



# Asia-Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center

## IED Monthly Report - November 2019



### About the APCFC

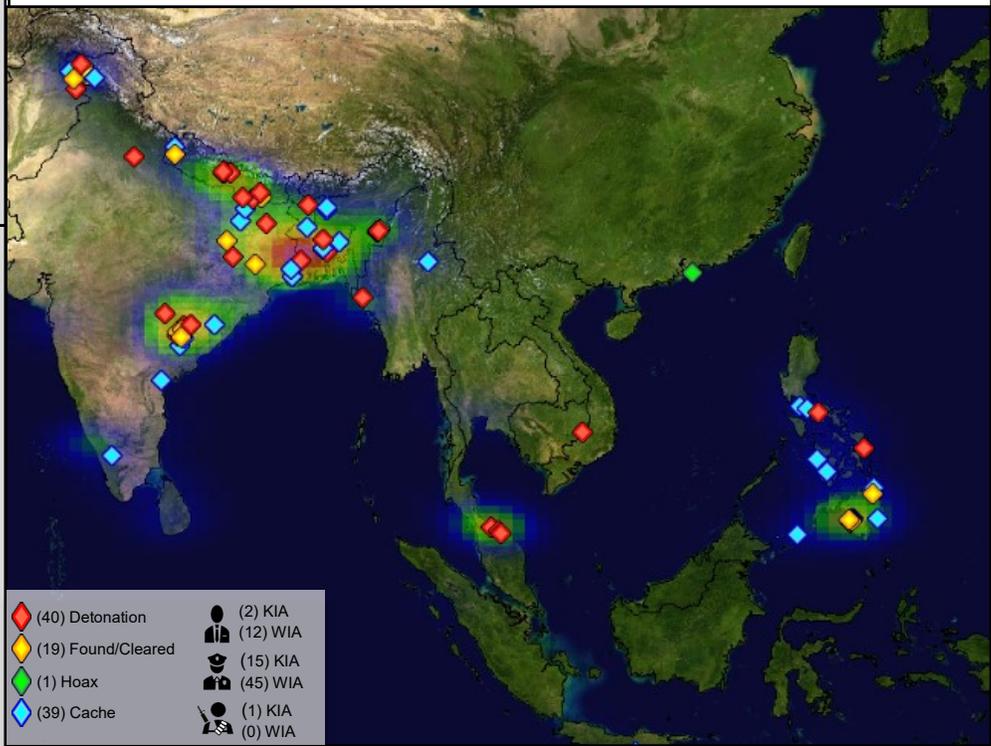
The Asia-Pacific C-IED Fusion Center is the premier center for irregular warfare analysis in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The center develops and synchronizes C-IED and EOD programs and regional engagements. The center resources USARAPC C-IED training to ensure U.S., Allied, and Partner Nations survivability.



### Month at a Glance — November

The Indo-Pacific region experienced 99 IED events in November: 69 events in South Asia, 29 events in Southeast Asia, and one event in Northeast Asia. These events consisted of 221 devices. In total, there were 40 IED detonation events, 19 IED found and cleared events, one hoax IED event, and 39 IED cache events. There were 75 casualties: two civilians killed, 12 civilians wounded, 15 Police, Military, Government (PMG) killed, 45 PMG wounded and one enemy killed.

### There were 99 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in November 2019



Icons depict events for November 2019; heat map depicts event density from November 2018—November 2019

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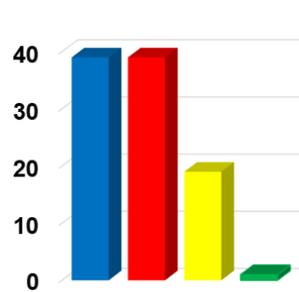
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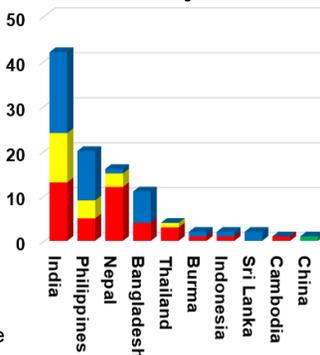
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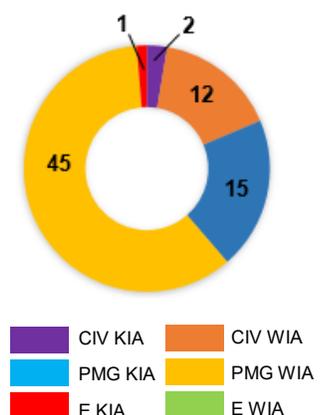
November IED events



November IED events by Country

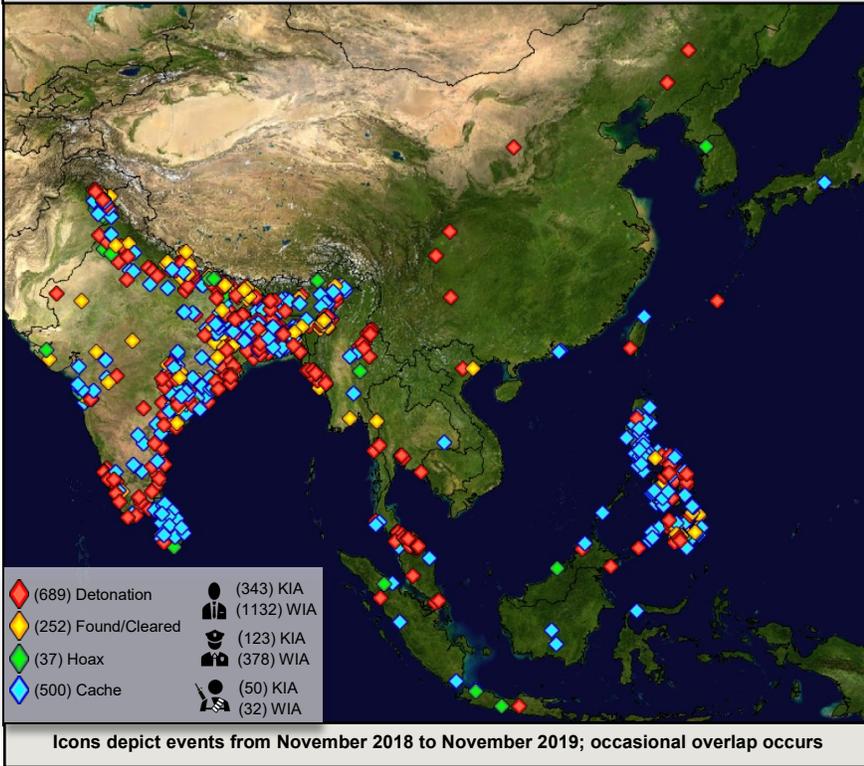


November IED Casualties



# Indo-Pacific IED Events - Past 13 Months

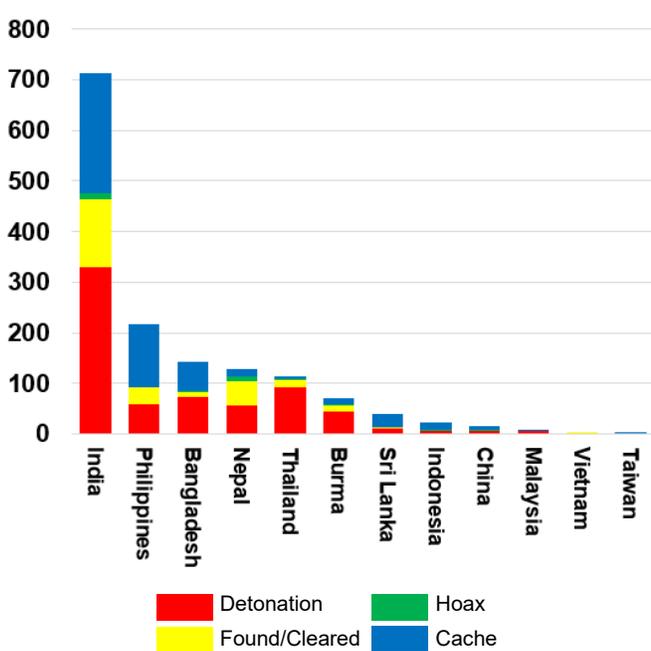
There were 1,477 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in the past 13 months



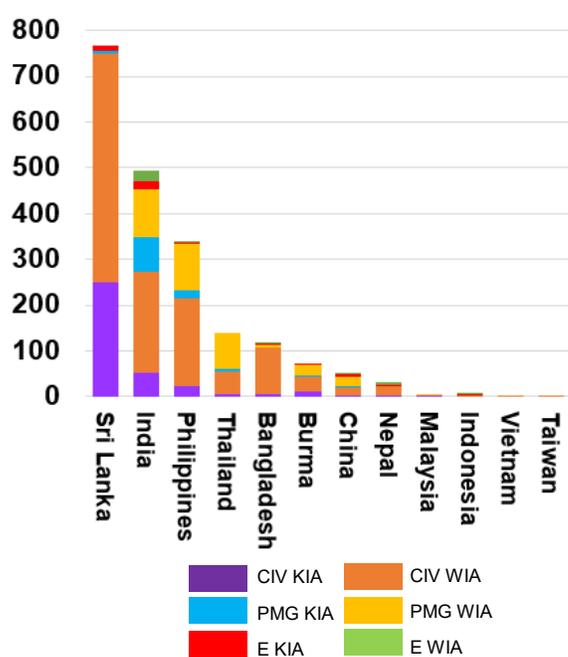
## APCFC Assessment

Over the past year, 1,477 IED events occurred in the Indo-Pacific region with a total of 1,976 casualties from those events. There were 689 IED detonations, 252 IED found and cleared events, 37 IED hoax events, and 500 IED cache events. Throughout the year there were 343 civilians killed, 1,132 civilians wounded, 123 Police, Military, Government (PMG) forces killed, 378 PMG wounded, 50 enemy killed, and 32 enemy wounded. On a typical year India usually has the highest number of IED events and casualties, followed by the Philippines.

Past Year IED events by Country

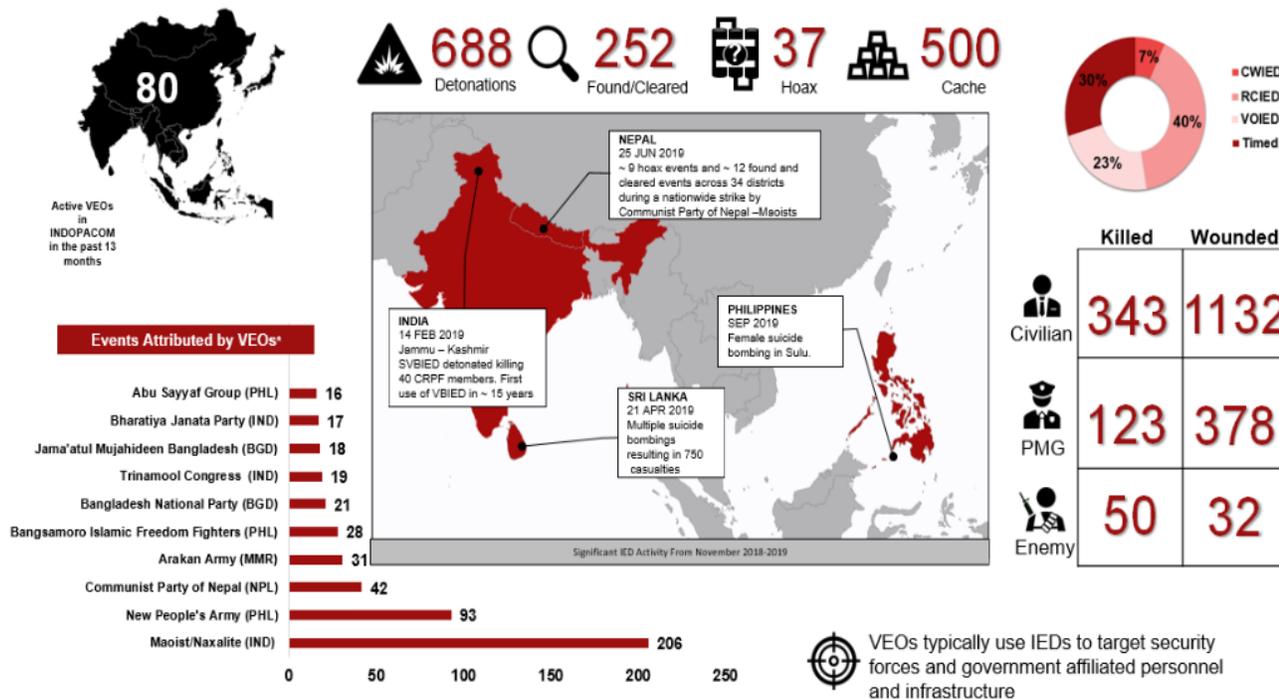


Past Year Casualties by Country



**NOTE: The APCFC Monthly IED report includes both event counts (detonation, found/cleared, hoax, and cache) and device counts. It is important to note that a singular IED event may include multiple devices. For instance, a single IED cache event may contain several devices.**

# IED Activity - Past 13 Months



## Incident Highlight: Suicide Bombing Plot Thwarted in the Philippines

On 5 November, three male Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) militants were killed by security forces at a checkpoint in Sitio Itawon, Barangay Kan Islam, Indanan, Sulu. The three attackers reportedly were traveling through Kan Islam while en route to Metro Jolo (the capital of Sulu), but were flagged down near the 41st Infantry Battalion's checkpoint where the attackers engaged guards with small arms fire. The attackers were shot and killed which led to the discovery of two Suicide Vest IEDs (SVIED), a fragmentation grenade, and an automatic pistol.



Suicide Vests

Two of the militants were identified as Egyptian nationals while the third attacker was identified as a local Filipino ASG member named James. The suspects reportedly were working with the ASG faction led by Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan. DNA testing determined that one of the Egyptian suspects, identified as Abduramil or Yousoph, to be the son of the September 8, bomber identified as Reda Mohammad Mahmud (See September Incident Highlight). The other Egyptian suspect, identified as Baker Al Seddik, aka Abduracman, was reportedly Abduramil's stepfather and Reda's husband. DNA tests of the suspects confirmed Abduracman was not Abduramil's biological father.



Pipe Bombs

Later the same day, security forces captured an ASG member identified as Mang, who led them to an ASG hideout in Paligue Village, Indanan. A cache was recovered from the hideout and contained over a dozen pipe bombs identical to the explosives found in the suicide vests.

**Sources: Mindanao Examiner (11/7/19) Rappler (11/15/19) Philippine News Agency (11/6/19) Manila Bulletin (11/6/19)**

## Special Assessment: Laser Pointers as Improvised Weapons

Laser pointers or laser pens, are consumer-grade gadgets that are often used as pointing devices in business and educational presentations, or by amateur astronomers to help others identify stars and constellations. However, their potential utility as improvised weapons was recently brought to the forefront following events involving their use by activists in Hong Kong and Chile. Laser pointers, though currently not a substantial improvised weapon threat, offer potential threat actors unique capabilities which may someday require their own adaptive solutions.

### Lasers Pointers as Anti-Surveillance Tech

Recent protest activity in Hong Kong and Chile has showcased activists using laser pointers to deny, deter, or degrade government surveillance of their activities. As mentioned in the APCFC's October Special Assessment, pro-Democracy protestors in Hong Kong used laser pointers to deny facial recognition from the Hong Kong Government's smart lampposts. A consumer-grade laser pointer could achieve this effect by temporarily or even permanently flash blinding a visual sensor. In fact, one Hong Kong photojournalist uploaded a video demonstrating how the sensor on his pricey digital camera was destroyed after it was hit by laser beams while filming the protest from behind police lines. In either situation, the damage from a laser beam can be avoided through the use of a special lens filter.



**Anti-government protesters shoot down police sUAS in Santiago, Chile (11/12/19)**

On 12 November, activists in Chile appeared to have brought down a police sUAS by focusing dozens of laser pointers at the drone as it flew above them. The incident, which was captured on video and shared widely on social media, is the only known instance where consumer-grade lasers downed a sUAS. It is not immediately clear how the lasers would cause a drone to fall out of the sky, but there are several possible explanations. First, the idea that the drone was destroyed through melting its internal wiring or causing it to overheat can probably be ruled out. Directed Energy Weapons (DEW) that are fielded by conventional militaries to achieve these kinds of effects start in the kilowatt range, which even a focused beam from 1,000 laser pointers is unlikely to achieve. Second, it is possible that the drone operator was flying through the sensor on his drone, and the drone itself was flash blinded. However, this would still not explain the erratic fall out of the sky. Third, the most likely explanation is that the drone's obstacle avoidance sensors was overwhelmed or that the lasers were causing it to errantly detect collisions that did not exist. This explanation fits the final drone's flight pattern best.

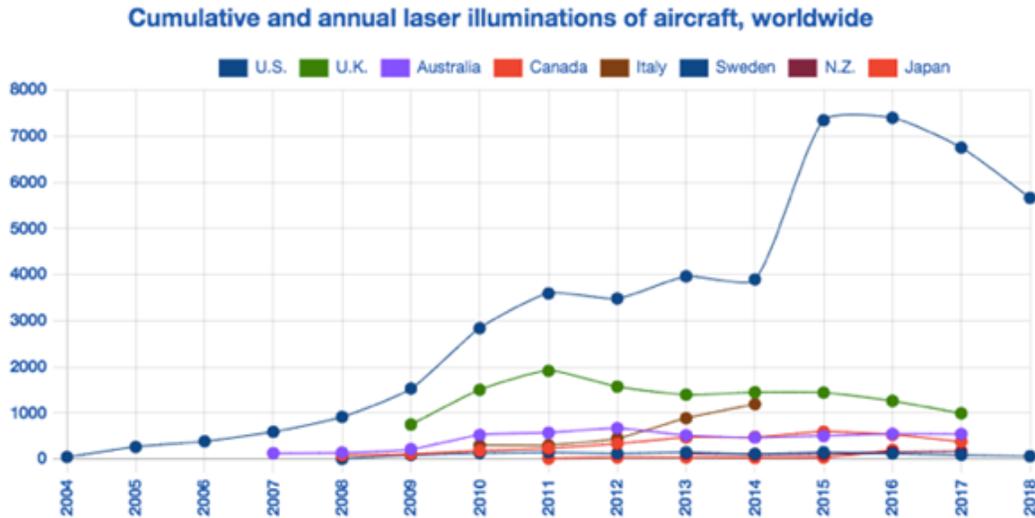
### Lasers Pointers as a Tool to Distract or Flash Blind People

Over the past 15 years, laser pointers have been increasingly used to distract or flash blind people. These acts are commonly committed by criminals, and often against those operating transportation vehicles. Airline pilots are the most common target, but every mode of transportation has been harassed by lasers to include automobiles, ferries, trains, busses, and helicopters.

Although it is believed that the vast majority of these lasing incidents occurred for reasons of mischief, there have been a few instances where VEO groups plotted or employed laser techniques to achieve their own ends. These examples include attempts in Israel to distract automobile drivers to cause them to crash, and Mexican narcotraffickers dazzling U.S. border police to facilitate smuggling operations.

Additionally, protestors worldwide have increasingly employed lasers as a way to deter or degrade security operations. In Greece, Ireland, Israel, Chile, and Hong Kong government officials accused protestors of attempting to blind or wound police and security with lasers. While permanent eye damage is unlikely to be produced by consumer-grade laser pointers, they can be a significant hindrance for the government troops who are on the front lines of protest activity and lack the proper protective equipment.

## Special Assessment: Laser Pointers as Improvised Weapons (cont.)



Worldwide increasing trend of laser illuminations of aircraft

### Forward Outlook

Surprisingly, the global market for laser pointers is not saturated, but rather is still growing and according to one market research study is expected to reach 3.33 billion USD by 2026 (up from 2.05 billion USD in 2018). This demand is being met by much of the western world taking the threat of laser pointers seriously. Countries such as Australia, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK have banned laser pointers that are deemed too powerful for civilian use (usually greater than 5mW). As another indicator of increased awareness of the potential danger laser pointers pose, this past January, the first ever "International Symposium on Laser Pointer Safety," was held in Tokyo. At the Symposium, attendees gathered to discuss how nations can better collaborate on laser regulation. These are meaningful steps to help curb future use. While the threat from laser pens remains low for now, the widespread coverage of their semi-successful employment in recent demonstrations may amplify its use going forward.



Anti-government protesters shine laser pointers at police in Santiago, Chile (11/13/19)

Sources: Studies in Conflict and Terrorism (2008) The Drive (11/14/19) CBC News (8/11/19) PetalPixel (8/26/19) Laser Pointer Safety (11/19) Express (4/30/18)

## Person of Interest / VEO of Interest

**POI: Yazid Sufaat**

**ALIAS:** Yazid bin Sufaat; Yazid Shufaat **ROLE:** Senior leader, biochemist; recruiter **AOR:** Malaysia (MYS); Afghanistan **STATUS:** Home arrest in Kuala Lumpur, MYS **AFFILIATION:** Jemaah Islamiyah (JI); al-Qaeda (AQ); ISIS; and Kumpulan Mujahideen Malaysia **DOB:** 20 Jan 1964 **POB:** Johor Lama, MYS

Yazid Sufaat is a U.S.-educated biochemist and former leader, facilitator, and recruiter for JI. Sufaat graduated from California State University, Sacramento in 1987; he majored in Clinical Laboratory Technology and a minored in Chemistry. After graduation, Sufaat served in the Malaysian Army as a laboratory technician from 1987 to 1992. Since 2001, Sufaat has been imprisoned three times (totaling 12 years) on various terrorism-related charges. Sufaat is currently on house arrest following his November 19, 2019 release from prison.



Sufaat has been involved in terrorist activities since at least the early 1990s. In 1993, Sufaat founded a clinical pathology company, Green Laboratory Medicine (GLM). In the 1990s, GLM was acting as an AQ front company engaging in an attempt to develop biological weapons for AQ. However, Sufaat was unable to develop or acquire the right strain of anthrax that could be dispersed as a weapon. In late 1993, Sufaat became a key member of JI, often hosting meetings at his Kuala Lumpur home.

During meetings in early January 2000, Sufaat hosted members of AQ who went on to participate in the USS Cole attack (in 2000) as well as the September 11, 2001 attacks. In October 2000, Sufaat assisted a Moro Islamic Liberation Front bomb-maker in acquiring four-tons of ammonium nitrate through GLM, allegedly for use in a failed plot against western embassies in Singapore. In 2001, Sufaat spent months attempting to cultivate anthrax for AQ in a laboratory near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Sufaat was subsequently arrested for the first time in December 2001 for sheltering two September 11, 2001 hijackers.

Sufaat has numerous restrictions placed on him since his November 19 release (i.e., house arrest, no internet access, monitoring device, and curfew). However, Sufaat is able to use a phone, travel (with permission) outside of his immediate area, and receive visitors. Although Sufaat is under heavy scrutiny, his biochemistry background and previous VEO involvement will make him a likely target for re-recruitment by terrorist organizations.

**Sources:** LA Times (2/02/02) CNN (10/10/03) TKB (9/30/07) UNSC (10/11/16) Malaymail (10/19/19) The Straits Times (10/23/19) MSN (11/20/19) The Straits Times (11/21/19)

### VEO: Harkat ul-Jihad-i-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B)

**ALIAS:** Islami Dawat-e-Kafela (1999), Islami Gan Andolon Bangladesh (2004) **FOUNDED:** April 1992 **LEADER:** Mohammad Atikullah (arrested) alias Asadullah alias Zulfikar **HEADQUARTERS:** Dhaka, Bangla-

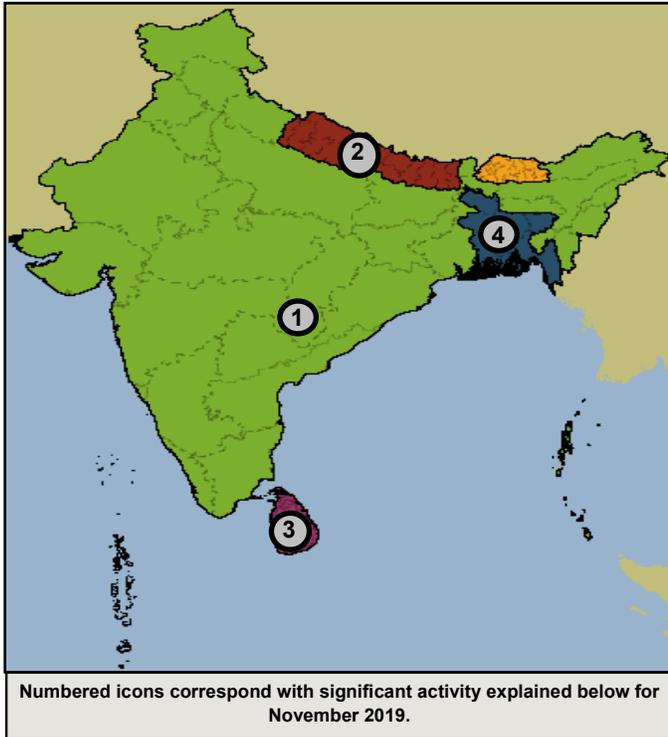
One of Bangladesh's oldest and most violent VEOs resurfaced in October 2019 when the Counter Terrorism Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC) arrested three HUJI-B members, including a leader named Mohammad Atikullah, in Dhaka for attempting to recruit and raise funds. HUJI-B is a branch of Harkat ul-Jihad-i-Islami, which has operated in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India since the 1990s and has roots in the 1980s Soviet-Afghan war. Returning Afghan war jihadists formed HUJI-B in 1992, and sought to establish Islamic rule in Bangladesh. HUJI-B targeted political leaders, intellectuals, and foreigners with IEDs and other violent attacks from the 1990s to mid-2000s. The group was banned in Bangladesh in 2005, after a 2004 coordinated IED attack killed 24 and injured over 300. In 2008, the U.S. listed HUJI-B as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Current membership is unknown, but was purportedly 15,000 at its height, including hundreds of Afghan war returnees.



The current leading figure in HUJI-B is Mohammad Atikullah, a former Afghan-Soviet war-era HUJI-B leader and IED expert, who fled Bangladesh for Dubai in 2006 and returned in March 2019 to recruit families of incarcerated HUJI-B members. Atikullah has links to Rohingya VEOs, and there is reporting that HUJI-B under Atikullah has operated charity front organizations in Rohingya camps. HUJI-B is Taliban-inspired, al-Qaeda-linked, and motivated by the Rohingya refugee crisis and the situation in Kashmir. The group has links with Lashkar-e Tayyiba and Pakistan-based HUJI, and has mostly conducted robberies and smuggling operations in the last decade. However, the latest attempts at organization, fundraising, and recruitment leaves security officials concerned that the VEO may expand. Police are currently searching for at least 30 more HUJI-B operatives in Dhaka and Chittagong.

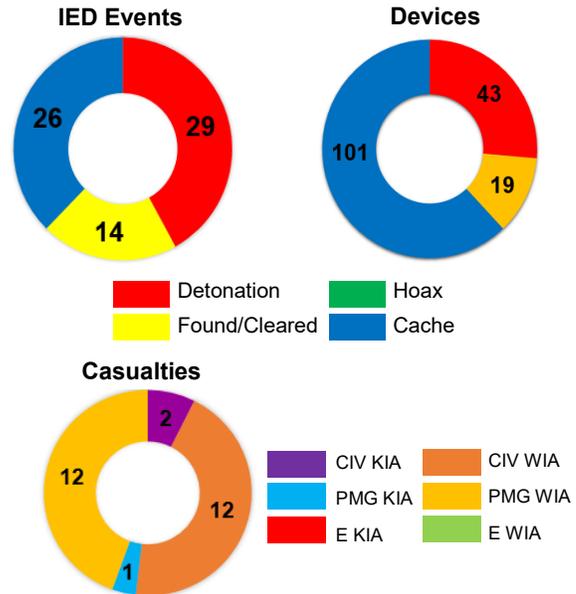
**Sources:** BDNews24 (10/3/19) The Independent (10/4/19) Daily Star (10/5/19) Jamestown (10/23/19)

# South Asia Highlights



## November Activity at a Glance

IED activity increased in November from the previous month (69 versus 52). In India, IED activity increased from 40 events in October to 42 events in November. IED casualties increased from the previous month (18 casualties in October and 23 in November).



## South Asia November Significant Activity

- ① In November, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) released additional details regarding recent sUAS activity in Dantewada District, Chhattisgarh State. The CRPF reported that between 25-27 September 2019, quadcopter sUAS were observed flying over two CRPF camps in Kistaram and Palodi villages. CPRF officials believe that Maoist rebels may have been using the sUAS to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) of CRPF movements and activities. Dantewada District is a known Maoist entrenchment where IED attacks against security forces routinely occur. The CRPF is currently on high alert and now have authority to shoot down any drones operating in prohibited airspace. **NDTV (11/17/19) The Indian Express (11/19/19)**
- ② On 30 November, Nepal held elections for 52 vacant provincial and local seats, with a 70% voter turnout. Although there were several small IED detonations, including four in the Pokhara area of Kaski District, overall the voting went smoothly. Two IED detonations that occurred just a few days before the election did not seem to deter voter turnout. No group claim responsibility for the IED detonations, although police suspect the Netra Bikram Chand splinter group of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist were behind the attacks, since they typically protest elections because they are a banned political party and are prohibited from fielding candidates. **India Today (12/1/19)**
- ③ On 16 November, Gotabaya "Terminator" Rajapaksa won the Sri Lankan presidency, heralding another governing era for the Rajapaksa family. His brother, Mahinda, was first Prime Minister in 2004 then two-term President from 2005 to 2015. Mahinda attempted a third term after changing the constitution to allow the run but lost the race. Gotabaya was his Defense Secretary and led the Sri Lanka Army to defeat the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a bloody and controversial victory in 2009. Gotabaya announced his intention to run for President in the aftermath of the April 2019 bombings in Sri Lanka, and ran on a strong national security platform. **BBC (11/25/19) Foreign Policy (11/19/19)**
- ④ On 27 November, a special anti-terrorism tribunal in Bangladesh sentenced seven members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to death and acquitted one for the July 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery attack in Dhaka which killed 22 people, many of them foreigners. The state response to the surge of jihadist violence over the past several years has relied primarily on direct force via raids and arrests, but security officials are concerned these interdictions could undermine intelligence gathering. Although these tactics have led to hundreds arrested and have likely reduced VEO operational capacity to carry out large-scale attacks like the Holey Artisan Bakery attack, security officials note that the ability of VEOs to recruit, raise funds, and conduct operations remains intact. **News18 (11/27/19) Al Jazeera (11/27/19)**

## Bangladesh

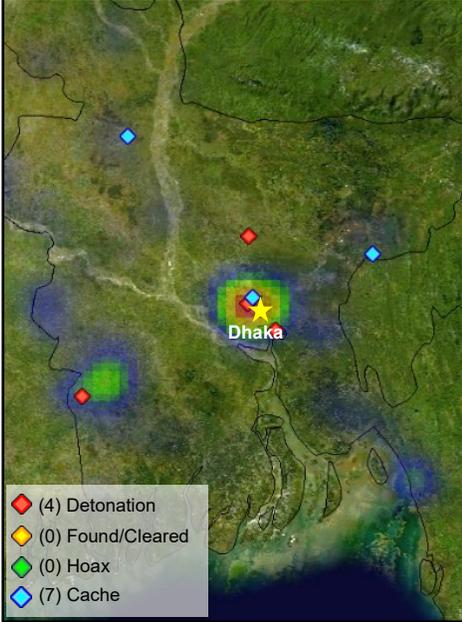
### IED Activity

Total IED Events: 11      Total Casualties: 0

(0) KIA  
 (0) WIA

(0) KIA  
 (0) WIA

(0) KIA  
 (0) WIA



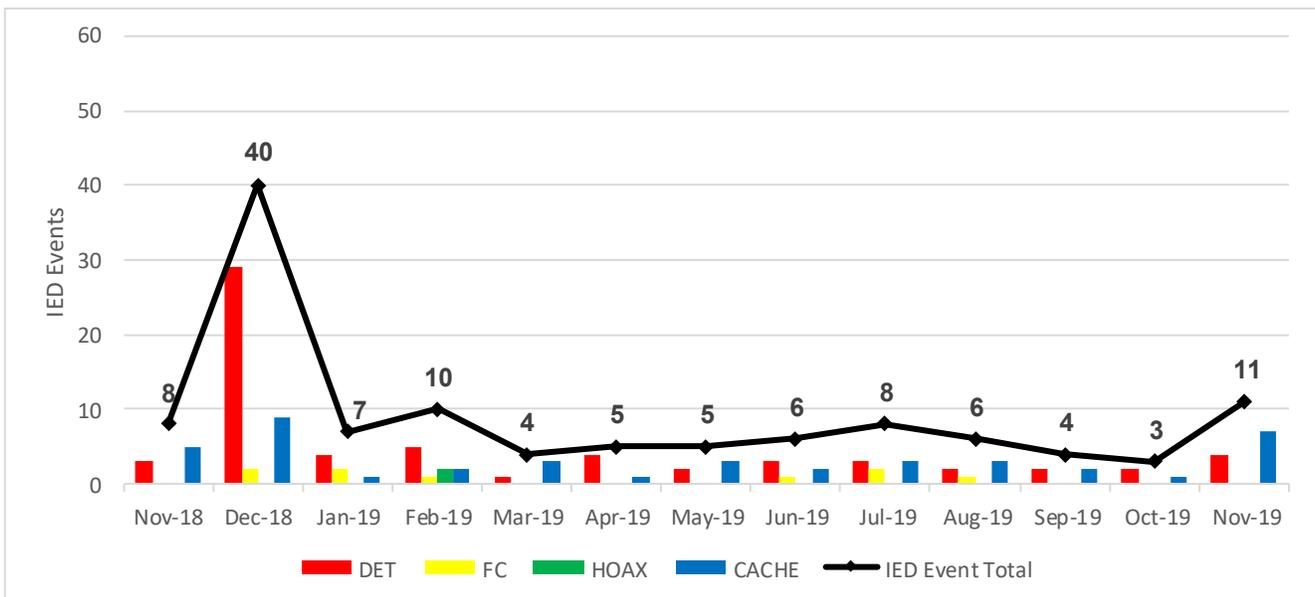
On 23 November, two rival groups detonated an unspecified number of IEDs in Sholoani village, Munshiganj District in a bid for village control. The same groups concurrently engaged in small arms exchanges injuring five people with gunshots. Seventeen others were injured in the attack but it remains unclear how many were injured by IED blasts. **United News Bangladesh (11/2/19)**

On 24 November, Bangladesh's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit arrested three extremists with an IED cache in their possession in Dhaka Metropolitan Area. One of the extremists was identified as Abu Raihan (aka Mahmud, Abdul Hadi), a known Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader. He had reportedly left Bangladesh to establish operations in West Bengal, India. The cache contained 150 commercially produced detonators, 20 explosive gel sticks, one commando knife, and extremist literature. The arrests took place in a neighborhood adjacent to the U.S. Embassy Annex in Dhaka. **Dhaka Tribune (11/25/19) The Daily Star (11/25/19)**

On 24 November, police arrested four unidentified Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members, to include one reported leader, at a bus stand in Mokamtola town, Bogra District with an IED cache in their possession. The confiscated cache contained the following items: one kg of unidentified explosives, eight elbow pipes for IED containers, one pistol, three rounds of ammunition, two machetes, one knife, 10 complete circuit boards, 30 resistors (100K), 15 capacitors (100K), one soldering iron, 10 vero circuit boards (blank), five batteries, 20 bulbs, 15 switches, one circuit meter, one coil ring, 15 lock cables, 15 capacitors (1000K), and 7.7 grams of ball bearings. **Dhaka Tribune (11/24/19)**

The numbers of IED attacks remained low in November due in great part to robust law enforcement emphasis on eliminating VEO activity in the country. There were, by virtue of these increased efforts, two significant IED caches recovered from Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members and several arrests of JMB extremists, to include two known leaders. The 24 November cache that contained components for circuit board assembly and elbow pipes for containers is particularly concerning as it indicates JMB's apparent interest in crafting specialized circuit boards for IED use.

**Bangladesh IED Activity November 2018-November 2019**



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



**India**  
IED Activity

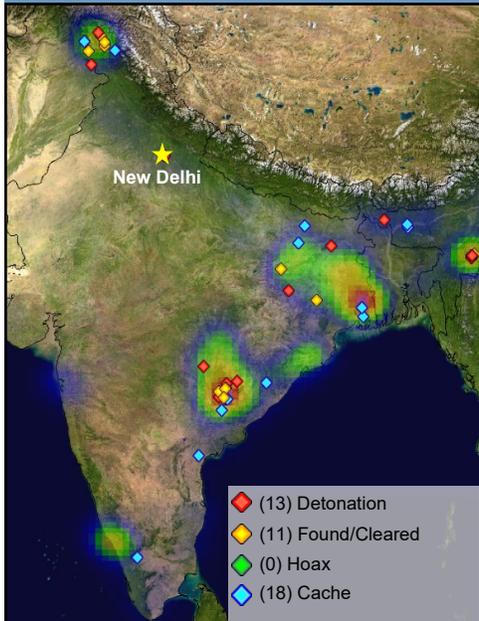
Total IED Events: 42

(2) KIA  
(9) WIA

Total Casualties: 23

(1) KIA  
(11) WIA

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA



On 5 November, suspected People’s Liberation Army-India (PLA) militants detonated an IED targeting police at Thangal Bazar in Imphal District. The detonation injured five police officers and one civilian. According to reporting, the IED was a powerful explosive device planted in a very crowded public area. **News 18 (11/5/2019) India Today (11/5/2019)**

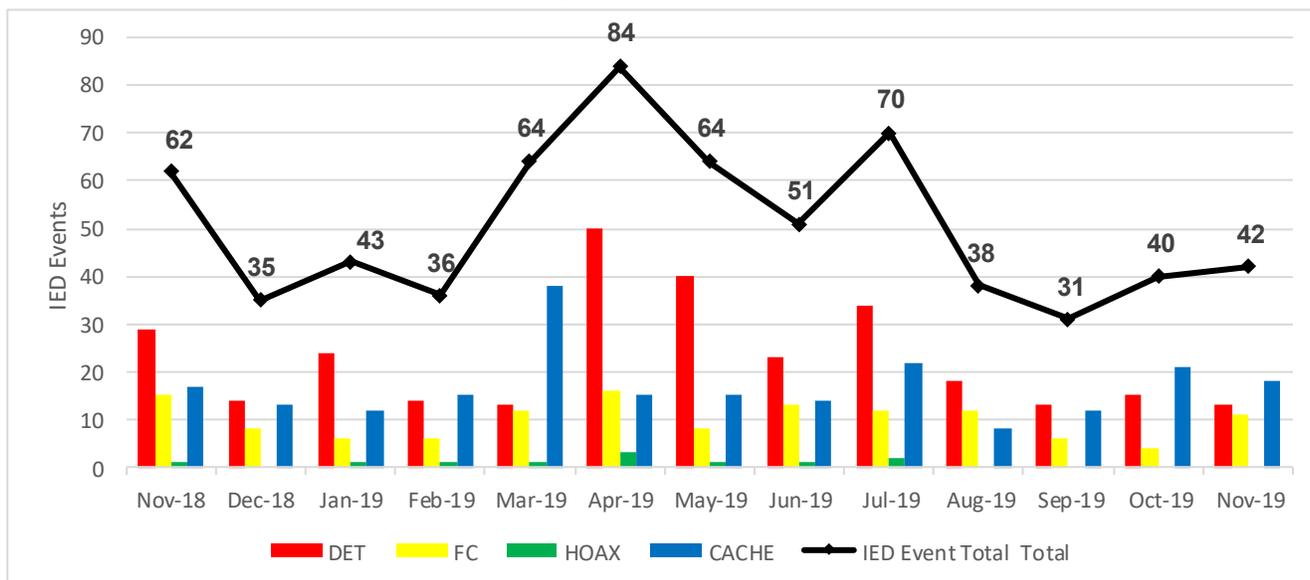
On 24 November, security forces recovered an IED cache during an operation at Madhuban Lodge in Goalpara District resulting in three detained suspected Islamic State inspired terrorists. According to media reports, the suspects planned to detonate the IED at a Raas Mela festival in Goalpara District using the attack as a testbed for future attacks. The suspects were reportedly self-radicalized and learned how to construct IEDs using social media. Following the initial cache recovery and upon acquiring addition information from the detained suspects, police raided the residence of two of the detained suspects and recovered a second IED cache. **India Today (11/25/2019) The Pioneer (11/26/2019) NDTV (11/26/2019)**

On 30 November, a team of C60 commandos encountered a camp of Maoist rebels during a search operation in Kawande Village, Gadchiroli District. Upon reaching the camp, Maoist rebels detonated an IED targeting the C60 commandos. However, the commandos successfully avoided the blast. Following the detonation, Maoist rebels and police engaged in a gunfire exchange resulting in two rebels killed. Upon the conclusion of the confrontation, police recovered an IED cache from the rebel’s camp. **India Express (11/30/2019)**

IED levels remained relatively stable this month compared to October. However, IED activity increased in Jammu & Kashmir and the Red Corridor region. In Chhattisgarh, there was an increase in Maoist attacks against security forces, including one VOIED detonation that resulted in deaths of two civilian construction workers. In Manipur, a series of IED detonation events contributed to India’s substantial upswing in IED-related casualty rates in November.

In Jammu & Kashmir, insurgents ramped up IED attacks targeting security forces along the Line of Control. Following the revocation of Article 370 in August, there has been a heavy security presence in the region to control civil unrest. The likelihood of a large-scale IED attack in the coming months is likely as tensions continue

India IED Activity November 2018-November 2019



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



**Nepal**  
IED Activity

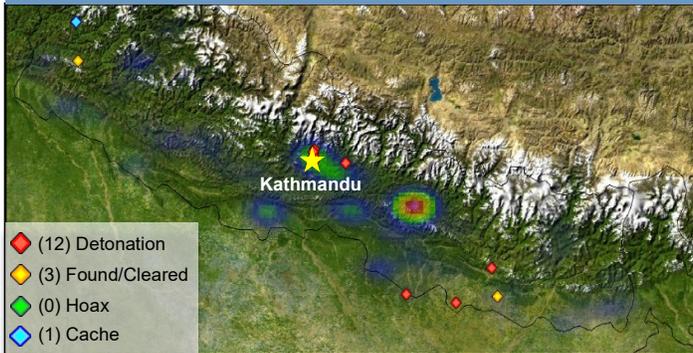
Total IED Events: 16

(0) KIA  
(3) WIA

Total Casualties: 4

(0) KIA  
(1) WIA

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA



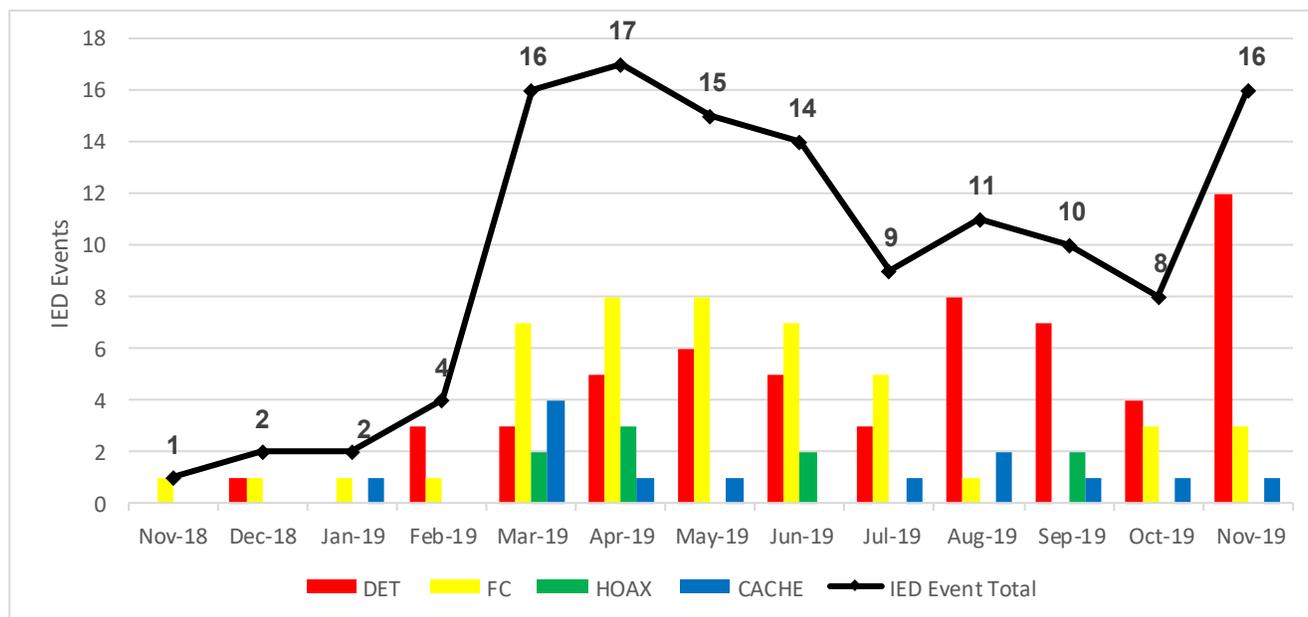
On 12 November, two perpetrators threw an IED at a police sentry post in Rautahat District on the India-Nepal border injuring one policeman. The suspects, riding motorcycles, immediately fled toward the Indian border state of Bihar where one suspect was arrested and the other escaped. Police recovered an Indian-registered motorcycle during the operation. **The Himalayan Times (11/13/19) Rising Nepal Daily (11/21/19) Kathmandu Post (11/21/19)**

On 25 November, an IED placed in the engine compartment of a parked private vehicle belonging to a local government official detonated in the Gharipata neighborhood of Pokhara, Kaski District. The attack occurred at the official's residence. There were no injuries reported, only property damage. Media reports suggest the Netra Bikram Chand Maoist splinter group is responsible for the bombing. **Khabarhub (11/24/19) South Asians News Portal (11/24/19)**

On 27 November, an IED detonated during a political rally in Pokhara, Kaski District, injuring three and damaging three vehicles. No arrests have been reported to date. Local elections took place on 30 November in many locations in Nepal, generating violence in some regions. **Setopati (11/27/19) Himalayan Times (11/27/19) Khabarhub (11/27/19)**

IED events increased significantly in Nepal during November. This is due in large part to local elections which occurred on 30 November. Much of the violence is unofficially attributed to CPN-M Maoist splinter group leader, Nitra Bikram "Biplav" Chand. Of 16 total IED events in November, eight were on 30 November at election polling stations across three districts. None of the IEDs were very potent, with no reported injuries or halts to the polling process. Nepal security forces have arrested a number of Chand party leaders in possession of basic firearms, but IEDs used in the recent attacks remain relatively unsophisticated (often using small pressure cookers) with the attacks being characterized as uncoordinated and small in scale.

Nepal IED Activity November 2018-November 2019



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



# Sri Lanka IED Activity

Total IED Events: 2

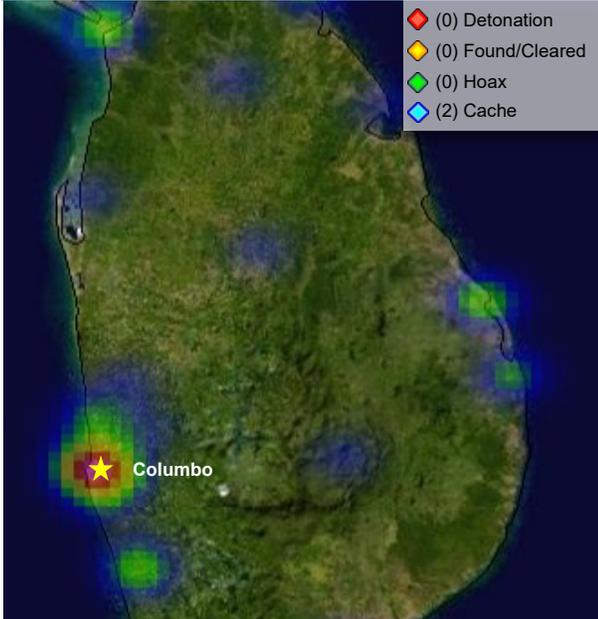
Total Casualties: 0

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA

- ◆ (0) Detonation
- ◆ (0) Found/Cleared
- ◆ (0) Hoax
- ◆ (2) Cache

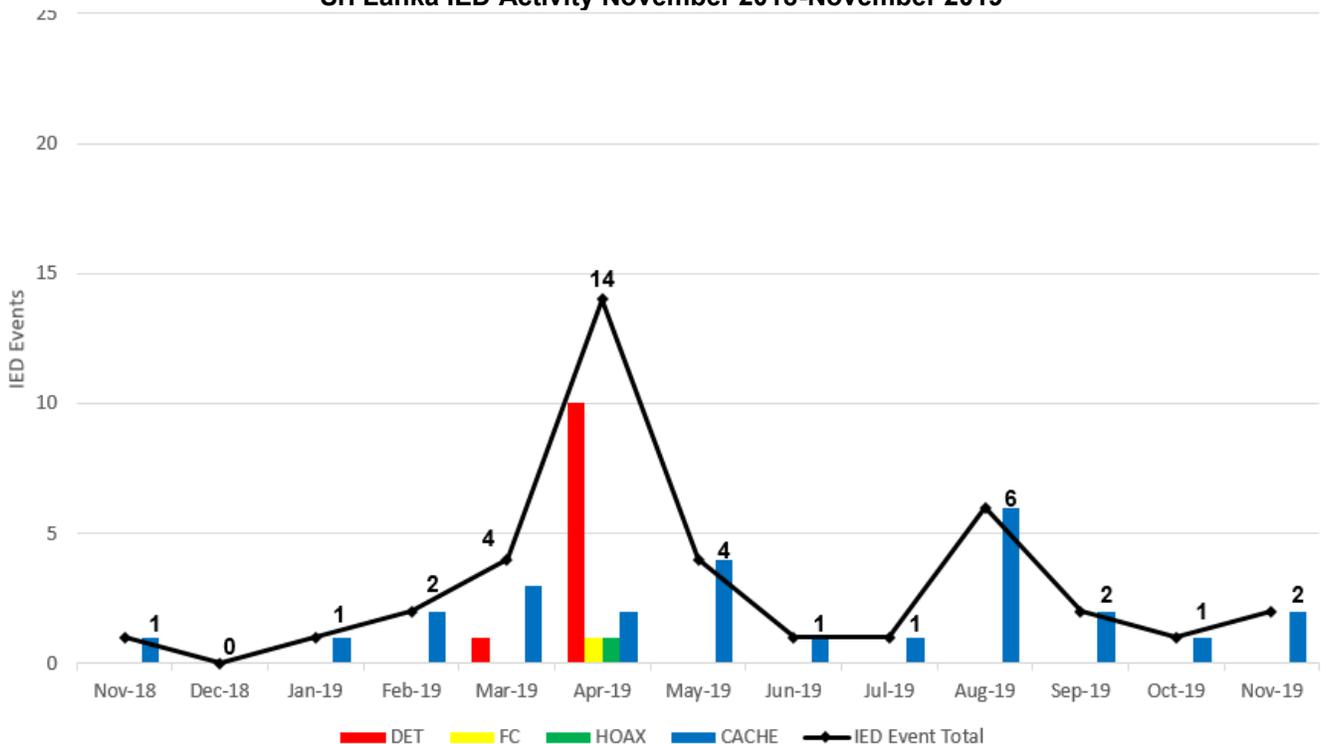


On 20 November, police arrested a Tamil man with 52 kg of unknown explosive material in Puthukudiruppu town, Mullaitivu District. The man reportedly compiled the cache from abandoned explosive devices with the intent of selling the material to local fishermen to use for “blast fishing”, a common practice in Sri Lanka’s northern Tamil districts. **Daily News (11/21/19)**

On 28 November, police arrested a man in Gurunagar, Jaffna District for possession of two kg of trinitrotoluene, four detonators, and other unidentified explosive material. The cache was reportedly for “blast fishing”. This event is similar to the 20 November explosive cache event in Mullaitivu District. **Hiru News (11/28/19) Daily News (11/29/19) Times Online (11/29/19)**

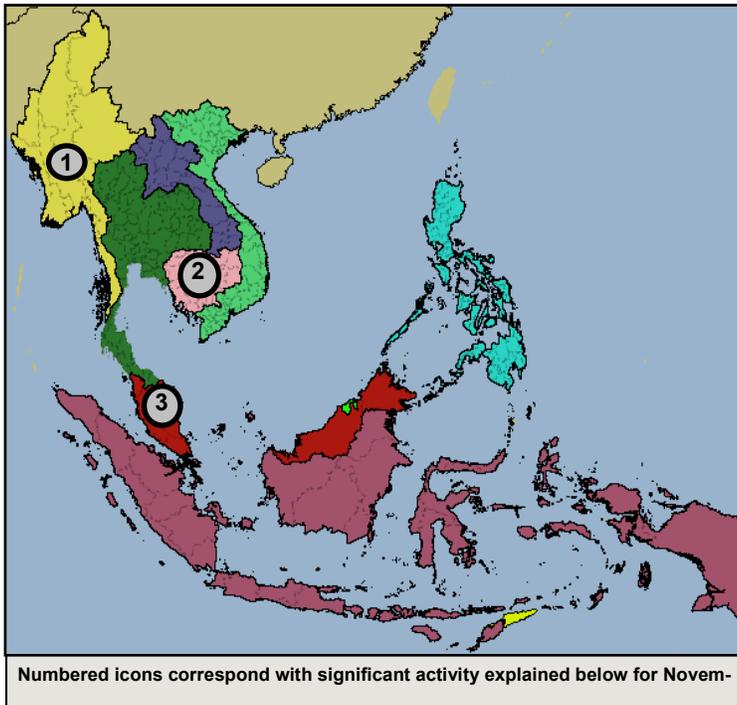
There was minimal IED related activity during the month of November in Sri Lanka. Law enforcement agencies in the country have made major sweeps in tracking and arresting VEOs since the April 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed 290 people. Additionally, there has been an increase in Sri Lankan police crack-downs on explosives commonly used in “blast fishing” or “dynamite fishing”. The practice of using explosives to stun or kill schools of fish for easy collection has been a common practice in Sri Lanka for decades. Historically, there was little to no enforcement of the illegal activity.

Sri Lanka IED Activity November 2018-November 2019



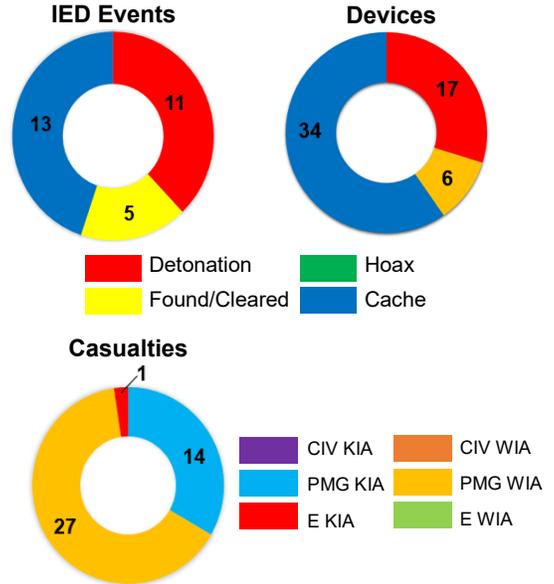
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

# Southeast Asia Highlights



## November Activity at a Glance

IED activity increased in November from the previous month (28 versus 25). In the Philippines, IED activity increased from 14 events in October to 20 events in November. Due to this increase, overall IED casualties increased from the previous month (11 casualties in October and 42 in November).



### Southeast Asia November Significant Activity

- ① On 22 November, military officials recovered a large weapons cache from a Ta'ang National Liberation Army camp after military forces and rebels engaged in a fire fight in Namhsan Township, Shan State. The cache contained 80 sacks of explosives, 39 M-22 assault rifles, 69 M-21 assault rifles, nine M-16 assault rifles, 29 medium machine guns 40,000 rounds of ammunition, 16 RPGs-7s, five RPG-2s, two 12 volt spotlights, 77 bags of TNLA uniforms, flags, military equipment, and a Chinese FN-6 man portable air defense system. **Asia Times (11/28/19) Irrawaddy (11/25/19)**
- ② On 17 November, an IED detonated prematurely in O'Raing, Mondulkiri while an individual was packing 30 firecrackers into a canister. The detonation killed the individual. The IED was intended to be used for illegal fish blasting. **Phnom Penh Post (11/20/19)**
- ③ On 21 November, convicted terrorist Yazid Sufaat (see Person of Interest (POI)) was released from Sim-pang Renggam Prison after serving two years - the maximum period allowed - under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Malaysia's Prevention of Terrorism Board met earlier this month to discuss the matter and conferred his release. Yazid Sufaat is a former army captain and a U.S.-trained biochemist who once attempted to produce weapons of mass destruction for al-Qaeda. His recent imprisonment was due to implication in a foiled bombing plot in October 2000 in Singapore. **The Straits Times (11/21/19)**

## Philippines

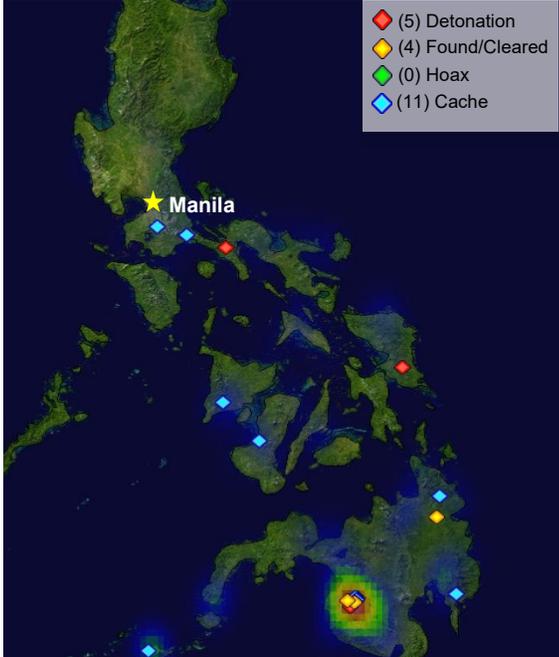
### IED Activity

Total IED Events: 20      Total Casualties: 29

(0) KIA  
 (0) WIA

(7) KIA  
 (22) WIA

(0) KIA  
 (0) WIA



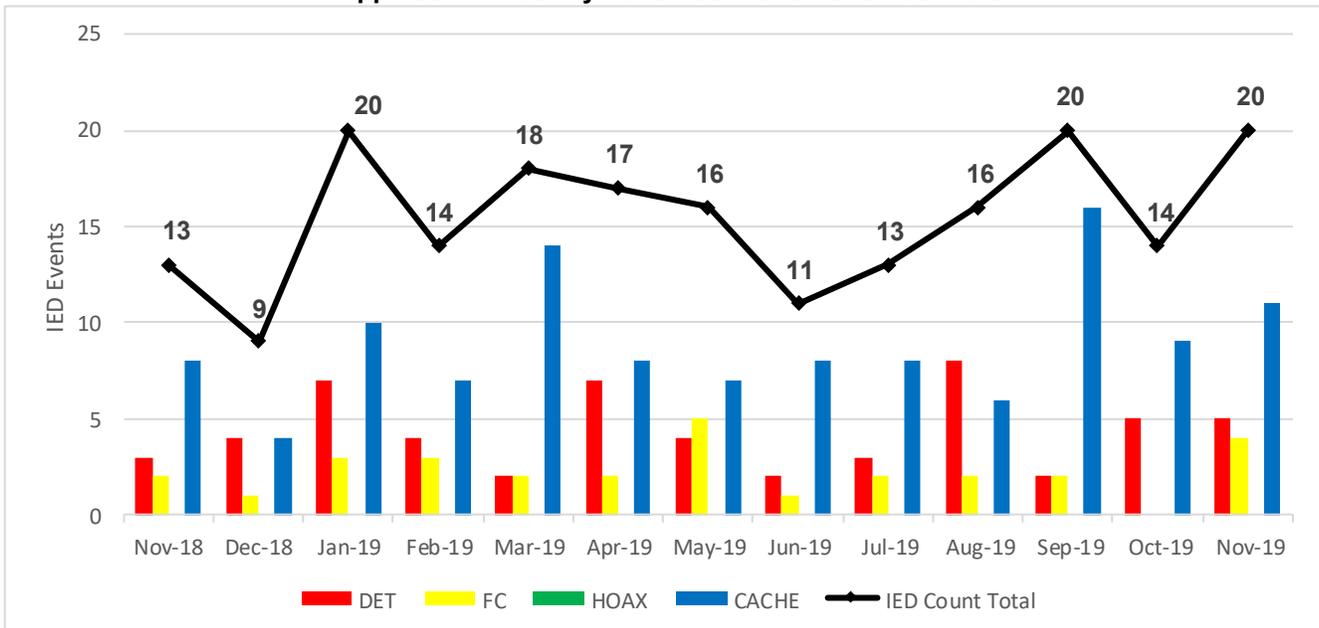
On 24 November, members of the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion seized a cache of IEDs and IED material from a Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and Dawlah Islamiya bomb making facility in Barangay Inaladan, Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao Province. The cache contained two IEDs constructed with four-liter jetmatic water pumps with one made from a plastic bottle containing ammonium nitrate and iron nails. **Philippine News Agency (11/24/19) Mindanao Examiner (11/24/19)**

On 27 November, security forces seized a cache of IEDs while pursuing BIFF in Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao Province. The cache contained four claymore-style IEDs, one IED made from a jetmatic water pump, and other IED components. During concurrent operations, security forces managed to find and clear a RCIED in the nearby area. The RCIED consisted of an 81mm mortar with a cell phone attached. **Philippine News Agency (11/27/19)**

On 28 November, the 3rd EOD Team and 90th Infantry Battalion found and cleared a RCIED near Guindulungan, Maguindanao following a tip from a concerned civilian. The RCIED was described as an 81mm mortar attached to a cellphone and wrapped in a yellow sack. **Philippine News Agency (11/28/19)**

Total IED activity increased to 20 events this month, primarily due to the increased counterterrorism operations in the “SPMS BOX”, a traditional BIFF stronghold which comprise four towns in Maguindanao: Shariff Aguak, Pagatin (Datu Saudi Ampatuan), Mamasapano, and Shariff Saydona. Military operations in the Maguindanao region increased toward the end of the month, resulting in multiple find and clear and cache events. The most notable trend tied to the BIFF and Dawlah Islamiyah militants was the 81mm Mortar RCIEDs found in the vicinity of hostile strongholds, and the jetmatic pump components found in caches. It is too early to assess the jetmatic pump IEDs as a new TTP, but could indicate a surplus of supplies or parts in the area. The successful deterrence of the Abu Sayyaf (ASG) suicide attack on 5 November (see Incident Highlight) led to a cache find of similar pipe bombs found in the suicide vests. This event also highlights the recent neutralization of the Islamic State bomb maker and suicide bomb trainer, Talha Jumsa (Abu Talha) (see SIGACTS).

Philippines IED Activity November 2018-November 2019



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



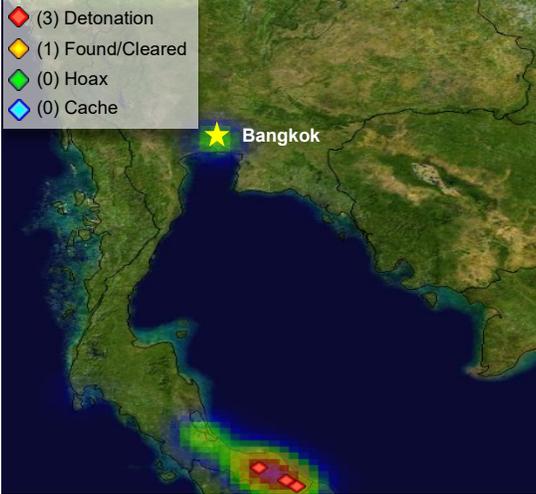
## Thailand IED Activity

Total IED Events: 4

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA

Total Casualties: 3

(0) KIA  
(3) WIA



On 1 November, Rangers responding to small arms fire attack discovered a 30kg IED on the side of the road in Sai Buri, Pattani. **Bangkok Post (11/1/19)**

On 20 November, a 10kg IED hidden in a steel box detonated at a roadblock in Resak, Narathiwat. The blast injured three policemen. **Edge Markets (11/20/19)**

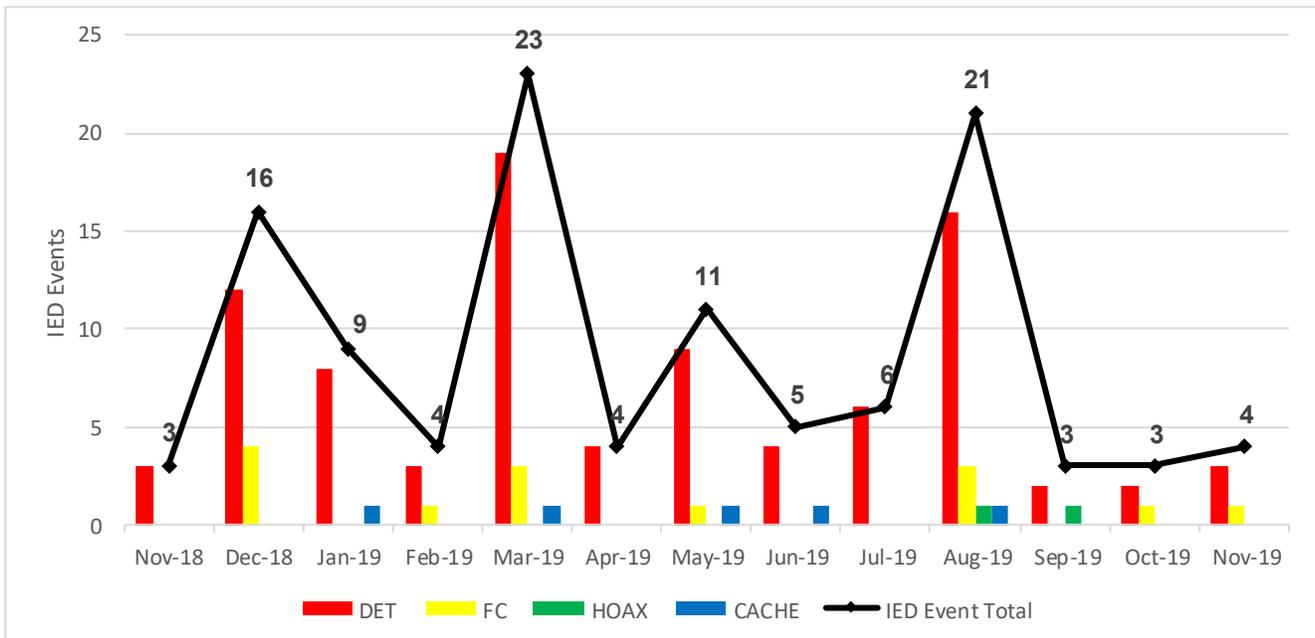
On 27 November, suspected insurgents detonated an IED on a railway between Sungai Padi and To Deng train stations in Sungai Padi, Narathiwat. Damaging rail infrastructure is a common TTP used by the southern Thai insurgency. **Bangkok Post (11/27/19)**

IED activity in Thailand increased from two events in October to five events in November. Most significant this month was the complex attack on 5 November, perpetrated by approximately 40 Barisan Revolusi Nasional insurgents targeting two checkpoints with small arms fire, ultimately killing 15 defense volunteers. The attackers used an unspecified number of improvised hand grenades, scattered nails on the roads and burned tires to help escape into a nearby rubber plantation. One IED detonation damaged a utility pole.

Military officials were able to arrest seven individuals in connection with the attack. According to media sources, two insurgent cells in Yala and Pattani (led by three brothers) carried out the attacks. The suspects also acted on orders by Hubaidila Romueli, leader of an insurgent network in Yaha and Kabang districts in Yala, and Amat Tuenga who leads a cell in Muang. Although the motive has not been determined, retaliation for the extrajudicial killings of two insurgents the week prior in Sai Bui, Pattani is a likely cause. Authorities have expressed concern over a new generation of Southern Thai Insurgents (STI) becoming more effective in terms of lethality due to frustration with the stalled peace talks.

IED activity is likely to increase near the end of December leading up to New Year's celebrations. This has been a trend over the last few years. In December 2018, southern Thailand experienced 12 detonations and four found and cleared events. Spikes in violence to create public unrest during holiday observations is a common STI TTP.

Thailand IED Activity November 2018-November 2019



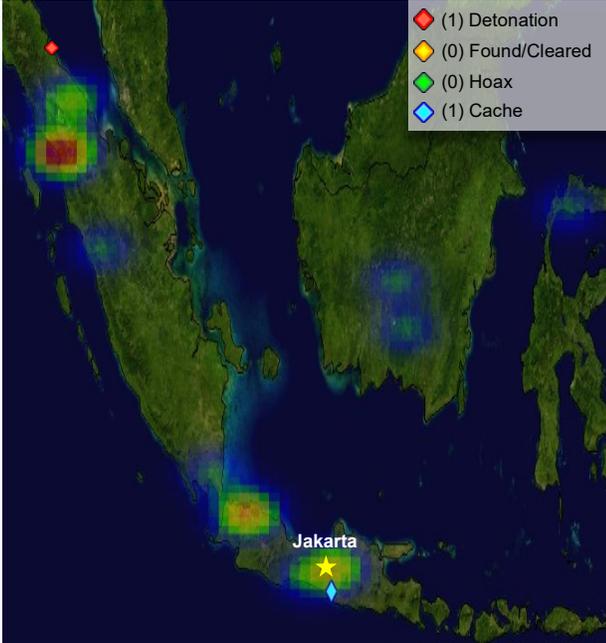
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.



**Indonesia**  
IED Activity

Total IED Events: 2      Total Casualties: 7

 (0) KIA	 (0) KIA	 (1) KIA
 (0) WIA	 (6) WIA	 (0) WIA

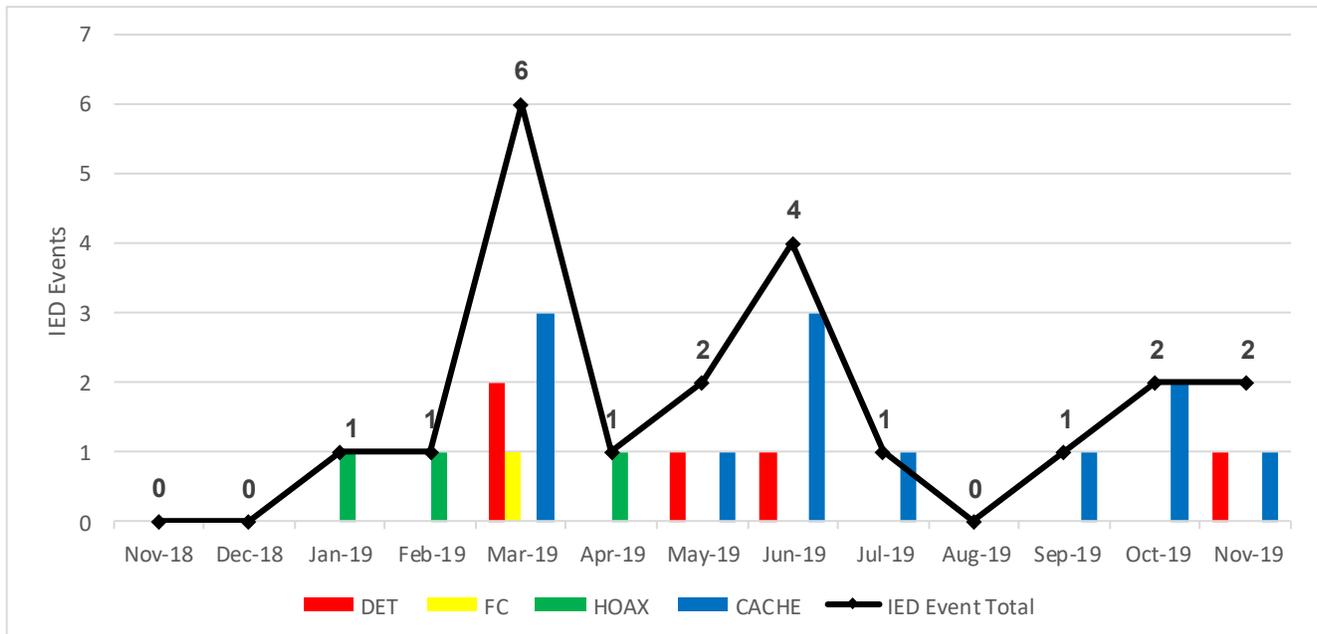


On 13 November, a suicide bomber detonated a personnel borne IED (PBIED) at the Medan Polrestabes (metropolitan city police) Headquarters killing the bomber and injuring six others. Preliminary investigations suggested the bomb was carried by two people wearing jackets advertising an online hail-ride bike system. Further investigation revealed a closed circuit television (CCTV) video of the suicide bomber walking alone at a security checkpoint near the police headquarters building prior to detonating the PBIED. Media reports name Rab-bial Muslim Nasution, a 24-year old college student as the bomber. There are conflicting media reports indicating he acted as a "lone wolf" while other reports link him to Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD). The investigation is ongoing. **Jakarta Post (11/13/19)** **VOA News (11/13/19)** **Antara News Online (11/19/19)**

On 20 November, Detachment 88 conducted a raid on a residence in Ngunut, Gunungkidul Regency, and recovered a cache of explosives along with a number of partially assembled items used for bomb making. Officers arrested Markino, alias Abu Umar, 47, as the suspected bomb maker and known occupant of the residence. For security reasons, officers were forced to detonate the explosives in the back garden of Abu Umar's house.

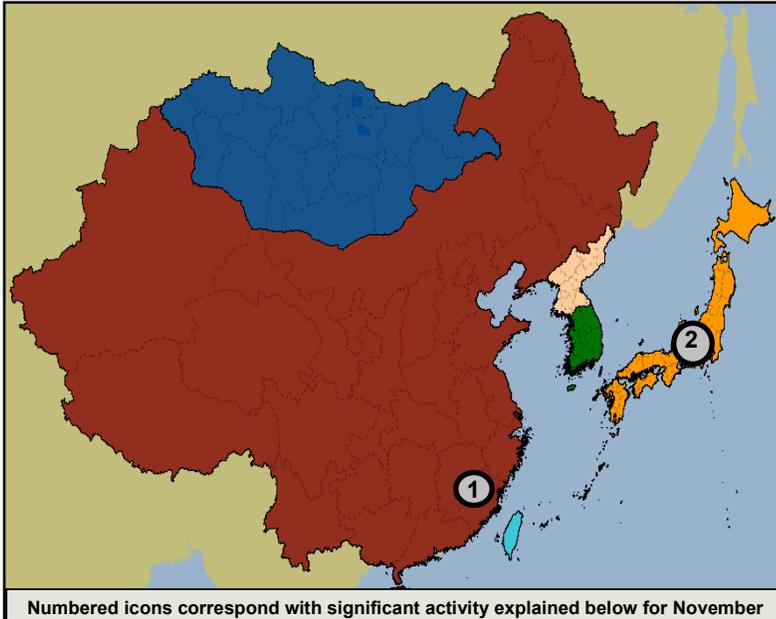
IED activity remained consistent in November with one detonation event involving a suicide bomber and one cache recovery event. Approximately 45 suspects in seven provinces reportedly were arrested following the suicide bombing in Medan on Sumatra Island this month. Police stations continue to be highly desirable targets for radical and extremist groups operating in Indonesia. Authorities continue countrywide coordinated efforts with a focus on preventive measures in addition to using law enforcement to combat terrorism and extremism.

Indonesia IED Activity November 2018-November 2019



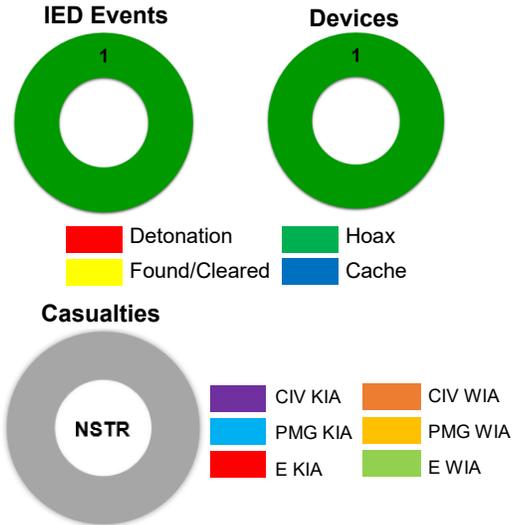
IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

# Northeast Asia Highlights



## November Activity at a Glance

There was one hoax IED event in Northeast Asia this month compared to three in October. The one event occurred within the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and was related to the ongoing protest activity.



### Northeast Asia November Significant Activity

- ① Sri Lanka's main airport has deployed two robot inspection dogs donated by China. The robots detect explosives and narcotics. The People's Republic of China has donated more than \$4 million (USD) worth of equipment to Sri Lanka in the wake of the 21 April terror attacks. Beijing seeks closer ties and the protection of Hambantota, the port and 15,000 acre area handed to China for 99 years as a result of debt negotiations between Beijing and Colombo. **Xinhua Net (11/3/19)**
- ② Throughout the Pacific, Japan has quietly challenged Chinese investment and infrastructure projects with their own funds. While Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative has drawn the media attention, Japan has actually deployed more funds than China in financing infrastructure and development throughout the Asia Pacific. Non-lethal security assistance in Sri Lanka is no exception. In October, Japan added another \$1.2 million (USD) to the humanitarian demining fund that it has operated jointly with Sri Lanka since 2003. To date, Japan has provided \$35 million (USD) in security assistance funding to the Sri Lankan demining effort. **Relief Web (10/18/19)**



## China

### IED Activity

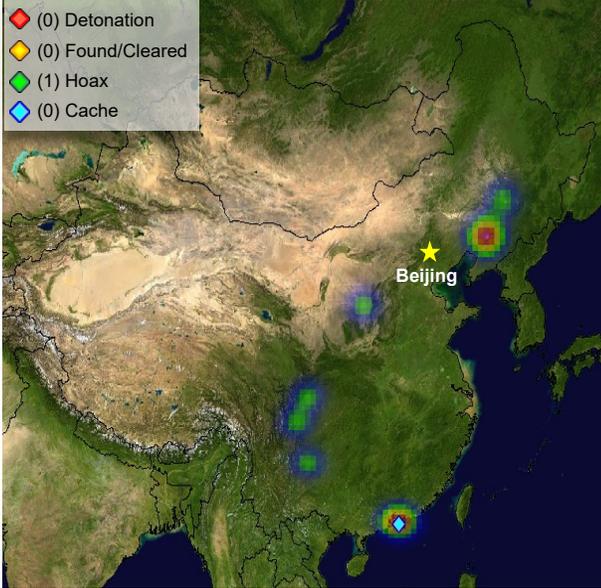
Total IED Events: 1

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA

Total Casualties: 0

(0) KIA  
(0) WIA

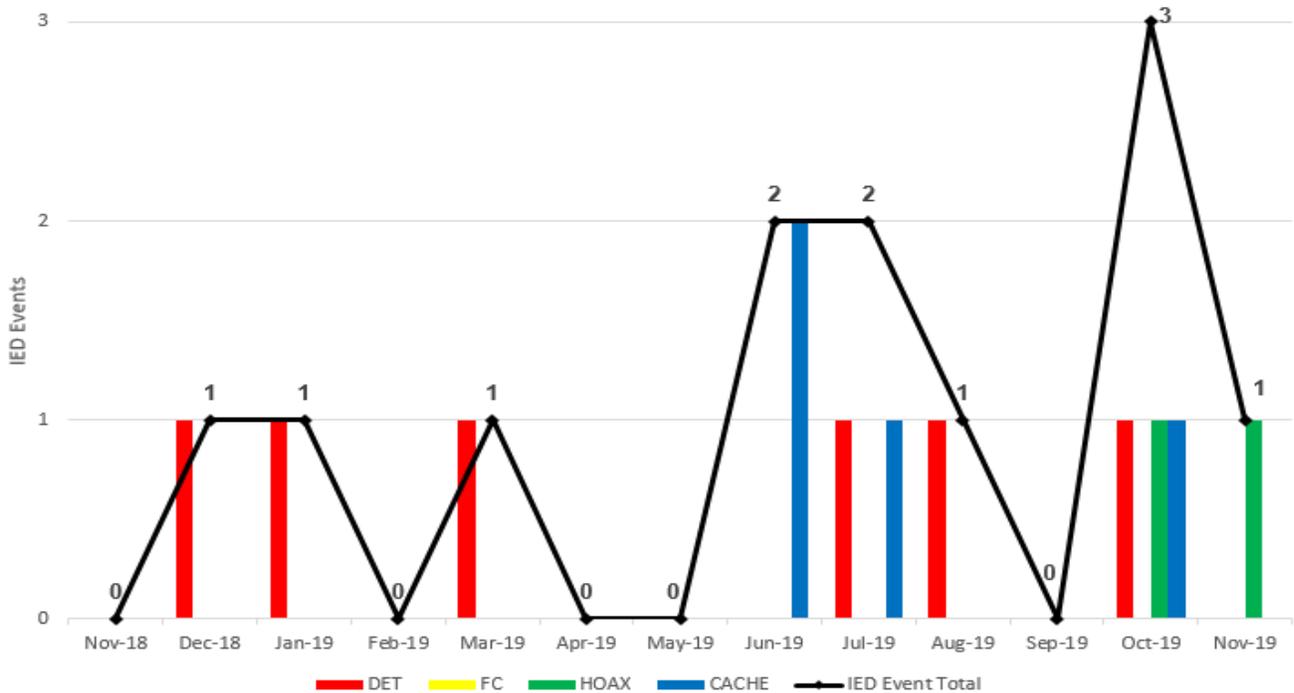
- ◆ (0) Detonation
- ◆ (0) Found/Cleared
- ◆ (1) Hoax
- ◆ (0) Cache



On 17 November, at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon Peninsula, HK SAR, photos appeared on social media of blue gas canisters with bolts attached to the outside with electrical tape. Protestors may have been attempting to suggest to police that explosives were emplaced in the entrances of the university. From the photos on social media, there did not appear to be anything on the device to make it functional. Police forces have since cleared HK Polytechnic University with no detonations reported. **CNN (11/17/19)**

IED for the month of November consisted of one hoax event. Protests in Hong Kong continued throughout the month.

China IED Activity November 2018-November 2019



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

# Appendix A

## South Asia

Bangladesh		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	12	0	0	24	36
	Year	227	24	2	316	569
Event Count	Month	4	0	0	7	11
	Year	227	24	2	316	569

India		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	19	16	0	58	93
	Year	565	518	16	1097	2196
Event Count	Month	13	11	0	18	42
	Year	330	135	11	238	714

Nepal		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	12	3	0	19	34
	Year	80	49	10	29	168
Event Count	Month	12	3	0	1	16
	Year	12	3	0	1	16

Sri Lanka		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	16	1	1	34	52
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	11	1	1	26	39

## Southeast Asia

Philippines		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	10	5	0	34	49
	Year	66	72	1	182	321
Event Count	Month	5	4	0	11	20
	Year	59	33	1	123	216

Thailand		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	4	1	0	0	5
	Year	111	39	3	1	154
Event Count	Month	3	1	0	0	4
	Year	92	14	2	5	113

Burma		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	0	0	0	2
	Year	77	24	5	53	159
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	1	2
	Year	45	12	2	11	70

Indonesia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	5	3	3	66	77
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	1	2
	Year	5	1	3	14	23

# Appendix A

## Southeast Asia Cont.

Malaysia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	0	1	8	14
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	0	1	3	9

Vietnam		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	2	10	0	0	12
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	2	1	0	0	3

## Northeast Asia

China		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	6	0	3	1	10
Event Count	Month	0	0	1	0	1
	Year	6	0	3	6	15

Japan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	0	1
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	1	2

South Korea		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	1	0	1
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	1	0	1

Taiwan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	1	2
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	1	2

# 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.

- 16 NOV (LKA):** Presidential Elections
- 21 NOV 2006 (NPL):** Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord ending the civil war
- 23 NOV 2009 (PHL):** Maguindanao Massacre
- 26 NOV 2008 (IND):** Mumbai attack
- 6 DEC 1992 (IND):** Babri Masjid Mosque Destruction
- 14 DEC (IND):** ULFA Revenge Day
- 16 DEC (BNG):** Victory Day
- 22 DEC (IND):** CPI-M Military Wing Anniversary
- 25 DEC (IND):** Christmas Attack Anniversary
- 29 DEC (PHL):** Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) anniversary
- 30 DEC 2018 (BNG):** National Elections
- 4 JAN (BUR):** Independence Day
- 26 JAN (IND):** Republic Day



BNG– Bangladesh  
 BUR—Burma  
 IND – India  
 LKA– Sri Lanka  
 NPL—Nepal  
 PHL – Philippines

Feedback welcome! Click here: [Survey](#)

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>November 2019</b>	27 <b>IND</b>	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 <b>LKA</b>
	17	18	19	20	21 <b>NPL</b>	22	23 <b>PHL</b>
	24	25	26 <b>IND</b>	27	28	29	30
	<b>December 2019</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>IND</b>
8		9	10	11	12	13	14 <b>IND</b>
15		16 <b>BNG</b>	17	18	19	20	21
22 <b>IND</b>		23	24	25 <b>IND</b>	26	27	28
<b>January 2020</b>	29 <b>PHL</b>	30 <b>BNG</b>	31	1	2	3	4 <b>BUR</b>
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26 <b>IND</b>	27	28	29	30	31	1

# 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 (C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub>)  
 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 – Jamathej 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 – Jamaah Ansharout Tauhid  
 JI – Jamaah Islamiya  
 POLRI – Indonesian National Police

### Other Groups/Organizations

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