



Asia-Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center

Monthly IED Activity Report



DOI: 31 January 2017

About the APCFC

The Asia-Pacific C-IED Fusion Center is the premier center for irregular warfare analysis in the U.S. Pacific Command. The center develops and synchronizes C-IED and EOD programs and regional engagements. The center resources USARPC C-IED training to ensure U.S., Allied, and Partner Nations survivability.

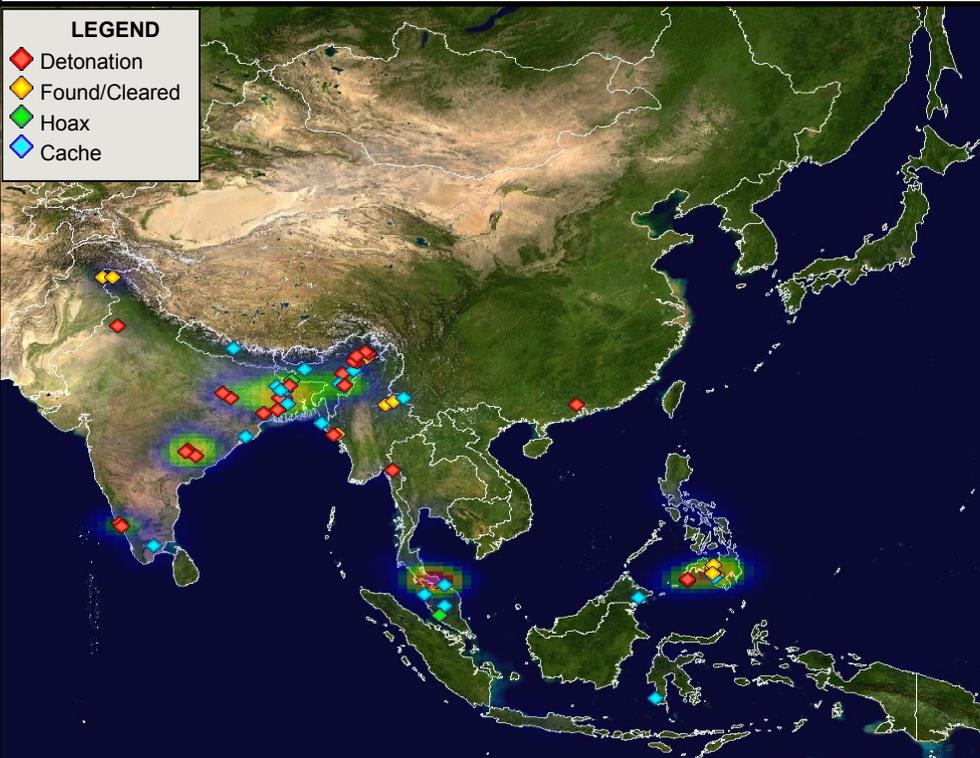


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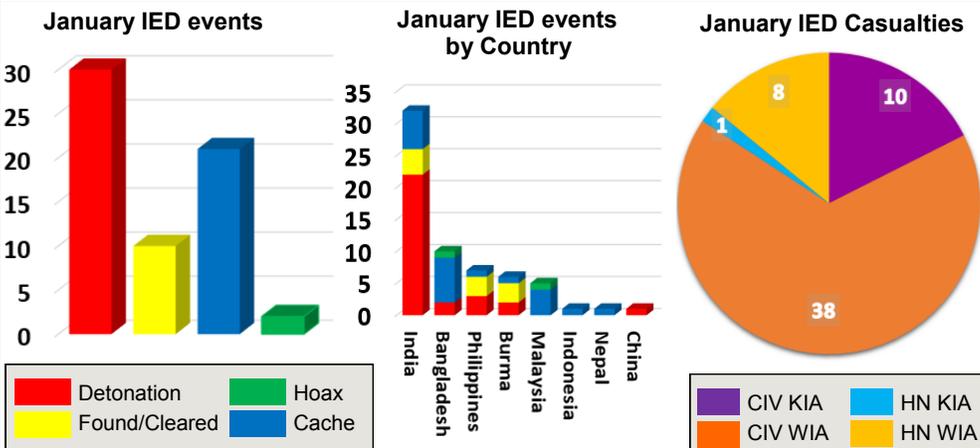
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Executive Summary: IED events in the Asia-Pacific Region dropped to the lowest level in two years, primarily due to decreased activity in the Philippines because of the ongoing ceasefire, and no reported IED activity in Thailand due to heavy flooding in the south. In India, a large-scale VBIED in Punjab increased the country's casualties to the highest level since May 2016, though overall casualties in the Asia-Pacific were consistent with historical norms. Burma experienced increased IED events for the third straight month, as security forces ramped up counter-insurgency operations in Shan and Rakhine states.

There were **63** IED events in the Asia-Pacific region in January 2017



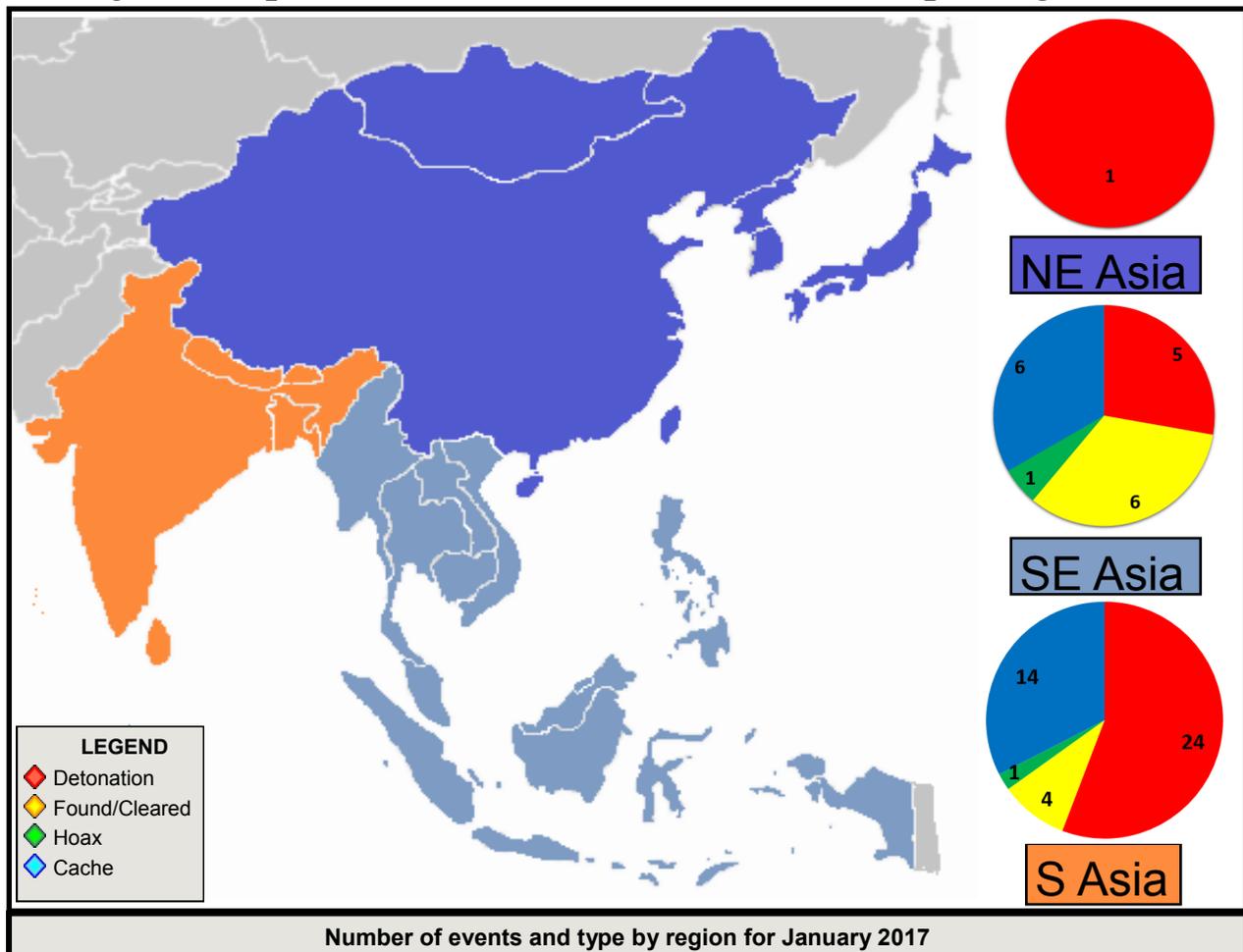
Icons depict events for JAN 2017; heat map depicts event density from JAN2016 - JAN2017



Click on an entry to advance to the associated page.

This document is limited to those personnel performing military, intelligence, law enforcement, or security duties in support of C-IED operations.

January Asia-Pacific IED Events by Region



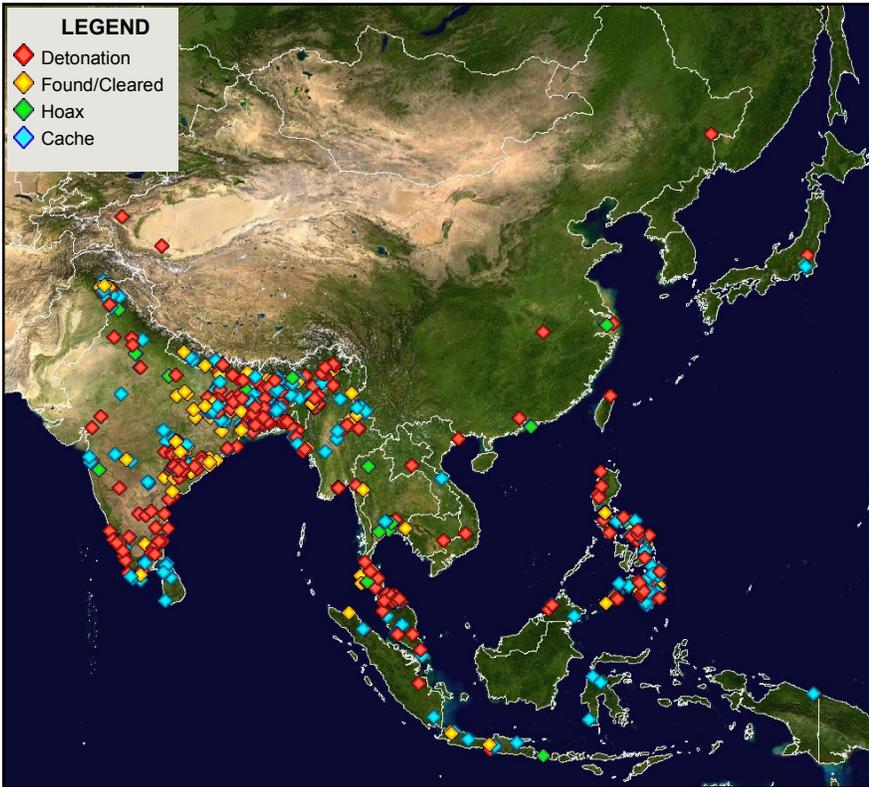
In January, IED events in the Asia-Pacific decreased by 19% from the previous month, reaching the lowest level in over two years. The IED-related casualties also decreased, from 91 casualties last month to 58 casualties in January (down 36%). In South Asia, IED activity increased by 30% from December, while in Southeast Asia, IED activity levels were down by more than 50%. An 18 JAN IED detonation event that occurred in Foshan City, China was the only reported incident in Northeast Asia this month ([see pg. 18](#)).

In South Asia, the IED event increased from 33 events in December to 43 events in January. The IED-related casualties substantially increased, from 15 casualties in December to 45 casualties this month. In Bangladesh, IED activity increased from six events in December to 10 events in January. Seven of these incidents consisted of IED cache recoveries, including a 17 JAN police seizure that resulted in the discovery of 78 partially constructed pipe bombs ([see pg. 9](#)). In India, IED activity increased by 23% from December, as did the number of IED detonation events (up 47%). This contributed to a spike in IED-related casualty levels, which were nearly seven times higher than December's casualties ([see pg. 10](#)).

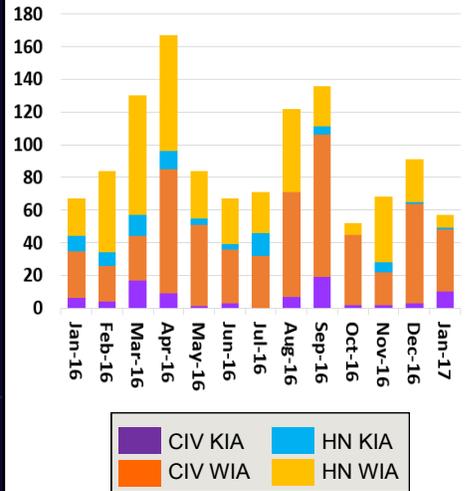
In Southeast Asia, IED events decreased from 43 events in December to 19 events in January. The IED-related casualties drastically decreased, from 72 casualties last month to 7 casualties in January. These decreases were primarily due to a lull in insurgent activity in both the Philippines and Thailand. In the Philippines, IED activity levels decreased by 56%, and IED-related casualty figures were roughly eight times lower than those in December ([see pg. 13](#)). In Thailand, there were no reported IED events this month; most likely caused by a reduction in insurgent activity following widespread regional flooding. In Burma, elevated levels of IED activity continued for a third straight month, with IED events 12 times higher over the last 90 days than in the same time period the previous year ([see pg. 14](#)). Lastly, in Malaysia, there were five IED events, most of which consisted of IED cache recoveries following a series of nationwide police raids ([see pg. 16](#)).

IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from OPEN SOURCES are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations. Event refers to specific IED activity categories: IED Detonation, IED Found/Cleared, IED Hoax, IED Cache.

PACOM IED Events - Past 12 Months



Past Year IED Event Casualty Count



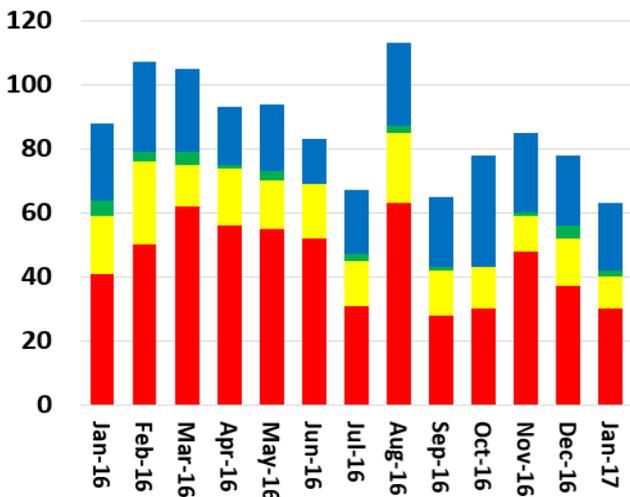
Icons depict events from JAN 2016 to JAN 2017; occasional overlap occurs

South Asia sees the highest level of IED events in the region, primarily due to India's high activity. IED activity across the region is often centered around periods of political unrest or contested elections. Devices thrown or emplaced during those outbreaks of violence vary widely in complexity (e.g. basic, command-wire to radio-controlled) and lethality.

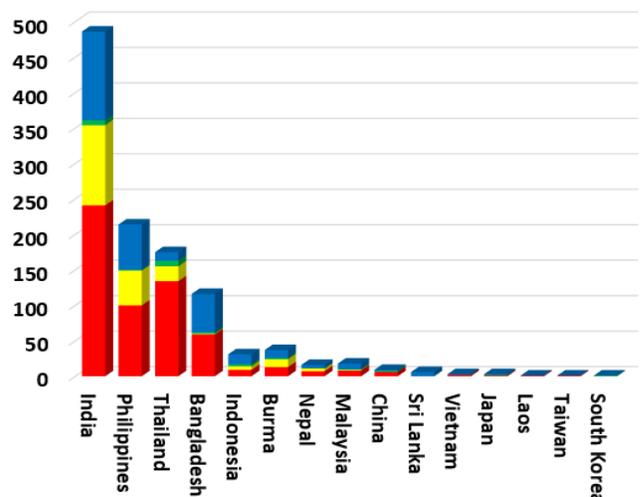
Southeast Asia sees approximately half the activity of South Asia, with the Philippines and Thailand as the primary contributors to the number of events. While Thailand's IED activity is primarily attributable to Muslim-Malay insurgents in the south, the Philippines faces communist, jihadist, and Moro separatist threats. By comparison, attacks in Indonesia and Malaysia are far less frequent.

Northeast Asia sees relatively few IED attacks and they can often be attributed to an individual's act of protest against an employer, the government, or retaliation against an acquaintance. Disaffected groups, such as the Uyghurs in China, occasionally incorporate IEDs in their attacks. Press reporting from the region is limited and generally unreliable, therefore some events may not be reflected.

Past Year IED events

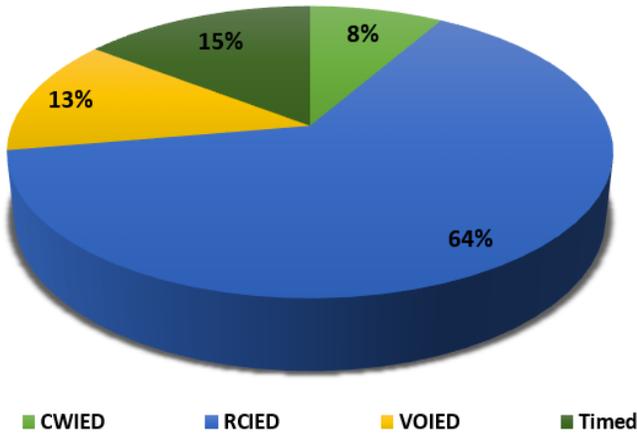


Past Year IED events by Country

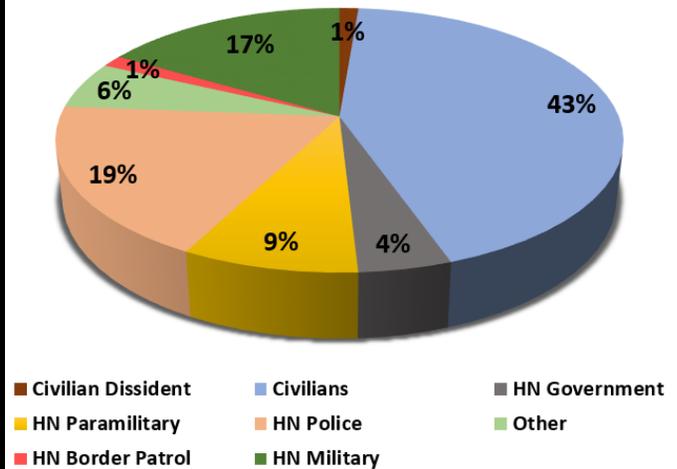


IED Activity - Past 12 Months

Switch Type



Target Affiliation



Threat is based on reporting for past 12 months and includes devices detonated or found and cleared. IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics are presumed to be approximations. Graphics represent known switch type and target affiliation.

Device Highlight: Indonesian “Shoe Bomb”

On 10 JAN, eight Indonesians were detained at the Woodlands Checkpoint between Malaysia and Singapore. The Indonesians ranged in age from 16 to 37 years old, and were teachers and students from Darul Hadith Islamic boarding school in Bukit Tinggi, West Sumatra. The men were detained because the leader of the group, identified by initials REH, had pictures on his cell phone of extremist content including ISIL fighters, an ISIL flag, and an image of what officials described as a shoe bomb. The images were from a chat on the messaging application Whatsapp; REH said during questioning that he had left the chat, but the images hadn't been deleted. The men had travelled to Malaysia and Pattani, Thailand before attempting to enter Singapore. Indonesian authorities took custody of the men, and held them for seven days for questioning; as no extremist ongoing connection could be identified, the men were released.

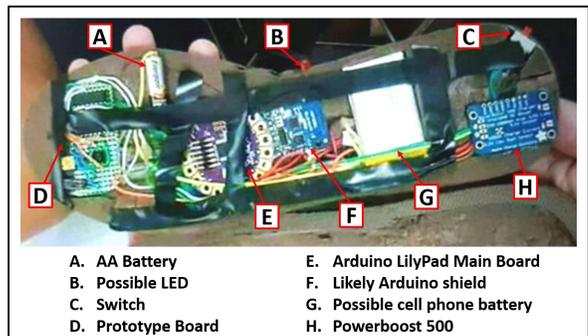


Image of “shoe bomb” with annotations

There are only a narrow set of circumstances where using shoes to conceal IEDs would be the most effective method of delivering an IED. If an adversary determines that a PBIED is the best way to deliver the device to their target, suicide vests or belts offer them more net explosive weight. Therefore the concealment within shoes would only be used against targets where the adversary felt there was a risk of a pat down. For this reason, using shoes to conceal IEDs is an extremely rare tactic and is only commonly known to have been used once before. The device used by Richard Reid in 2001 employed a far simpler design however, with a black powder fuse that threaded from his shoelace to a TATP-PETN explosive that was packed in a hollowed-out heel.

Due to the low resolution of the picture, it is not possible to independently corroborate whether the circuitry is designed for IED use. The LilyPad Arduino boards are designed to be used in e-textiles and wearables and are often employed in artsy and experimental electronics projects. The lack of space available for a main charge and a design which seems prone to bending and distorting circuit boards as you walk would suggest that if this was intended to be used as an IED, its designer was still in the prototype or experimental phase. Accounting for the uncertainty surrounding the purpose of this suspected device, the APCFC/IrW felt it was still important to highlight because it raises the following disquieting possibility which will need to be carefully monitored: if Indonesian bomb makers are experimenting with Arduino circuit boards and all the sensors and capabilities it offers, it will provide them with a quantum leap in IED technology which we have yet to observe in use anywhere in the Asia Pacific.

Sources: WSJ (1/9/02) Channel News Asia (1/12/17) Straits Times (1/13/17) Today Online (1/13/17)

Person of Interest / VEO of Interest

SUBJECT: Bahrumsyah Mennor Usman

ALIAS: Bahrum Syah; Abu Ibrahim; Muh'd al-Andunisiy; Muh'd al-Indonesi; Abu Shabrina
DOB: 23 July 1984 **FROM:** Bogor, Indonesia **LOCATION:** Raqqa, Syria; Al-Shadadi, Hasaka Province, Syria **AFFILIATIONS:** ISIL; Katibah Nusantara; Jamaah Anshorut Daulat



Bahrumsyah Mennor Usman is an Indonesian foreign fighter, serving as a an ISIL sub-commander in Syria. His duties include coordinating foreign fighter travel, communications, financial facilitation, and recruiting in support of ISIL operations in Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

Bahrumsyah pledged allegiance to ISIL at a mosque in Indonesia in February 2014. The following month, Bahrumsyah traveled to Syria and began facilitating the travel of Indonesian foreign fighters to ISIL-controlled territory. By September 2014, Bahrumsyah was in command of ISIL's Archipelago Group — also known as Katibah Nusantara — a unit comprised of Southeast Asian fighters dedicated to conducting attacks in their home countries. In support of this effort, he has appeared in a number of ISIL propaganda videos; this includes a July 2014 video entitled "Join the Ranks," in which he encouraged Indonesians to support ISIL in Syria and at home. Following the video's release, Indonesian authorities discovered an underground, Indonesia-based, ISIL recruitment network.

It is unlikely that Bahrumsyah will be able to easily return to Southeast Asia in order to directly take part in IED attack operations, though he could use his position and experience to encourage terror operations in Indonesia. As ISIL suffers continued losses in Syria-Iraq, there is a possibility that Bahrumsyah will attempt to influence the more than 300 Indonesian foreign fighters who are believed to have already made the trip back to Indonesia. Likewise he could motivate non-foreign fighter Indonesian-based ISIL-aspirants to carry out IED operations.

In addition to fueling ISIL aspirations back at home, the threat of ISIL influence also hinges on advancing IED and operational attack capabilities. This threat would be heightened should charismatic and credible Indonesian ISIL leaders, such as Bahrumsyah, combine efforts with proven Southeast Asian ISIL-aligned militants. Moving forward, potential candidates include Syrian-based Indonesian national, Bahrn Naim and the Emir of ISIL in the Philippines, Isnilon Hapilon.

Sources: CT Designations (DoT) Counter Extremism Project Emir of Katibah Nusantara (RSIS)

VEO: Lashkar-e Tayyiba (LeT)

AREA OF OPERATIONS: India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan **ALIAS:** Army of the Righteous
TTPs: coordinated attacks on military and government targets, and religious minorities



LeT is one of the largest terrorist organizations in South and Central Asia. Founded in Afghanistan in the late 1980s, LeT has planned and executed dozens of terror attacks primarily in India. It was originally the military wing of Pakistani Islamist organization Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad (MDI, later known as Jamaat-ud-Dawa, JuD). LeT's founders, Hafiz Saeed, Abdullah Azzam, and Zafar Iqbal, initially received backing from Osama bin Laden to fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan, but later shifted their focus to the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir.

LeT's first known attack in India was an ambush on Indian Air Force personnel in 1990. Throughout the early 1990s, LeT focused on attacking only Indian military targets in Jammu and Kashmir; however, in January 1996, they committed their first attack against civilians, killing 16 Hindus in Doda. Throughout much of the late 1990s and early 2000s, LeT ambitiously attacked India's security infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, and targeted minority groups (such as Sikhs and Hindus). In December 2001, LeT was blamed for an attack on India's parliament that killed seven; this sparked controversy between India and Pakistan and led to the United States listing LeT as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. LeT's most notable attack was on 26 NOV 2008 in Mumbai. 10 attackers targeted five locations popular with tourists and foreigners, killing 166 people over the course of 60 hours. When Indian authorities interrogated one of the surviving attackers, they found that Pakistani ISI had been instrumental in planning and executing the attack. Likewise, Indian Mujahideen (IM) and LeT have worked closely to commit attacks that have claimed more than 50 lives, including the Pune German Bakery attack in 2010.

Ultimately, LeT wants to establish a caliphate in the Indian Sub-Continent, and eliminate Indian power in the region. By exploiting Hindu-Muslim tensions, LeT has rallied disaffected groups and individuals to its cause and maintained its strength in the thousands. LeT's ability to elevate its fight beyond the regional level is a testament to the leaders' ability to network within the Jihadi community, support operations on the international level, and develop dynamically over time. This has made LeT one of the most effective and dangerous organizations in South and Central Asia.

Sources: CFR (1/14/10) Stanford (1/30/16) SATP (2017)

South Asia: January Significant Activity

Bangladesh

Bangladesh security officials continue to target the 'Tamin-Sarwar group' of the Neo-Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and have enjoyed success in apprehending militants involved in recent terror attacks. Recent successes include the killing of Nurul Islam Marzan (alias Marjan), current leader of Neo-JMB, during a shootout in Dhaka on 6 JAN; the arrest of 10 Neo-JMB operatives in Dhaka on 9 JAN; and the arrest of a trainer behind the Gulshan Café attack, Jahangir Alam (alias Rajib Gandhi), on 14 JAN in Tangail. Stressing the importance of maintaining vigilance despite recent successes, security officials have indicated they will maintain a 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism. **Business Standard (1/6/17) Times of India (1/7/17) BD News (1/9/17) CNN (1/14/17) Reuters (1/14/17)**

India

On 13 JAN, press reported that the Government of India signed a memorandum of understanding with a Gujarat teenager, Harshawardhan Zala, to continue developing a prototype drone designed to help find and clear IEDs. The drone has infrared, RGB, and thermal sensors to help detection, and carries a 50 gram explosive which is used to destroy the IED. **Times of India (1/13/17)**

On 17 JAN, another member of the Hyderabad ISIL cell was captured by India's National Investigation Agency. Investigators discovered that Mohammed Irfan, an alleged aid to the ISIL members detained from Hyderabad on 29 JUN 16, helped the group find safe houses and locations for physical training. Additionally, Irfan collected explosive precursors along with another of the ISIL members in Pochampally, Nalgonda, Telangana. **Indian Express (1/17/17)**

On 29 JAN, press reported that police in Kozhikode, Kerala, had established two special squads to help curb the use of "crude bombs" and other lethal weapons used in local political violence, especially in the Kuttiyadi and Nadapuram circle office areas. The unit was created following the discovery of a large weapons cache in the region, and rising violence. The police officers are trained in safe detonation of IEDs and "crude bombs," and will operate alongside traditional bomb disposal squads. The rural police are also establishing a program to educate civilians on how to identify and report suspicious material. **The Hindu (1/29/17)**

On 31 JAN, graffiti and posters threatening ISIL IED attacks were found at five locations in a high-security area of the Sabathu Cantonment area in Solan, Himachal Pradesh. According to police, a forensics team was called to collect evidence and they are investigating the incident seriously, though they believe it was likely "mischief." **Times of India (1/31/17)**

Nepal

On 20 JAN, a hand grenade was found and cleared by Nepal Army Bomb Disposal Squad personnel in front of a residence in Rajbiraj, Saptari. Leaflets of the ethnic militant group Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha were recovered from the scene, and the leader of the group claimed responsibility during a phone interview with journalists. The group has been committed past bomb attacks, including leaving a pressure cooker IED outside the Saptari district administrative office in November 2016 and detonating a pressure cooker IED at a gas station in December 2016. **Kathmandu Post (12/8/16) My Republica (1/20/17) Himalayan Times (1/20/17)**

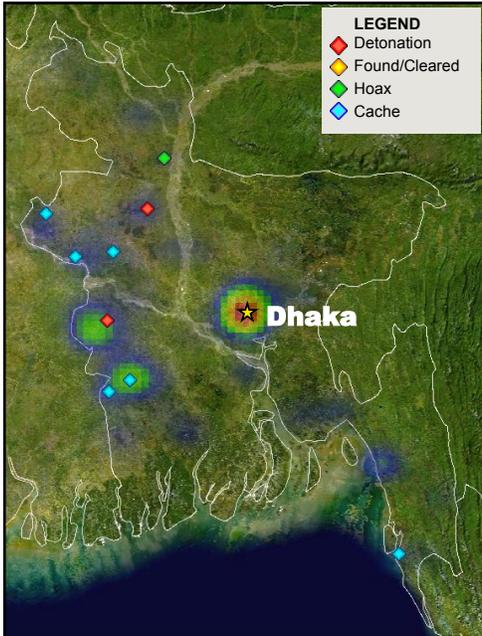
Maldives

On 15 JAN, the trial for a Maldivian man charged with terrorism and fighting in foreign wars started. The 30-year old suspect allegedly moved to Pakistan nine years prior to study, but settled in South Waziristan. The charges say that he was actively involved with a terror group in the area, to include fighting for them in the war. The suspect returned to the Maldives in June 2016, and has been in custody since that time awaiting trial. If convicted, he could face up to 20 years in prison. In 2010, nine Maldivians were arrested in Waziristan with weapons, but charges were not brought against them upon extradition due to lack of appropriate legal framework at the time. **Maldives Independent (1/15/17)**

Sri Lanka

On 31 JAN, Sri Lanka marked 21 years since one of the deadliest IED attacks from the Civil War era. A Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber drove a truck through the gates of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in Colombo, and detonated 440 pounds of high explosives. 91 civilians were killed and 1400 were injured including several foreign nationals. **Sunday Leader (1/31/17)**

Bangladesh: January IED Events



There were 10 IED events: two detonations, seven caches and one hoax recovered

On 5 JAN, eight to ten robbers detonated two IEDs killing a farmer and wounding his nephew in Kulapala, Alamdanga, Chuadanga, Khulna. **Daily Observer (1/5/17) Financial Express (1/5/17) Daily Sun (1/5/17) Daily Star (1/6/17)**

On 6 JAN, an IED cache was recovered by police in South Buruj Bangan, Sharsha, Jessore, Khulna; four Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh(Jel) militants were arrested. The cache contained eight IEDs. **Daily Star (1/7/17)**

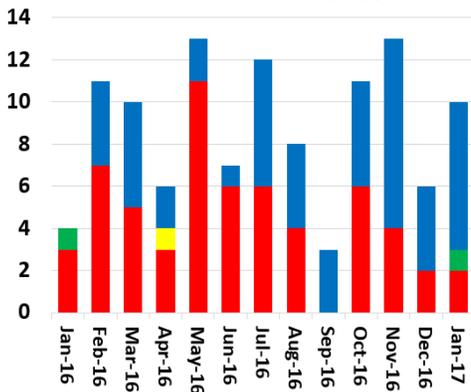
On 11 JAN, an IED cache was recovered by police in Housenagar, Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj, Rajshahi; six Jel militants and a transport workers' leader were arrested. The cache contained five IEDs. **Daily Star (1/13/17)**

On 13 JAN, an IED components cache was recovered by police in Chandpur, Sadar, Natore, Rajshahi; one JMB militant was arrested. The cache contained IED components, four pistols, six magazines, 17 bullets, six knives, and six straight razors. Police reported that at least 50 IEDs could have been made from the recovered components, and the militant was planning subversive activities on the outskirts of Dhaka. **Daily Star (1/14/17) Dhaka Tribune (1/14/17)**

On 17 JAN, an IED components cache was recovered by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) 7 in Khurushkul, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong; two suspected members of an outlawed Rohingya group were arrested. The cache contained IED components capable of producing approximately 78 IEDs. **Dhaka Tribune (1/17/17) Daily Star (1/17/17)**

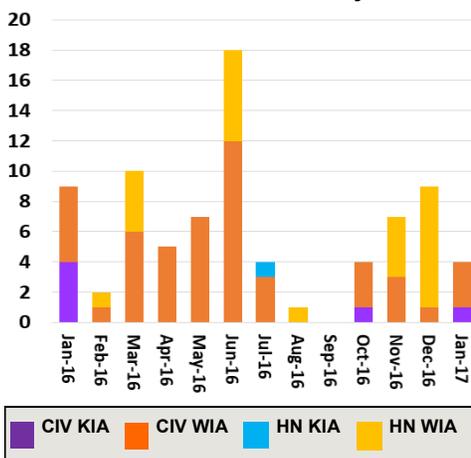
On 29 JAN, an IED cache was recovered by police in Shiroil Kacha, Rajshahi, Rajshahi; a Jel militant was arrested. The cache contained two IEDs, 3,000 jihadi books, hundreds of leaflets and banners of Jel and its student body Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), copies of Bangla translation of a publication of 1989 by Master Hei Long titled "Techniques of Silent Killing", and a book on how to make explosives published by Ansarullah Bangla Blog. **Daily Star (1/31/17) SATP (1/31/17)**

Past Year IED Events by Type



IED events increased in January, and were higher than year ago. Overall, IED events in Bangladesh have been fairly consistent over the last year, with an average of about nine per month.

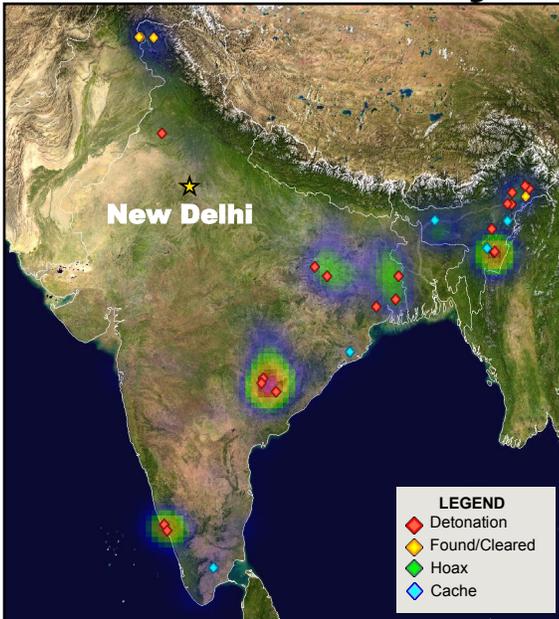
Past Year IED Event Casualty Count



Bangladesh Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit officials continue to aggressively pursue Neo-JMB militants in an effort to disrupt the group's network with criminals and arms suppliers, who operate in several countries across the region and bring arms and explosives to Bangladesh with their support. Besides searching for the current operational leader of Neo-JMB, Moinul Islam (alias Musa), police are also searching for a dozen mid-level leaders of Neo-JMB. Continuing these operations will likely degrade the operational capability of Neo-JMB, preventing large scale attacks from occurring.

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

India: January IED Events



There were 32 IED events: 22 detonations, four found and cleared, and six caches recovered

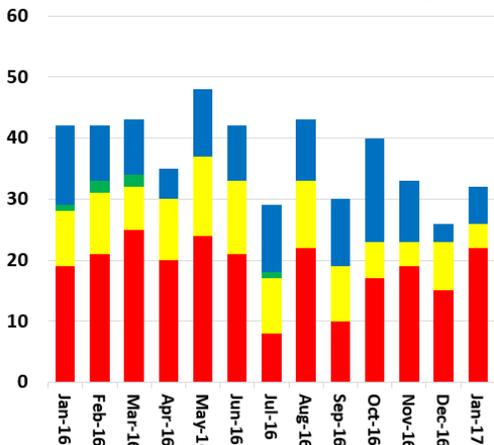
On 18 JAN, a VOIED detonated at a road construction site in Tumnar, Bastar, Chhattisgarh; three civilians were killed and four civilians were wounded. The device was likely emplaced by Maoists to target security personnel, but was encountered by a group of women gathering herbs. **The Hindu (1/19/17)**

On 23 JAN, a pressure plate VOIED detonated at road construction site near Milempalli, Sukma, Chhattisgarh; two civilians were wounded. Police claim the device was emplaced by Maoists to target security forces, and detonated when the civilians drove a motorcycle over it. **Indian Express (1/23/17)**

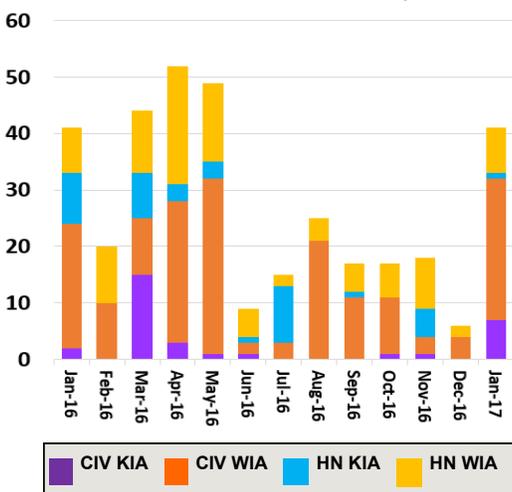
On 26 JAN, ten IEDs detonated and three IEDs were found and cleared during a multi-state coordinated event organized by the United National Liberation Front of Western South East Asia (UNLFWSEA) in protest of India's Republic Day. The incidents occurred in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and several locations in Assam, causing only minor damage. The devices were described as low-intensity and were mostly emplaced in locations where the detonations would be noticed, but wouldn't injure anyone. The symbolic detonations occur every year to protest the idea that these regions are part of the republic. **Economic Times (1/27/17) Times of India (1/27/17)**

On 31 JAN, a remote-controlled VBIED detonated at a Congress political rally in Maur, Bathinda, Punjab; three civilians were killed, and 15 were wounded. The device was contained in a pressure cooker, used nuts and bolts as shrapnel, and was placed in a parked Maruti Alto vehicle which was left at the rally location after all the cars were moved out of the area on request of the organizers. Security personnel claimed the advanced nature of the device pointed to a terrorist attack, but did not point to a specific group. **Indian Express (1/31/17) Times of India (2/1/17) One India (2/2/17)**

Past Year IED Events by Type



Past Year IED Event Casualty Count



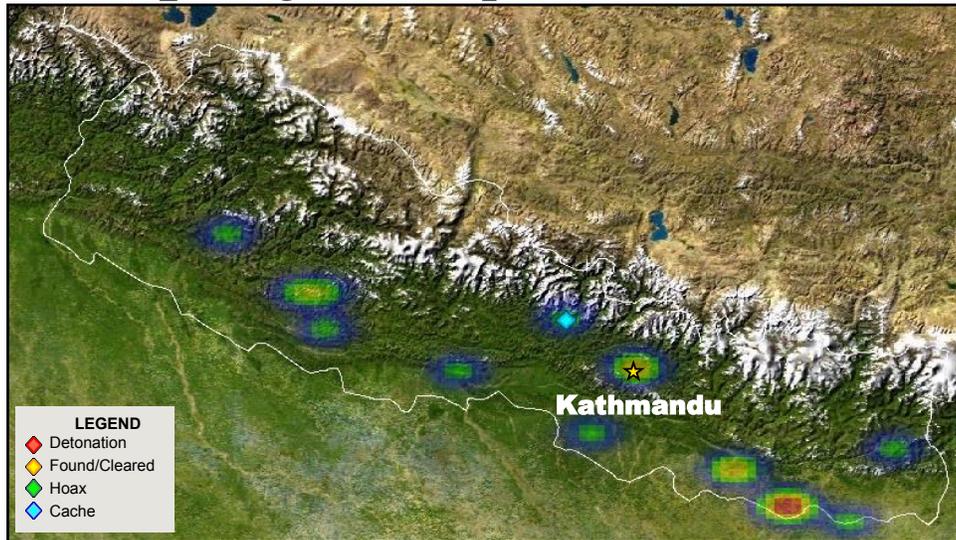
Overall IED activity was down compared to previous months, though a larger-than-usual coordinated Republic Day protest attack and a flurry of political attacks towards the end of the month brought the numbers closer to average. While Jammu and Kashmir is showing signs that attacks will resume, it is possible overall events may go down next month.

The coordinated attack in the northeast was spearheaded by the United Liberation Front of Assam—Independent (ULFA-I), though it appeared to have support from various groups in the UNLFWSEA. The larger attack is likely related to strife caused by the recent district split in Manipur, which may have altered political power balances in the northeast. Regardless of the motive, the event should likely be interpreted as a show of force.

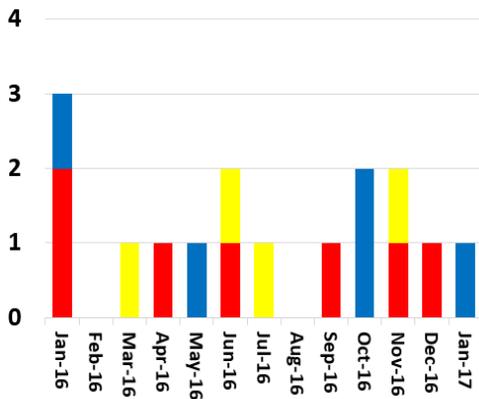
The attack in Punjab is unusual. The attack was very sophisticated, and was the first real Indian VBIED in at least five years. Political recriminations following the incident pointed to Sikh insurgents; though there is no evidence for this yet, it does match recent rumors that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) are attempting to revive the Sikh insurgency. More details are expected to emerge through the investigation.

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

Nepal: January IED Events



Past Year IED Events by Type



There was one IED event: one cache recovered

On 1 JAN, an explosives cache was recovered by district police in a cave in Thala, Swanra VDC-9, Gorkha, Mid-Western Region. The cache contained 3900 detonators and electric wires. Authorities suspect the cache may have been a war remnant. **Kathmandu Post (1/2/17)**

IED activity remained consistently low in January. War remnants are occasionally recovered from rural areas, though one of this size is less common. Nepal's IED manufacturing during the Civil War years was widespread and prolific, and as a result war remnants are found throughout the country.

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

Southeast Asia: January Significant Activity

Philippines

The founder and leader of Ansarul Khilafa in the Philippines (AKP), Mohammad Jaafar Maguid (alias Tokboy) was tracked down and killed by security forces led by the National Intelligence Coordinating Council at the Angel Beach Resort in Sarangani province. Three of his associates were arrested and authorities recovered an assortment of weapons from the van they occupied. Police are conducting follow-up operations against the group in an attempt to weaken them since it will take time for AKP to regroup following their leaders' death. **CNN Philippines (1/5/17) ABS-CBN (1/5/17) Benar News (1/6/17)**

President Duterte ordered war against terrorist groups in Lanao del Sur, he ordered his military to use "all available assets and weaponry." Airstrikes were conducted in the area killing 15 militants. Isnilon Hapilon, the top commander for the Islamic State (IS) in Southeast Asia is reported to be severely wounded in airstrikes conducted by Philippine security forces in Butig, Mindanao on 28 JAN. According to reports, Hapilon's right arm is injured and needs a blood transfusion or will die without proper medical attention. He is currently being carried around in a stretcher by four of his men. Hapilon has been in the area looking for a suitable area to establish a caliphate. **Rappler (1/26/17) Washington Post (1/29/17) CNN Philippines (1/30/17)**

Thailand

There were no IED events in Thailand in January 2017 which is likely due to the heavy flooding which affected Thailand through most of January. Significant flooding from torrential rain that started in late December and lasted through mid-January resulted in 90 deaths and impacted hundreds of thousands including those in IED prone regions such as Pattani, Yala, Songkhla, and Narathiwat. The government sent monetary aid to the flood victims which was distributed at each affected province. **Pattaya Mail (1/27/17)**

On 10 JAN, Sapae-ing Basor, a prominent Muslim cleric and suspected leader of the BRN, died. According to security sources, southern separatists are using Sapae-ing's death to incite hatred against the authorities, by blaming the government for making him live in exile until his death. **Bangkok Post (1/21/17)**

On 29 JAN, steel cooking-gas cylinders weighing 15 kilograms or less were banned in Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani provinces, and Songkhla province's Chana, Na Thawi, Saba Yoi and Thepha districts. The ban was issued by Fourth Army commander Lt-General Piyawat Nakwanich to prevent insurgents making use of the steel cylinders in bomb-making and to stop violence in Thailand's deep South. **Bangkok Post (1/29/17)**

Malaysia

From 13-19 JAN, Malaysian police arrested three men and a woman suspected of being involved with ISIL Philippines. The suspects were identified as a 31-year-old Filipino male, two Bangladeshi males aged 27 and 28, and a 27-year-old Malaysian female. The cell was believed to be formed by former University Malaya lecturer Dr. Mahmud Ahmad, who is believed to be currently aligned with ISIL Philippines leader Isnilon Hapilon in the Philippines. The Filipino suspect was arrested in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah where he was allegedly tasked to recruit new ISIL members from Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, as well as ethnic Rohingya, and arrange for them to be smuggled into Marawi City, Philippines. The Filipino suspect recruited three other suspects, including an the unemployed 27-year-old Malaysian female whom he met over social media and intended to marry. The two Bangladeshi suspects who were identified as salesmen were arrested in Kuala Lumpur on 19 JAN. **Channel News Asia (1/23/17)**

Burma

On 2 JAN, the Burmese government issued a statement that authorities detained police officers seen in a video circulating on social media abusing Rohingya civilians in Rakhine state in November 2016. The video footage shows police beating a young male as he walks to where dozen of villagers were lined up in rows seated on the ground with their hands behind their heads. The November 2016 incident appears to corroborate stories from Rohingya refugees about human rights abuses being perpetrated against civilians. **Time (12/14/16) BBC (1/2/17) Mizzima (1/3/17)**

Philippines: January IED Events



There were seven IED events: three detonations, three found and cleared, and one cache recovered

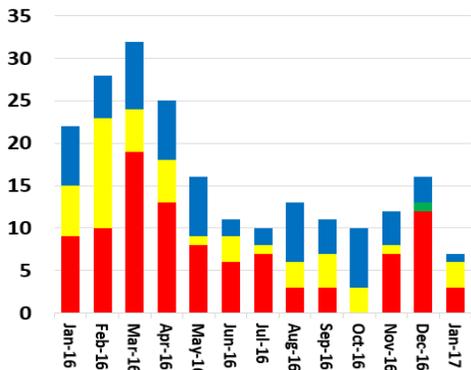
On 15 JAN, an VOIED emplaced by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) detonated alongside a circumferential road in Sabong, Lamitan, Basilan, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM); a woman was injured and child was killed. The device exploded when the woman tripped over it as they gathered crops alongside the road. **Sun Star (1/16/17) Mindanao Examiner (1/16/17)**

On 25 JAN, an IED was found and cleared by Armed Forces personnel alongside national highway in Nabundas, Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao, ARMM; authorities suspect the device was planted by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) militants. The IED contained black powder and nails, which would have acted as shrapnel if it had exploded. The device was meant to disrupt the second anniversary commemoration of the Mamasapano massacre. **ABS-CBN News (1/25/17) Manila Times (1/26/17)**

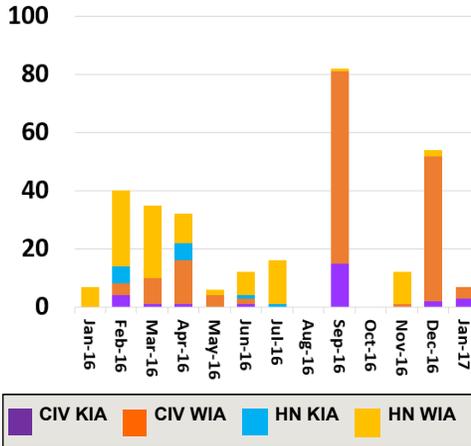
On 28 JAN, two IEDs allegedly emplaced by ASG detonated in a coordinated attack beginning at the Jacinto residence on Flores Street, Malakas; five minutes later the second explosion occurred at the Silang residence in Malinis, Lamitan City, Basilan, ARMM. The first IED was placed on a multicab vehicle causing damage and the second was placed beside the concrete fence at the residence. **The Manila Times (1/29/17) Sun Star (1/29/17)**

On 29 JAN 2017 at 1100 local, an IED emplaced by the ASG accidentally detonated while children were playing in Danapah, Al-Barka, Basilan, ARMM; two children were killed and three sustained injuries from the blast. The ASG, under Furuji Indama, carried out the blast to show fear in the area. **Rappler (1/29/17) Inquirer Mindanao (1/30/17) Interaksyon (1/30/17)**

Past Year IED Events by Type



Past Year IED Event Casualty Count

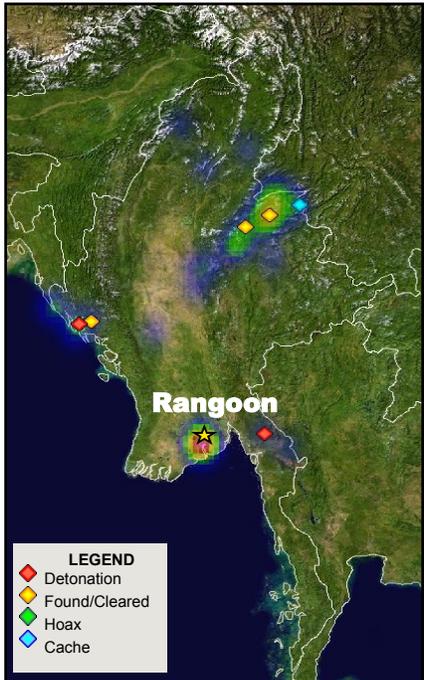


IED activity in January dropped by half from the prior month. The majority of events were detonations or hoaxes orchestrated by the ASG and BIFF against police and military forces. The only cache event was significant as it contained firearms, assorted ammunition and bomb making parts including a homemade bomb constructed from a rocket-propelled grenade, which was seized from the hideout of a Mayor who was on the President's narco list along with three BIFF Commanders.

At the beginning of this month, Jaafar Maguid (alias Tokboy), the leader of AKP, was killed in a joint operation by police and military. His death is considered a loss for ISIL-Philippines. Reporting also indicates the top commander for ISIL in Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon, was severely injured from military airstrikes ordered by President Duterte in Lanao del Sur. The military is making it difficult for him to escape Lanao and have blocked all possible exits. If Hapilon dies and with Tokboy killed, it is speculated one of the Maute brothers could come into power. This ongoing offense is important because it can derail their plans to expand IS presence to mainland Mindanao. The President has warned many times of the emergence of IS-influenced militant groups as a major national security threat.

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

Burma: January IED Events



There were six IED events: two detonations, three found and cleared, and one cache recovered

On 1 JAN, an IED was found and cleared beside Yangon-Sittwe Road, three miles north of May Lwan, Minbya, Sittwe, Rakhine State. The device was described as four feet in length and joined to an iron pipe two inches in diameter. The device also contained a 9V battery and was driven into the ground with four 0.5 diameter iron rods. Security forces were able to successfully render the device safe.

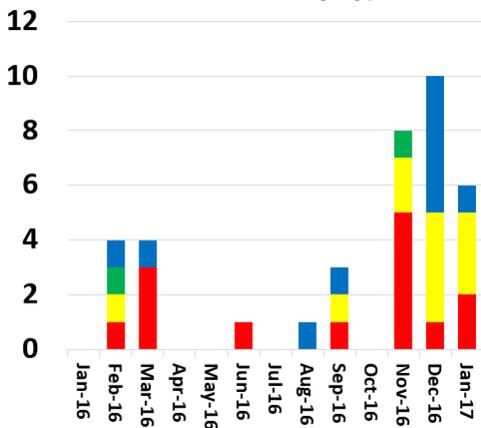
Global New Light of Myanmar (1/3/17)

On 1 JAN, an IED detonated about twelve feet from milepost 160 on Yangon-Sittwe Road, between Yoetayote and Thetat, Punnagyun, Rakhine State. Unidentified security forces recovered one detonator shell, one battery holder that can house two dry cell batteries, and one plastic package containing wires and plastic debris. **Global New Light of Myanmar (1/3/17)**

On 7 JAN, an IED was found and cleared at a residence near Kutkai-Theinni Road, Ward-5, Kutkai, northern Shan State. Joint army and police forces successfully defused the device after it was found at the house of Daw Mar Mon in a trash heap by a tenant who mistaken the device for a battery. The device was attached to a box of about 4,000 small ball bearings, two electronic detonators, one wire, one plug, and gunpowder. **Global New Light of Myanmar (1/9/17)**

On 13 JAN, an IED cache was found and cleared one hundred meters from the Burma-China border in Laukkai, Kokang Special Region 1, northern Shan State. Upon receiving a tip, Tatmadaw forces raided an old Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) explosives-producing factory. Troops recovered 1.2 inch diameter emulsion explosives, 120 unopened bags of “reddish-brown” explosives with 20 packs in each bag, 300 opened bags of “reddish-brown” explosives with 20 packs in each bag, four bottles containing 500 milliliters of ethanol each, one 300 milliliter container of ammonia solution, one 500 gram container of sodium chloride, one 500 gram bottle of ammonium chloride, 37 bags of 25 kilogram hydrogenated tallow amine, 0.275 tons of pine tar grease, and 35 pieces of laboratory equipment. **Global New Light of Myanmar (1/13/17)**

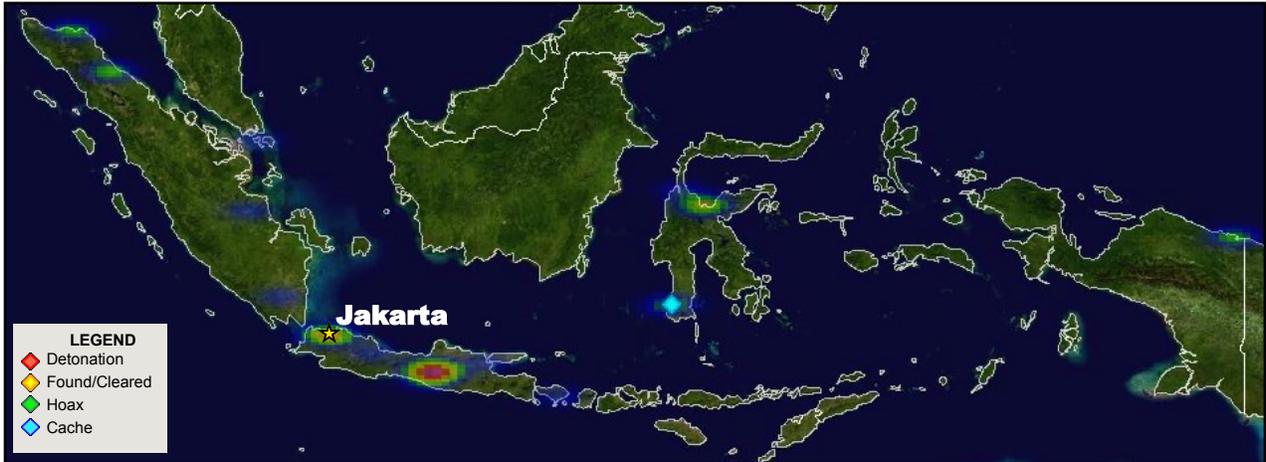
Past Year IED Events by Type



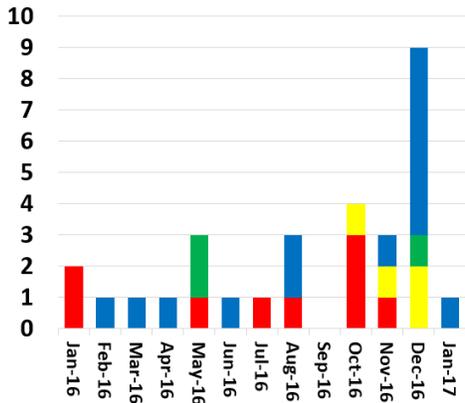
Armed conflict continues on from the fourth quarter of 2016 in the northern regions between Tatmadaw and the Northern Alliance - Burma. Tatmadaw forces captured seven Kachin Independence Army (KIA) bases since December 2016 and clashed with Ta’ang National Liberation Army units in Shan State. The fighting resulted in 100 ethnic Ta’ang fleeing Namhsan and taking refuge in Lashio. An additional 3,600 civilians fled the Laiza region into China to escape fighting between the Tatmadaw and KIA. IED caches recovered by Burmese security forces continue to be the most common IED events indicating continued preparation by armed ethnic groups for future offensive operations against Tatmadaw forces. Fighting in the north will continue until Tatmadaw’s demands including the surrender of the Northern Alliance – Burma and the KIA’s signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement without alteration are met.

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

Indonesia: January IED Events



Past Year IED Events by Type



There was one IED event: one cache recovered

On 17 JAN, an IED cache was recovered from a shipping package following its discovery as it passed through an X-ray machine at the Hasanuddin Airport in Makassar, South Sulawesi. The cache contained three packages of 100 detonators. Ayung attempted to send the package through a shipping service from Luwu, South Sulawesi and addressed it to "Udin" at Husin Hamaza street, no 6 PAL 5, Pontianak, West Kalimantan. When police arrived at the home that was marked as the shipping destination, there were signs that it may have been abandoned. Police have been unable to track down the recipient nor the sender of the package. **Tempo (1/18/17) Okezone (1/18/17) Tempo (1/19/17) Liputan 6 (1/19/17) Pontianak Post (1/19/17)**

Following the month of December, which contained the most number of IED events in Indonesia in over a year with many of them related to a disrupted ISIL plot, IED activity in January dropped significantly.

Since police have been unable to track down the sender nor recipient of the 18 JAN package, officials and security analysts have been left to speculate on the intended purpose of the cache. One analyst speculated that it might be related to rumors of a Mujahidin Indonesia Barat (MIB) terrorist cell in Kalimantan that is supposed to conduct an attack sometime in February. The last extremist related event in Kalimantan occurred in November 2016, but that involved Molotov cocktails, not IEDs. Another source believed it was likely that the cache was intended to be smuggled across the border into Malaysia. The package's intended destination of Pontianak, Kalimantan is approximately 100 miles from the border which could be consistent with this theory.

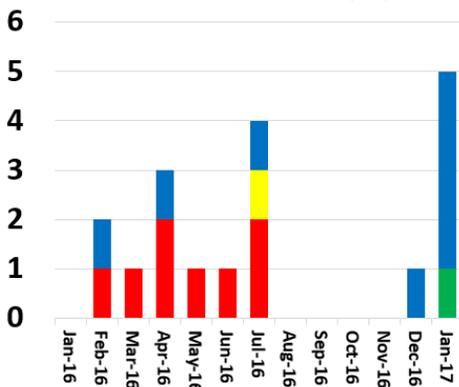
With so little information available, it is difficult to make a confident judgement on the detonators' purpose. However, given that IED events on Kalimantan are extremely rare, it seems more likely that this package was intended for the purpose of blast fishing, which is prevalent in the region and particularly in Malaysian Borneo, the alleged final destination of the package.

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

Malaysia: January IED Events



Past Year IED Events by Type



There were five IED events: four caches and one hoax recovered

On 12 JAN, an IED cache was recovered following police raid in Taman Minamah, Nibong Tebal, Penang. The cache contained a PVC rod measuring 2.66 meters long, containing four completed IEDs attached with a wick, transmitters, a remote control, welding equipment, electro-mechanical components, a switchboard, eight rounds of shotgun ammunition, a kerambit (curved knife), drug paraphernalia, 12.65 grams of heroin, 18.35 grams of ketamine, 3.26 grams of syabu, 24 ecstasy pills, and one kilogram of caffeine. Police arrested a 32-year-old man in connection to the raid who is believed to specialize in making devices with radio controlled switches. **Malaysiakini (1/13/17)**

On 15 JAN, an IED cache was recovered following a series of raids and arrests in Pasir Mas, Kelantan. The cache included wires, batteries and various acids, which police believed to be IED components. In conjunction with the cache seizure, police also arrested six Thai nationals, aged

between 30 and 40, in separate raids. Five of the men are from Kampung Perol (village), while the sixth lives one kilometer away. One of the spouses claimed she and her husband were from Kampung Deramin in Yala, Thailand. Police were investigating possible links between these men and ISIL. **New Straits Times (1/17/17) Straits Times (1/17/17) Kosmo (1/15/17)**

On 23 JAN, a hoax IED was recovered at the Cheras Rehabilitation Hospital in Taman Midah, Kuala Lumpur. The hoax device was found near a telecommunication substation and reported to police who responded to the scene. It was described as a "fake bomb" attached to sponges, wire, and components. Police did not believe that the hoax was terror related. **The Star (1/23/17) Sun Daily (1/23/17)**

This month Malaysia broke a five-month lull in IED activity. Reported over the last month were three events of note, two which occurred in January and a third which occurred in December, but wasn't reported on until late January. On 18 DEC 16, 15 Emulex sticks and six electric detonators were recovered from an IED cache in Taiping, Perak. This is concerning because currently most IEDs in Malaysia use a low explosive, usually black or flash powder repackaged from fireworks. Should militants start taking advantage of the supply of commercial grade dynamite produced in Malaysia for mining purposes, it could significantly increase the lethality and ease of construction of their devices.

The 12 JAN event is the second time the APCFC has observed radio controlled switches being recovered from IED caches in Malaysia. Interestingly, both the 12 JAN and the 17 APR 2016 events involved drug traffickers, but there is no apparent connection between the two events at this time.

Finally, the 15 JAN event corroborates long-held assessments that the southern Thai insurgency (STI) use northern Malaysia as a safe haven and staging area. Although the police claimed to be looking into ISIL ties, not much significance should be attributed to this statement until further evidence of their possible ISIL ties is provided. There were none of the common materials that you would expect to see with ISIL-aligned suspects recovered from their cache, such as an ISIL flag or literature, nor is the STI believed to be aligned with ISIL ideology in any meaningful way.

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

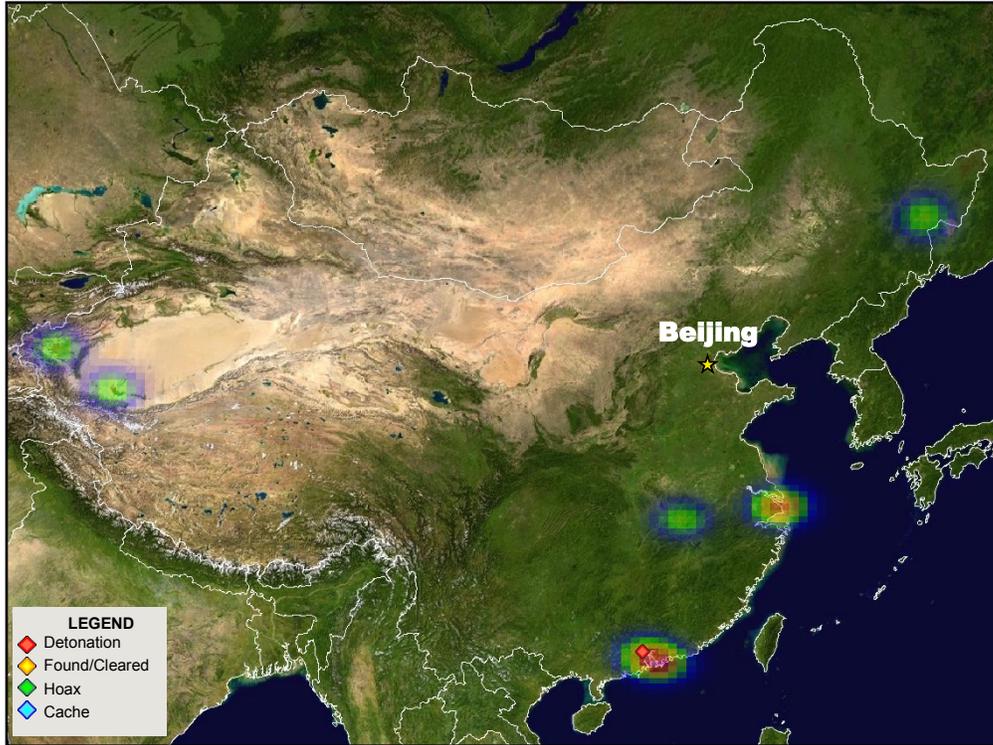
Northeast Asia: January Significant Activity

China

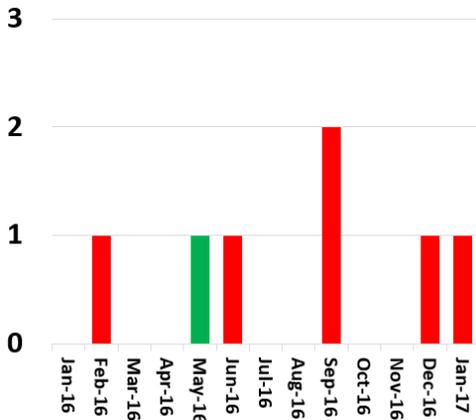
On 10 JAN, Xinjiang's Chairman, Shohrat Zakir, stated that border security along the Pakistan-China border would be tightened due to the threat posed by returning Uyghur militants. According to government officials, militants who recently carried out attacks in the Xinjiang region had received training in Pakistan, and returned to China illegally; he was likely referencing the 28 DEC terrorist attack in Hotan that killed five. The move to curb movement in the border region is the latest control measure implemented by the Chinese Government, following a forced surrender of passports and required approval for international travel last year. **Times of India (1/11/17)**
IB Times (1/11/17)

In January, China released information about the first non-NATO stealth drone: the Sharp Sword (Chinese: Liji-an) Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV). The UCAV is 33 feet in length, with a 46 foot wingspan. It has a WS-13 turbofan engine and is capable of carrying 4,400lbs of ordinance. **Popular Science (1/18/17)**

China: January IED Events



Past Year IED Events by Type



There was one IED event: one detonation

On 18 JAN, two IEDs detonated on buses in Nanhai, Foshan, Guangdong; six civilians were injured: four in the first detonation and two in the second. The IEDs were placed in trashcans on the buses. The second device detonated 30-40 minutes after the first device. Police arrested a suspect, Liang (22), who admitted to working alone to emplace the devices. **SCMP (1/18/17) Sixth Tone (1/18/17)**

China's IED events remained consistently low in January. While the suspect for the Nanhai bus bombing was apprehended, authorities did not release a possible motive for the attack, nor did they give any details about the device type or components. Usually, Chinese authorities will indicate if the event is being considered a terrorist attack, particularly when authorities suspect Islamic extremist activity. Attacks on buses have occurred previously In Guangdong province: in 2014 two civilians were killed and 32 were injured in an arson attack on a bus in which a detonation occurred. Following that event, media also did not indicate a motive or further device details.

IED Calendar

The IED calendar was established to help our audience maintain awareness of events, such as anniversaries of major attacks, or political, religious or cultural events that often coincide (or can potentially coincide) with a spike in IED events.

4 JAN (BUR): Independence Day

26 JAN (IND): Republic Day

Late January to early February (WW): Attacks have coincided with the anniversary of worldwide protests to Danish Cartoons in 2006

28 Feb (THA): First time Thai Gov. and insurgents sign a peace agreement

12 MAR (IND): Anniversary of 1993 Mumbai attack

13 MAR (THA): Anniversary of founding of Barisan Revolusi Nasional

15-16 MAR (IND): United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) Army Raising Day

IND – India
 WW – Worldwide
 PH – Philippines
 BUR – Burma
 BNG – Bangladesh
 NEP – Nepal

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
January 2017	1	2	3	4 BUR	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22 WW	23 WW	24 WW	25 WW	26 WW IND	27 WW	28 WW
	29 WW	30 WW	31 WW	1 WW	2 WW	3 WW	4 WW
February 2017	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
March 2017	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12 IND	13 THA	14	15 IND	16 IND	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Common Terms and Acronyms

AN – Ammonium Nitrate	PBIED – Personnel Borne (Suicide Bomb) IED
ANFO – Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil	PCB – Printed Circuit Board
ARMM – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	PN – Partner Nation
CIV – Civilian	PPIED – Pressure Plate IED
CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear	QRF – Quick Response Force
COIN – Counter-insurgency	RCIED – Radio Controlled IED
CWIED – Command Wire IED	RCP – Route Clearance Patrols
DTMF – Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency	RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade
EFP – Explosively Formed Projectile	SA – South Asia
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal	SAF – Small Arms Fire
F/C – Found & Cleared	SEA – Southeast Asia
HME – Homemade Explosives	SVBIED – Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
HN – Host Nation (Police, Military, Government)	TATP – Triacetone Peroxide
IDF – Indirect Fire	TNT – Trinitrotoluene (C ₇ H ₅ N ₃ O ₆)
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons	TTP – Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
IED – Improvised Explosive Device	UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
KFR – Kidnap for Ransom	VBIED – Vehicle Borne IED
KIA – Killed in Action	VEO – Violent Extremist Organization
LOC – Line of Communication	VOIED – Victim Operated IED
LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas	WIA – Wounded in Action
MSR – Main Supply Routes	
NFI – No Further Information	
NSTR – Nothing Significant To Report	
PBA – Post Blast Analysis	

Governments, Groups and Organizations

ASG – Abu Sayyaf Group	JeM – Jaish-e-Mohammed
BIFF – Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters	JMB – Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh
BIPP – Barisan Islam Perberbasan Patani	JMJB – Jama'atul Muslim Janta Bangladesh
BRN-C – Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate	KIA – Kachin Independence Army
BSF – Border Security Forces	KIM – Khalifa Islamiya Mindanao
BNP – Bangladesh National Party	KIO – Kachin Independence Organization
BriMob – Mobile Brigade (Indonesia CT Forces)	LeT – Lashkar-e Tayyiba
CPI-M – Communist Party of India (Maoist)	MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front
CPN-M – Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)	MILF-SOG – MILF-Special Operations Group
CPP – Communist Party of the Philippines	MNLF – Moro National Liberation Front
CRPF – Central Reserve Police Force (India)	NPA – New People's Army
GMIP – Gerakan Mujahideen Islam Patani	PNP – Philippine National Police
HM – Hizb-ul-Mujahideen	POLRI – Indonesian National Police
HNLC – Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (India)	PULO – Patani United Liberation Organization
HUJI-B – Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami Bangladesh	RAB – Rapid Action Battalion (Bangladesh)
IB – India's Intelligence Bureau	RKK – Runda Kumpulan Kecil
IM – Indian Mujahideen	SJMM – Samyukta Jatiya Mukti Morcha
IrW – Irregular Warfare	SJTMM – Samyukta Jana Tantrik Terai Mukti Morcha
ISI – Inter-Services Intelligence (Pakistan)	ULFA – United Liberation Front of Assam
ISIL – Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant	UWSA – United Wa State Army
JAT – Jemaah Ansharout Tauhid	YCL – Youth Communist League
JI – Jemaah Islamiya	
JTMM – Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha	
JIB – Jemaat-e-Islami Bangladesh	