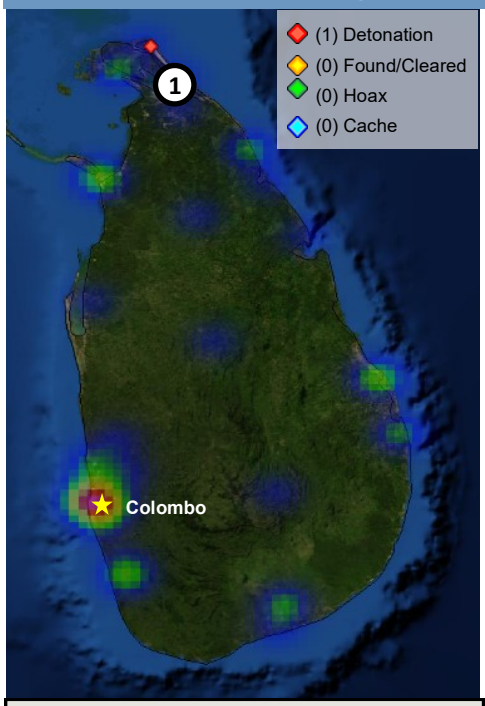
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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Sri Lanka IED Activity

Total IED Events: 1 **Total Casualties: 1**

(0) KIA (0) WIA | (0) KIA (1) WIA | (0) KIA (0) WIA

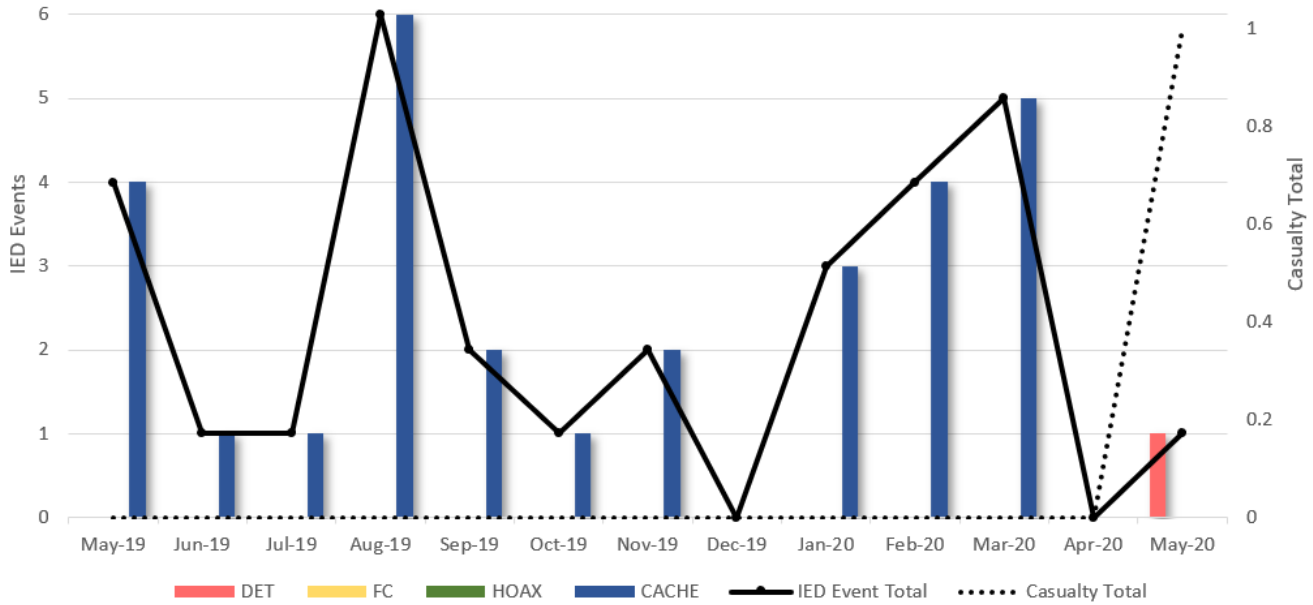


Icons depict events for May 2020; heat map depicts event density from May 2019—May 2020

1 On 27 May, a VOIED detonated near a road junction in Vallipuram area in the Northern Province, slightly injuring a police officer who was engaged in a routine check to prevent sand smuggling in the area. The VOIED was buried in a plastic pipe container with cycle bearing enhancements and a gunpowder explosive charge. Police believe the detonation was the work of former Tiger guerrillas and was placed to help illegal sand miners by threatening the police that routinely patrol the area. Two suspects have been arrested in connection with the blast. The detonation site was near a common route for lorries loaded with sand to move to other areas in the peninsula and smugglers had been detected by police near the detonation site on several prior occasions. **Ceylon Today (5/28/20) The Tamil Diplomat (5/28/20) Sunday Times (5/31/20) Asian Tribune (6/5/20) Ceylon Today (6/8/20)**

IED events remained at below normal levels for May, consistent with the trend of decreased activity in past months due to COVID-19. The travel restrictions, security checkpoints, and curfews that were imposed at the end of March and beginning of April due to the spread of COVID-19 are beginning to ease, with parts of the tourism sector in Sri Lanka planned to reopen on 1 Aug. The loosening of the lockdown policy could lead to increased IED activity in the region to normal levels by late summer.

Sri Lanka IED Activity May 2019—May 2020



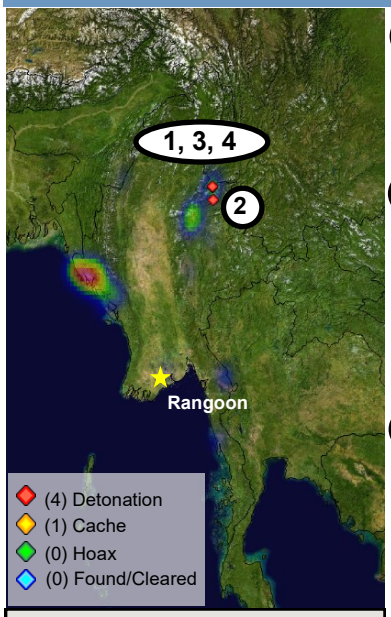
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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Burma
IED Activity

Total IED Events: 5 **Total Casualties: 1**

(0) KIA (1) WIA | (0) KIA (0) WIA | (0) KIA (0) WIA



Icons depict events for May 2020; heat map depicts event density from May 2019—May 2020

1. On 26 May, two IEDs emplaced by unidentified suspects exploded under a banyan tree near a religious shrine in Muse Town, one civilian was injured as a result. According to media, residents stated that bombings have typically occurred at night, however, this event was atypical because it occurred during midday. **BNI Multimedia Group (5/29/20) Shan News (5/27/20)**

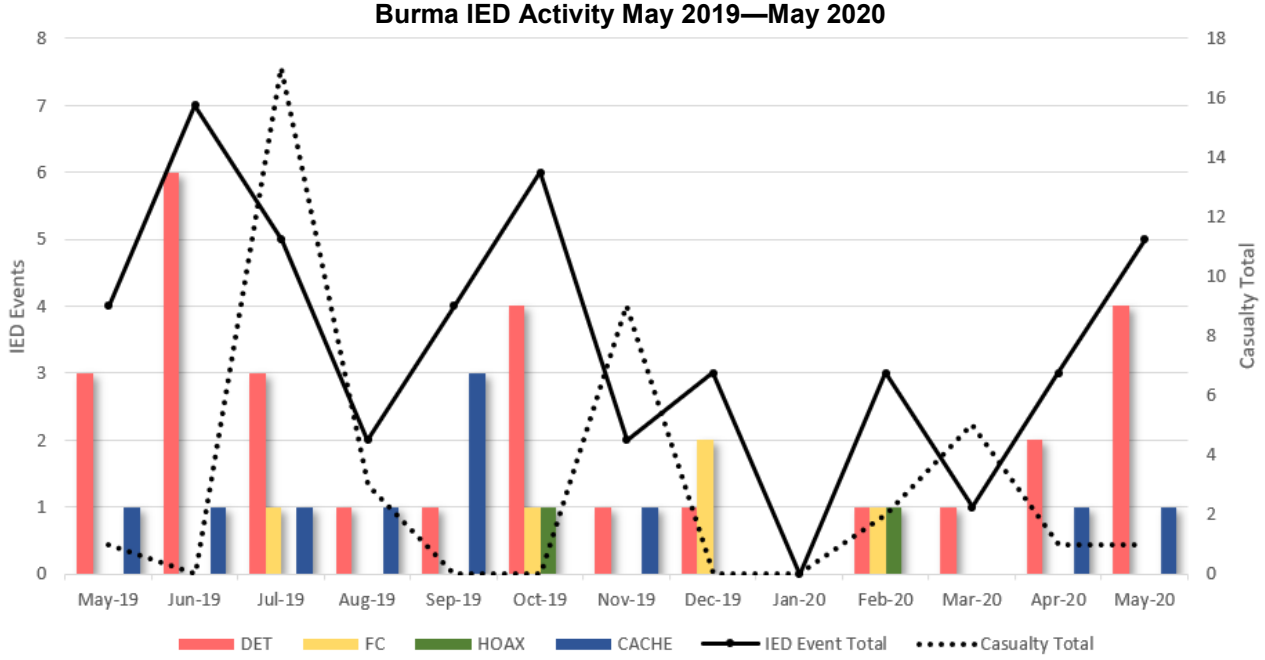
2. On 29 May, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) members detonated at least two RCIEDs alongside the Union Highway roadside near Nan-kut Village, in Northern Shan State in an attack on a Burmese military convoy. Following the detonations, TNLA insurgents engaged the convoy with small arms and possible heavy weapons lasting approximately one and a half hours. No casualties were reported, however a military vehicle sustained damage. The TNLA seized various military weapons including rifles, a mortar launcher, and associated ammunition. **The Irrawaddy (5/29/20) Voice of America (5/30/20)**

3. On 11 May, two unidentified suspects on a motorbike threw a black bag containing an IED that detonated at the Asia World Company toll gate, Muse Town, Shan State. While the blast caused damage to the facility, no casualties were reported. According to media, soldiers, police and militia troops are routinely stationed at the toll gate and may have been the intended target of the IED attack. A similar tactic was used in Muse last month on 12 April 2020. **Shan News (5/12/20) Kachin News Group (5/12/20) BNI Multimedia Group (5/12/20)**

4. On 25 May, the police discovered a commercial cache consisting of 318 boxes of shock tube detonators during a vehicle search at the Man Weing border gate in Muse Town. The detonators were reportedly valued at approximately 130 million kyat (92,500 USD). Muse Police opened a case under Article 23 of the Explosive Device Law and are still searching for the driver and the owner of the detonators. **Shan News (5/27/20)**

In May 2020, IED activity increased in Burma from three events in April to five this month. Further, IED related events in Muse Township in Shan State increased fourfold and included three IED detonation events and one IED cache event. In comparison, there was only one IED detonation in Muse in April. Media reports that the government may be interested in a ceasefire and peace talks with the TNLA. However, this is unlikely given TNLA is in the Brotherhood Alliance with the Arakan Army (AA) which was designated as a terrorist organization by the government in March 2020. In the coming months, Burmese military continues counterinsurgency operations, despite COVID-19.

Burma IED Activity May 2019—May 2020



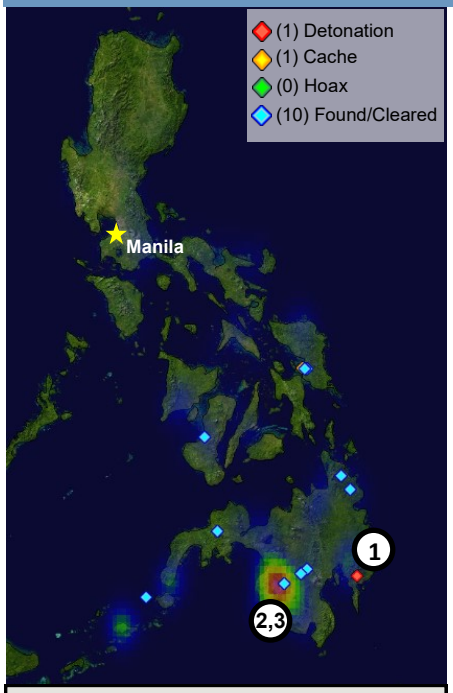
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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Philippines IED Activity

Total IED Events: 12 **Total Casualties: 3**

(0) KIA (0) WIA | (0) KIA (3) WIA | (0) KIA (0) WIA



Icons depict events for May 2020; heat map depicts event density from May 2019—May 2020

1. On 16 May, New People's Army (NPA) rebels attacked a security patrol with two IEDs and small arms fire in Maragatas, Lupon, Davao. The IED blasts resulted in the wounding of three 28th Infantry Battalion soldiers. Troops were in the area following up on civilian reports of NPA sightings at that location. **Philippine News Agency (5/19/20)**

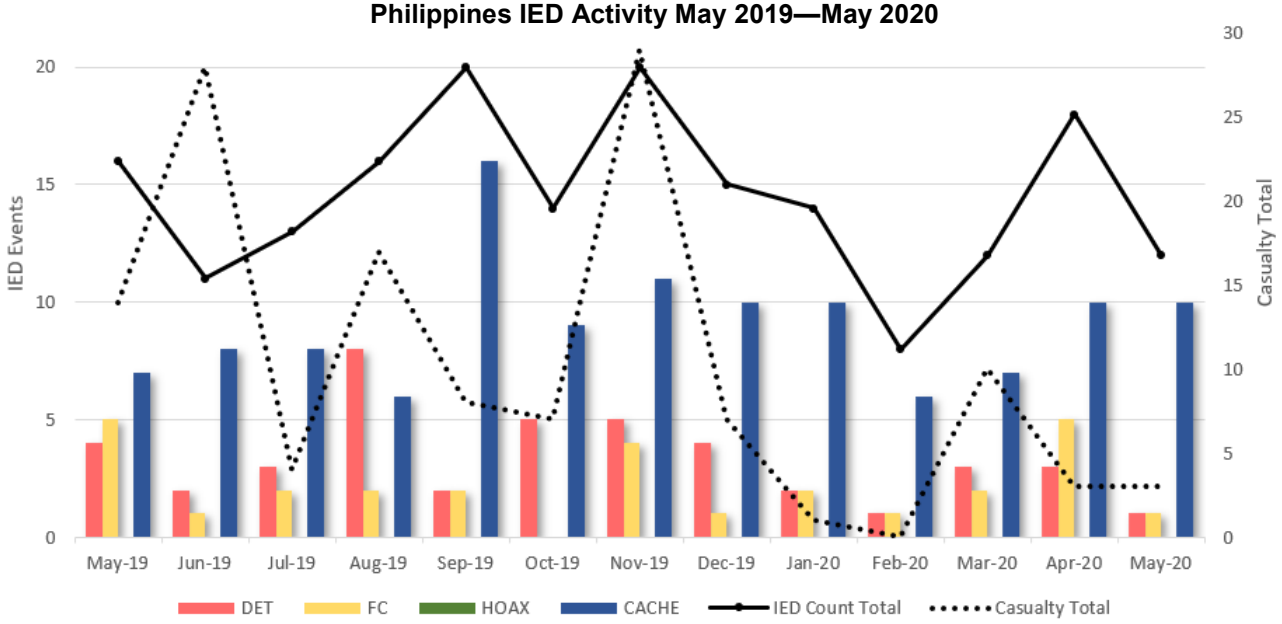
2. On 15 May, security forces recovered a cache of IEDs and IED components following a firefight with Ansar Khalifa Philippines (AKP) militants in Tabungao, Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao. The deceased AKP suspect was responsible for killing a soldier after his relief from a quarantine checkpoint on 12 May. The AKP is reported as a faction of the BIFF, which operates in the marshlands bordering Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat provinces in Central Mindanao. **Philstar (5/20/20) Philstar (5/24/20) Philippines News Agency (5/23/20)**

3. On 26 May, security forces recovered an IED and weapons cache and detained three NPA militants in New Alemodian, Matalam, Cotabato. The cache contained two IEDs, assorted weapons and ammunition, multiple electronic devices, assorted medicines, and cash amounting to 10,435 PHP (approx. $209). One of the members was identified as Cirilo Amit an alleged NPA finance officer. **Sunstar (5/27/20) Manila Bulletin (5/27/20)**

IED activity in the Philippines decreased from 19 to 12 events over the previous month. The majority of the events were generated by security forces responding to civilian reports of NPA activity, which typically led to multiple cache recoveries. Additionally, there were multiple reports of NPA arson attacks and extortion throughout the Philippines, which often initiated a quick response by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The increase in NPA extortion activities observed in the Cotabato and Davao regions these past few months was likely influenced by the government's COVID-19 financial relief aid that has been made available for residents.

The ASG remained relatively quiet throughout the month but had at least one small arms cache seizure. The BIFF followed a similar trajectory but spiked toward the end of the month (around the end of Ramadan) when the BIFF allegedly bombed a civilian residence with mortars, which caused 2 deaths and 14 injuries.

Philippines IED Activity May 2019—May 2020



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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Appendix A

South Asia

Bangladesh		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	28	4	0	32	64
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	13	1	1	7	22

India		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	28	11	0	180	219
	Year	89	176	3	326	404
Event Count	Month	15	4	0	11	30
	Year	64	23	2	55	144

Nepal		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	1	4	5
	Year	7	10	1	10	28
Event Count	Month	0	0	1	1	2
	Year	6	10	1	4	21

Sri Lanka		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	1	0	0	0	1
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	1	0	0	12	13

South Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	29	11	1	184	409
	Year	118	187	4	343	871
Event Count	Month	16	4	1	13	34
	Year	66	37	3	54	160

Southeast Asia

Philippines		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	4	0	24	30
	Year	12	21	0	104	136
Event Count	Month	1	1	0	10	12
	Year	10	11	0	43	64

Thailand		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	6	0	1	8	15
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	6	0	1	1	8

Burma		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	6	0	0	0	6
	Year	12	0	1	0	13
Event Count	Month	4	0	0	1	5
	Year	8	0	1	2	11

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Appendix A

Southeast Asia Cont.

Indonesia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	5	0	5	5	15
Event Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	3	0	3	2	8

Malaysia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0

Vietnam		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0

Southeast Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	7	4	1	24	36
	Year	34	21	4	119	178
Event Count	Month	5	1	1	11	18
	Year	21	16	4	43	84

Northeast Asia

China		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	4	4	0	2	10
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	2	2	1	3	8

Japan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0

South Korea		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0

Taiwan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0

Northeast Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	4	4	0	2	10
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	3	2	1	3	9

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Common Terms and Acronyms

AN – Ammonium Nitrate
ANFO – Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil
ARMM – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
CIV – Civilian
CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
COIN – Counter-insurgency
CWIED – Command Wire IED
DTMF – Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency
EFP – Explosively Formed Projectile
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal
F/C – Found & Cleared
HME – Homemade Explosives
IDF – Indirect Fire
IED – Improvised Explosive Device
IrW – Irregular Warfare
KFR – Kidnap for Ransom
KIA – Killed in Action
LOC – Line of Communication
LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MSR – Main Supply Routes
NFI – No Further Information
NSTR – Nothing Significant To Report
PBA – Post Blast Analysis
PBIED – Personnel Borne (Suicide Bomb) IED
PCB – Printed Circuit Board
PMG – Police, Military, Government
PN – Partner Nation
PPIED – Pressure Plate IED
QRF – Quick Response Force
RCIED – Radio Controlled IED
RCP – Route Clearance Patrols
RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade
SA – South Asia
SAF – Small Arms Fire
SEA – Southeast Asia
SVBIED – Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
TATP – Triacetone Triperoxide
TNT – Trinitrotoluene (C7H5N3O6)
TTP – Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
VBIED – Vehicle Borne IED
VEO – Violent Extremist Organization
VOIED – Victim Operated IED
WIA – Wounded in Action

Terms:
Terrorism—the unlawful use of violence or threat of violence to instill fear and coerce governments or societies. Terrorism is often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs and committed in the pursuit of goals that are usually political.
Insurgency—An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through use of subversion and armed conflict.
Separatism—the desire by a group of people within a country to separate from the rest of the country and form their own government.

Governments, Groups and Organizations

South Asia

India
BSF – Border Security Forces
CPI-M – Communist Party of India (Maoist)
CRPF – Central Reserve Police Force
HM – Hizb-ul-Mujahideen
IM – Indian Mujahideen
JeM – Jaish-e-Mohammed
ULFA – United Liberation Front of Assam

Nepal
CPN-M – Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
JTMM – Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha

Bangladesh
BNP – Bangladesh National Party
HUJI-B – Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami Bangladesh
JIB – Jemaat-e-Islami Bangladesh
JMB – Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh
JMJB – Jama'atul Muslim Janta Bangladesh
RAB – Rapid Action Battalion

Sri Lanka
JMI – Jamathei Millathu Ibraheem
NTJ – National Thowheed Jama'ath

Southeast Asia

Burma
AA – Arakan Army
ARSA – Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
KIA – Kachin Independence Army
UWSA – United Wa State Army

Thailand
BRN-C – Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate
RKK – Runda Kumpulan Kecil

Philippines
ASG – Abu Sayyaf Group
BIFF – Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
CPP – Communist Party of the Philippines
MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front
NPA – New People's Army
PNP – Philippine National Police

Indonesia
JAD – Jamaah Ansharut Daulah
JAT – Jemaah Ansharout Tauhid
JI – Jemaah Islamiya
POLRI – Indonesian National Police

Other Groups/Organizations
ISI – Inter-Services Intelligence (Pakistan)
ISIS – Islamic State of Iraq ash Sham
LeT – Lashkar-e Tayyiba

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