



# Weekly Global Explosive Incident Brief

International Guild of Master Bomb Technicians

## Explosive Incident Brief Week of 9-15 March 2026

**Period:** Monday 9 March 2026 – Sunday 15 March 2026

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED // OSINT

**Prepared for:** International Guild of Master Bomb Technicians

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*NOTE ON SCOPE: The reporting period coincides with the ongoing US-Israeli military campaign against Iran and Iranian-backed forces (commenced 28 February 2026). Conventional munitions employment — airstrikes, ballistic missiles, loitering munitions — is excluded from incident cards. Iranian drone and missile barrages across Iraq, the Gulf states, and Jordan during 9–12 March are addressed in the Appendix with IED/asymmetric implications. Only IED, improvised explosive, criminal explosive, and ERW incidents are carded.*

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### EXECUTIVE SNAPSHOT

- **Coordinated antisemitic explosive wave across Western Europe** was the defining event of the week. Five attacks against Jewish institutions in Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands (two), and a contested claim in Greece occurred between 9 and 14 March. A previously unknown Shia-aligned group, Ashab Al Yamin (also styling itself the Islamic Movement of the Companions of the Right), claimed four of the five attacks. Norwegian police arrested three brothers with Iraqi heritage and investigated potential Iranian state direction of the Oslo US Embassy bombing.
- **Pakistan's KPK province sustained its most lethal single IED strike** of 2026 thus far. Seven police officers, including a Station House Officer, were killed on 13 March in Lakki Marwat when TTP operatives emplaced a roadside IED targeting a routine patrol van.

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- **ISIS-West Africa escalated its Ramadan offensive in the Lake Chad Basin.** A confirmed IED attack destroyed a bridge between Diffa and Doutchi in Niger (~11–12 March, 6 killed). Coordinated ISWAP ground assaults on five Nigerian Army forward operating bases in Borno State (9 March) included at least one IED strike on a military vehicle.
- **Syria's ERW legacy claimed two lives.** Syrian Internal Security Forces personnel were killed on 14 March by legacy mines in Daraa, confirming that post-conflict UXO clearance remains an active casualty risk in southern Syria.
- **An ISIS-inspired TATP attack was narrowly averted in New York City.** Two Pennsylvania teenagers, acting in support of ISIS, threw TATP-filled devices at a protest crowd outside Gracie Mansion on 7 March. Neither detonated. Charges were announced 9 March. The plot represents the first confirmed US domestic ISIS-linked IED employment in the TATP signature.
- **The Nigerian Army destroyed an IPOB/ESN IED factory in Imo State** on 11–13 March, recovering pipe components, priming materials, and electrical initiator parts along a road sealed for three years. Attribution and imagery authenticity are disputed.
- **Burkina Faso's JNIM-linked ambush** (6 March, first reports 9 March) killed at least 30 police from a Mobile Intervention Unit detachment in eastern Fada N'Gourma, continuing the Sahel's trajectory as the world's primary IED-terrorism casualty zone.
- **The broader European pattern — Oslo, Liège, Rotterdam, Amsterdam — suggests a coordinated operational cell** or a highly organized inspiration network using low-signature improvised devices against soft Jewish and diplomatic targets. All events occurred within six days. Perpetrators used mopeds and ground-placed devices, avoiding suicide methods. This mirrors Hezbollah and IRGC proxy tradecraft in Europe documented in prior years.

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## INCIDENT LEDGER

#	Country	City/Area	Category	Type	Device	Target	Casualties	Confidence
1	Norway	Oslo	Terror/ State-Sponsored	Detonation	IED (improvised, ground-placed)	US Embassy	0 KIA / 0 WIA	Confirmed
2	Belgium	Liège	Terror/ State-Sponsored	Detonation	IED/explosive charge	Synagogue	0 KIA / 0 WIA	Confirmed
3	Netherlands	Rotterdam	Terror/ Antisemitic	Detonation + Arson	Incendiary-explosive device	Synagogue	0 KIA / 0 WIA	Confirmed
4	Netherlands	Amsterdam	Terror/ Antisemitic	Detonation	IED (ground-placed)	Jewish school	0 KIA / 0 WIA	Confirmed
5	USA	New York City, NY	Terror/ ISIS-inspired	Attempted Detonation	TATP-filled devices (x2)	Protest crowd / Gracie Mansion	0 KIA / 0 WIA	Confirmed
6	Pakistan	Lakki Marwat, KPK	Terror/ Insurgent (TTP)	Detonation	Roadside IED (vehicle-targeted)	Police patrol	7 KIA / 0+ WIA	Confirmed
7	Syria	Al-Sanamayn, Daraa	ERW/Legacy	Detonation (accidental)	Landmine / legacy IED (anti-personnel)	Security forces (patrol)	2 KIA / 3 WIA	Confirmed

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8	Niger	Diffa–Doutchi Bridge	Terror/Insurgent (ISIS-WA)	Detonation	IED (bridge/road-targeted)	Military/security forces	6 KIA	Confirmed
9	Nigeria	Borno State (Banki, Goniri, Mainok, Sambisa)	Terror/Insurgent (ISWAP)	Detonation + Ground assault	IED (vehicle-targeted, MRAP) + small arms	Military FOBs	KIA unknown / MRAP damaged	Confirmed
10	Nigeria	Imo State, Orsu-Ihiteukwa	Criminal/Insurgent (IPOB/ESN)	Cache find + Disruption	IED factory, pipe components	N/A (disrupted)	0 KIA	Probable
11	Burkina Faso	Yamba, Fada N’Gourma	Terror/Insurgent (JNIM)	Detonation + Ambush	IED + small arms	Police detachment	30+ KIA	Confirmed
12	Myanmar	Myinmu Township, Sagaing	Conflict-related (PDF)	Detonation	Roadside IED	Civilian vehicle	1 WIA	Probable
13	Thailand	Deep South (Narathiwat/ Yala/ Pattani area)	Terror/Insurgent (BRN)	Detonation	Improvised explosive device	Civilian/commercial	Shrapnel injuries reported	Probable
14	USA	Sumter, South Carolina	Criminal	Cache find + Arrest	Pipe bomb + bomb-making materials	Private property	0 KIA	Confirmed

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## INCIDENT CARDS

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### CARD 1: IED Detonated at US Embassy Entrance — Oslo, Norway

**Location/Time:** US Embassy, Eilert Sundsgate, Oslo, Norway | Approximately 03:00 local (CET) | 8–9 March 2026 (overnight Sunday)

**Category / Context:** Terror — suspected state-sponsored (Iran proxy network)

**Incident Type:** Detonation

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** An improvised explosive device was placed at the consular entrance of the US Embassy in Oslo and detonated in the early morning hours. The blast damaged the entrance facade, sent smoke into the street, and triggered building alarms but caused no injuries. Norwegian police published suspect photos the same day and arrested three brothers — Norwegian citizens of Iraqi heritage, all in their twenties — on 11 March. Investigators, including the Norwegian Police Security Service (PST), are actively probing whether the attack was directed by Iranian intelligence using local criminal proxies, a known PST-assessed threat vector. A video featuring Iran’s late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei was uploaded to the embassy’s Google Maps listing around the time of the blast, with a Farsi caption reading “God is great.” Separately, a Toronto US consulate shooting was also reported the same week, though the connection to this incident has not been confirmed.

- **Device Type:** IED — improvised explosive device, ground-placed. Type not fully specified in open sources; described as “powerful.”
- **Delivery & Placement:** Placed at ground level near entrance, consistent with foot-mobile emplacement.
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources. Likely timer or command-wire given the pre-dawn timing and absence of a perpetrator at the scene.
- **Target Type:** Diplomatic facility (US Embassy) — high symbolic value, particularly in context of US-Israeli war with Iran.
- **Effects:** Entrance structure damaged. No casualties.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** Three Norwegian brothers with Iraqi heritage arrested 11 March. PST actively investigating Iranian state direction and criminal network involvement. Claim by Ashab Al Yamin (IMCR) noted but not confirmed as operationally linked to the arrested suspects.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (multiple major outlets; police statement; arrests made)

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- **Source Reliability:** High — Washington Post, Al Jazeera, The National, NRK (Norwegian state broadcaster)

## Sources:

- Washington Post — [“European countries on alert after blasts near a Belgian synagogue and outside US Embassy in Oslo”](#) — 9 March 2026
- Al Jazeera — [“Three brothers arrested in Norway over bomb attack on US embassy in Oslo”](#) — 11 March 2026
- The National — [“Hackers post Khamenei video on US embassy’s social media page after Oslo explosion”](#) — 9 March 2026

**Analyst Note:** This attack fits PST’s documented threat model for Iranian proxy operations in Europe: criminal network cutouts used to conduct targeted attacks against Western diplomatic and Jewish targets, providing Iran plausible deniability. The Khamenei video, the timing (overlapping the US-Israeli war with Iran), and the European antisemitic bombing wave all point to a coordinated influence-plus-kinetics campaign. EOD and close-protection professionals operating in Norwegian and broader Nordic environments should anticipate continued ground-placed IED threats against diplomatic facilities, with pre-dawn emplacement as a recurring TTP. The device signature — ground-placed, entrance-targeted, pre-dawn — mirrors other IRGC-adjacent European operations. Whether the three arrested suspects are the full cell or cutouts for a larger network is the key analytic question for the next reporting cycle.

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## CARD 2: Explosion Near Synagogue — Liège, Belgium

**Location/Time:** Synagogue of Liège, Liège city center, Belgium | Approximately 04:00 local (CET) | 9 March 2026

**Category / Context:** Terror — antisemitic; probable Iran-linked proxy operation

**Incident Type:** Detonation

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** An explosive device detonated immediately outside the Synagogue of Liège in the early morning hours, blowing out windows across the street and causing structural damage to the adjacent building facade. No injuries were reported. Belgian Interior Minister Bernard Quintin described it as a “despicable antisemitic act.” The Belgian federal prosecutor’s office took charge of the investigation, citing “possible indications of a terrorist offense.” On 11 March, a previously unknown group calling itself Ashab Al Yamin (The Islamic Movement of the Companions of the Right, IMCR) published a social media video claiming responsibility. Analysts noted the group’s logo was a near-copy

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of logos associated with Iran-aligned terror networks. FDD's Long War Journal assessed the group as a "purported Iran-backed" organization as of 12 March. The US Ambassador to Belgium issued a formal statement condemning the attack.

- **Device Type:** IED — explosive charge, ground-placed. Specific construction not specified in open sources.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Emplaced outside synagogue entrance, pre-dawn. Ground-placed, not vehicle-borne.
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources. Timer or command-wire consistent with pre-dawn no-claim-immediate-detonation pattern.
- **Target Type:** Jewish religious institution — synagogue exterior.
- **Effects:** Windows blown out in adjacent building; structural damage to synagogue facade. No casualties.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** Ashab Al Yamin (IMCR) claimed. Belgian federal prosecutors opened terrorism investigation. Iran-linked network suspected. No arrests confirmed in open sources as of 15 March.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (Belgian Interior Ministry statement; federal prosecutor statement; multiple major wire outlets)
- **Source Reliability:** High — Washington Post, Washington Times, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; US Embassy Belgium official statement

## Sources:

- Washington Post — [“European countries on alert after blasts near a Belgian synagogue and outside US Embassy in Oslo”](#) — 9 March 2026
- FDD's Long War Journal — [“Purported Iran-backed group claims responsibility for attacks in Belgium and Greece”](#) — 12 March 2026
- US Embassy Belgium — [“Statement from Ambassador White on Synagogue Attack in Liège”](#) — 2026

**Analyst Note:** The near-simultaneous timing with the Oslo embassy bombing (same morning) and subsequent claims by Ashab Al Yamin linking Belgium and Rotterdam strongly suggest a coordinated operational effort or a tightly coupled inspiration cell. The group's logo matching Iran-aligned networks is a significant indicator worth tracking. Belgian security services should be reviewing surveillance footage for moped-borne emplacements — the same method confirmed in Amsterdam 5 days later. This is the first confirmed Ashab Al Yamin attack; the group's future operational tempo will be the key indicator of whether this was a one-cycle activation or a sustained campaign.

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## CARD 3: Explosive Device Detonated at Rotterdam Synagogue — Netherlands

**Location/Time:** A.B.N. Davidsplein Synagogue, Rotterdam, Netherlands | Approximately 03:40 local (CET) | 13 March 2026

**Category / Context:** Terror — antisemitic; probable Iran-linked proxy operation

**Incident Type:** Detonation + Arson

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** An explosive device detonated at the entrance of a synagogue in Rotterdam in the early morning hours, triggering a fire that caused visible damage to the building's entrance. Police arrived on scene and arrested four suspects — two 19-year-olds, one 18-year-old, and a 17-year-old — who were caught near a second synagogue in Rotterdam, indicating the cell may have had additional targets planned. Ashab Al Yamin (IMCR) published a social media video claiming responsibility and linking the Rotterdam attack to the earlier Liège bombing, explicitly stating the attacks were coordinated. The Jerusalem Post identified the group's fuller name as "Ashab Al Yamin," noting its Shia Islamic character and possible ties to Iranian networks. The Rotterdam attack followed the Oslo embassy bombing and Liège synagogue attack by four days and preceded the Amsterdam Jewish school explosion by one day.

- **Device Type:** Incendiary-explosive device — placed at entrance, ignited fire on detonation.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Ground-placed at building entrance. Foot-mobile emplacement by the arrested cell.
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources; possibly timer or direct ignition given the arrests occurred nearby within the same night.
- **Target Type:** Jewish religious institution — synagogue entrance.
- **Effects:** Entrance damaged; fire ignited but self-extinguished. No injuries reported.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** Ashab Al Yamin (IMCR) claimed. Four suspects arrested — teens, Netherlands-based. Whether they acted independently or as directed proxies under Iranian guidance is under investigation.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (Dutch police statements; arrests; Ashab Al Yamin claim corroborated by NL Times, Times of Israel, Bloomberg)
- **Source Reliability:** High — NL Times, Times of Israel, Bloomberg, Jewish Telegraphic Agency

### Sources:

- NL Times — [“Four arrested for Rotterdam synagogue arson; Suspects caught near another synagogue”](#) — 13 March 2026
- Times of Israel — [“Explosion outside Rotterdam synagogue sparks fire, damages building; 4 arrested”](#) — 13 March 2026

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- [FDD's Long War Journal — “Purported Iran-backed group claims responsibility for attacks in Belgium and Greece” — 12 March 2026](#)

**Analyst Note:** The arrest of four suspects caught near a second synagogue is a critical tactical detail — this cell had a follow-on target and was disrupted mid-operation. This suggests a multi-hit, single-night operational tempo. Teen perpetrators recruited or inspired via social media is consistent with the Sweden gang bomb model and emerging Islamist recruitment patterns documented in Europe. For EOD/security planners: the Rotterdam cell demonstrates that post-blast apprehension is possible with dense CCTV coverage, and that the cell's size (4 individuals, 1 device) indicates logistics support beyond the immediate shooters. Ashab Al Yamin's cross-border claim linking Rotterdam to Liège confirms this is a named group with at least some coordination capacity, regardless of whether Iran directed individual cells.

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## CARD 4: Explosion at Jewish School — Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Location/Time:** Jewish School, Buitenveldert District, Amsterdam, Netherlands | Overnight Friday-Saturday | 14 March 2026

**Category / Context:** Terror — antisemitic; probable Iran-linked proxy operation (Ashab Al Yamin / Islamic extremist group)

**Incident Type:** Detonation

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** An explosive device was placed against the outer wall of a Jewish school in Amsterdam's Buitenveldert district and detonated overnight, causing limited structural damage. No injuries were reported; the school was not in session at the time. Police obtained CCTV footage showing two individuals arriving at the school on a moped, with one exiting the vehicle and emplacing the device before both fled. Dutch authorities are seeking the two suspects. Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema called it a “cowardly act of aggression towards the Jewish community” and a deliberate targeted attack. Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten issued a condemnation statement. An Islamic extremist group claimed responsibility per GB News reporting. The attack came less than 24 hours after the Rotterdam synagogue bombing and five days after the Liège synagogue and Oslo embassy attacks.

- **Device Type:** IED — improvised explosive device, ground/wall-placed.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Moped-mobile delivery; device emplaced on foot against outer wall. Two-person team. Classic mobile reconnaissance-emplacement cell TTP.

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- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources; most consistent with timer given the emplacement-and-flee pattern captured on CCTV.
- **Target Type:** Jewish educational institution — school building exterior.
- **Effects:** Outer wall structural damage; limited blast effect. No casualties.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** Ashab Al Yamin / affiliated Islamic extremist group claimed. Two suspects at large (moped-borne). Linked operationally to Rotterdam attack given the same-week clustering and claims.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (Amsterdam Mayor's statement; Dutch PM statement; CCTV footage confirmed by police; multiple major wire outlets)
- **Source Reliability:** High — CNN, Euronews, Washington Post, NL Times, Bloomberg

## Sources:

- CNN — [“Amsterdam Jewish school struck by explosion in wave of antisemitic violence”](#) — 14 March 2026
- Euronews — [“Explosion damages Jewish school in Amsterdam with no injuries reported, mayor says”](#) — 14 March 2026
- Washington Post — [“Dutch authorities seek 2 suspects in an explosion outside an Amsterdam Jewish school”](#) — 14 March 2026

**Analyst Note:** The moped-and-flee signature is now confirmed in two Netherlands attacks (Rotterdam and Amsterdam). For C-IED and protective security professionals: surveillance of moped activity around Jewish/diplomatic targets in European cities should be treated as a pre-emplacement indicator. The devices appear designed to cause property damage and psychological effect rather than mass casualties — consistent with an influence operation designed to intimidate Jewish communities and generate media coverage linking the attacks to the Iran conflict. This does not mean the group lacks mass-casualty capability; it may reflect operational constraints or a deliberate escalation ladder. The fact that Amsterdam and Rotterdam attacks occurred within 24 hours of each other in the same country suggests either two separate cells or one cell running back-to-back missions.

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## CARD 5: ISIS-Inspired TATP IED Attack Near Gracie Mansion — New York City, USA

**Location/Time:** East End Avenue (near Gracie Mansion), Upper East Side, Manhattan, New York | Approximately 11:30 local (EST) | 7–8 March 2026 (charges announced 9 March)

**Category / Context:** Terror — ISIS-inspired domestic

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**Incident Type:** Attempted Detonation (devices failed to function)

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** During dueling protests outside Gracie Mansion (the NYC mayor's official residence), two Pennsylvania residents — Emir Balat (18) and Ibrahim Kayumi (19) — threw two improvised explosive devices into the protest crowd. Neither device detonated successfully. The first device contained TATP, constructed in mason-jar containers with externally attached nuts and bolts for fragmentation effect. Both devices had attached fuses. The attackers lit the fuses before throwing the devices. Federal charges were announced 9 March; both suspects were apprehended by NYPD officers at the scene. FBI executed search warrants on a storage unit in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, conducting controlled detonations of additional explosive material recovered there. Both suspects stated they were aligned with ISIS following arrest. Officials said the suspects had planned an attack “even bigger than the Boston Marathon bombing” and had considered other soft targets including shopping centers. The use of TATP — a primary explosive requiring synthesis from precursor chemicals — is operationally significant and marks an escalation in domestic ISIS-inspired device complexity.

- **Device Type:** TATP-filled improvised hand-thrown devices (2), mason-jar construction, external fragmentation enhancement (nuts and bolts), fuse-initiated.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Hand-thrown into crowd during public protest.
- **Initiation Method:** Fuse (lit by hand). Both failed to function — consistent with TATP sensitivity problems in non-ideal conditions or fuse ignition failure.
- **Target Type:** Civilian protest crowd; incidentally, vicinity of NYC mayor's official residence.
- **Effects:** No detonation; no injuries. Controlled detonations of additional TATP materials in Pennsylvania storage unit.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** Emir Balat and Ibrahim Kayumi, both Pennsylvania residents. Charged with use of a weapon of mass destruction, providing material support to a terrorist organization, transportation of explosive materials, and interstate transportation and receipt of explosives. Self-identified as ISIS supporters.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (DOJ criminal complaint; multiple major outlets; FBI/NYPD statements)
- **Source Reliability:** High — DOJ press release, CNN, CBS News, NPR, ABC News, HSTsday

## Sources:

- US DOJ — [“Two ISIS Supporters Charged with Attempting to Detonate Explosive Devices During Protests Outside Gracie Mansion”](#) — 9 March 2026
- CNN — [“2 men are charged with using a weapon of mass destruction after IEDs are tossed near NYC mayor's home”](#) — 9 March 2026

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- NPR — “[Attempted attack with explosives in NYC is investigated as ‘ISIS-inspired terrorism’](#)” — 9 March 2026
- ABC News — “[ISIS-inspired teens considered other targets before Gracie Mansion protest](#)” — 2026

**Analyst Note:** TATP in a domestic US ISIS-inspired attack is a significant escalation marker. Prior US domestic ISIS-inspired attempts have generally involved lower-complexity devices or knives. The suspects acquired precursor chemicals, synthesized TATP, and constructed fragmentation-enhanced devices with fuses — a meaningful operational capability for two teenagers with no apparent formal training. The device failure (fuse-initiated TATP is notoriously sensitive and can fail if fuses are improperly seated or TATP crystal growth is uneven) almost certainly prevented mass-casualty outcomes. For bomb technicians: TATP mason-jar devices with external frag are not technically sophisticated but are extremely hazardous to handle post-incident. The FBI storage-unit controlled detonation indicates additional primary explosive material was pre-positioned, suggesting this was not a one-time-use preparation. The social-media-to-synthesis pipeline for teen radicalization continues to compress; the key question for analysts is whether other ISIS-inspired cells are running parallel synthesis operations that remain undetected.

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## CARD 6: IED Kills Seven Police, Including SHO — Lakki Marwat, Pakistan

**Location/Time:** Shahdi Khel–Masti Khel Road, Shadi Khel area, Baitani Sub-division, Lakki Marwat District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan | Daytime | 13 March 2026

**Category / Context:** Terror/Insurgent — Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP, designated “Fitna-al-Khawarij” by Pakistani state)

**Incident Type:** Detonation

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** A roadside IED emplaced by TTP operatives detonated beneath a police mobile (patrol van) during routine patrolling along the Shahdi Khel–Masti Khel road. Seven police officers were killed, including Station House Officer Sadr Azam, driver Shah Behram, and five constables: Shah Khalid, Haji Muhammad, Gul Zada, Sakhi Zada, and Insaf Uddin. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi sought a full report from the provincial police chief. In a follow-on operation, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) neutralized TTP militants identified as responsible for the attack, reporting six terrorists killed in a subsequent engagement in Lakki Marwat. This was the deadliest single IED strike on Pakistani police in the first quarter of 2026.

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- **Device Type:** Roadside IED — vehicle-targeted, likely pressure-plate or victim-operated given no mention of remote command wire, though initiation method is not confirmed in open sources.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Emplaced in roadway on a patrol route. Routine patrol road indicates pre-surveilled route exploitation.
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources. Victim-operated (pressure plate) most consistent with road emplacement against a slow-moving patrol vehicle.
- **Target Type:** Police patrol vehicle; law enforcement.
- **Effects:** 7 KIA (including SHO and driver); patrol vehicle destroyed.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** TTP (Fitna-al-Khawarij). Confirmed by CTD follow-on operation identifying and neutralizing responsible cell. No separate formal claim from TTP central as of open sources.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (Pakistani government statements; multiple Pakistani and regional outlets; CTD follow-on confirmed)
- **Source Reliability:** High — Pakistan Today, Express Tribune, Daily Pakistan, Ariana News, Counter-IED Report

## Sources:

- Pakistan Today — [“Seven Policemen Martyred in Lakki Marwat IED Blast”](#) — 13 March 2026
- Express Tribune — [“SHO among seven cops martyred in Lakki Marwat IED blast”](#) — 2026
- Counter-IED Report — [“Pakistan: Seven policemen killed in IED attack in Lakki Marwat”](#) — 2026

**Analyst Note:** Lakki Marwat sits in a historically active TTP corridor in southern KPK. Targeting an SHO directly (the senior officer at a police station) suggests either specific intelligence on the patrol schedule or an opportunistic strike that happened to catch command-level personnel. TTP has been running a consistent “kill the SHO” campaign in KPK to paralyze local enforcement and create security vacuums. The CTD’s rapid identification and neutralization of the responsible cell (6 militants killed within days) is worth noting — Pakistani authorities are maintaining faster reactive tempo in 2026 than in 2024. For EOD planners: TTP’s continued preference for pressure-plate or victim-operated devices on known patrol routes means route variation and counter-IED sweeps are the primary mitigation. The SHO’s death is significant because it disrupts intelligence collection at the subdistrict level.

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## CARD 7: Legacy Landmine Kills Two Syrian Security Forces — Daraa, Syria

**Location/Time:** Al-Sanamayn, Daraa Countryside, southern Syria | Afternoon | 14 March 2026

**Category / Context:** ERW / Legacy ordnance — remnants of former Assad regime military positions

**Incident Type:** Detonation (accidental, during attempted EOD action)

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** A patrol of Syrian Internal Security Forces (ISF) from the 9th Division area of responsibility was conducting route clearance in Al-Sanamayn when personnel noticed anti-personnel mines and improvised explosive devices concealed within rocks at a former regime position. While attempting to manually handle the devices — without proper EOD protocols or equipment — one mine detonated, killing two ISF members from the Al-Sanamayn Security Department and wounding three others. The wounded were evacuated to hospitals in Damascus. Syrian state media (SANA) reported the incident. This event illustrates the critical gap between the Syrian post-conflict government's operational security capability and the ERW density left by the Assad-era conflict.

- **Device Type:** Anti-personnel mine(s) and IED(s) — legacy emplacement from former 9th Division positions. Rock-concealed. Likely remnants of the 2011–2024 Syrian civil war.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Pre-existing emplacement at former Assad-era military position.
- **Initiation Method:** Victim-operated (anti-personnel mine — pressure, tilt, or trip-wire most likely). The detonation occurred during manual handling, consistent with disturbance-initiated mechanism.
- **Target Type:** Security forces patrol (incidental — no adversary intent; this is a legacy ERW casualty).
- **Effects:** 2 KIA (ISF security personnel); 3 WIA evacuated to Damascus.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** No adversary. Casualty caused by legacy ordnance emplaced by former Assad regime forces.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (SANA official reporting; Syria LiveUAMap; Arab News; Counter-IED Report)
- **Source Reliability:** High for casualty figures — SANA is regime-successor reporting; cross-referenced by Counter-IED Report aggregator

### Sources:

- SANA — [“Two Internal Security personnel killed, three injured in mine explosion in Daraa”](#) — 14 March 2026

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- Syria LiveUAMap — [“A security source told Al-Ikhbariya...”](#) — 14 March 2026
- Counter-IED Report — [“Syria: Two Internal Security personnel killed, three injured in mine explosion in Daraa”](#) — 2026
- Arab News PK — [“2 Syrian security personnel killed by landmine in Daraa province”](#) — 2026

**Analyst Note:** Syria’s ERW problem is generational. More than 95,000 homes in Daraa alone were damaged or destroyed during the civil war, and former regime military positions throughout southern Syria were mined, booby-trapped, and abandoned without documentation. The Syrian post-conflict government has limited mine-action capacity and no formal EOD doctrine for clearance operations — the 14 March incident demonstrates this directly: personnel attempting to manually handle mines and IEDs without render-safe tools or training. For humanitarian demining organizations and IMAS practitioners, southern Syria remains a Tier 1 priority with active casualty generation. For EOD advisors working with Syrian forces: the immediate need is not equipment — it’s doctrine and procedural stop-gap training to prevent personnel from touching finds before qualified EOD can respond.

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## CARD 8: ISIS West Africa IED Attack on Diffa–Doutchi Bridge — Niger

**Location/Time:** Bridge between Diffa and Doutchi, Diffa Region, Niger | ~11–12 March 2026

**Category / Context:** Terror/Insurgent — Islamic State West Africa Province (ISIS-WA)

**Incident Type:** Detonation

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** An IED emplaced on or near the bridge connecting Diffa and Doutchi detonated, killing six people. ISIS West Africa Province claimed responsibility on or around 12 March 2026, posting the claim via its standard media channels. The Diffa–Doutchi bridge is a strategically important crossing in a region where ISIS-WA has been conducting a Ramadan offensive since late February. The attack follows a series of complex coordinated ISIS-WA operations against Nigerian Army FOBs in Borno State (9 March) and is consistent with ISIS-WA’s documented tactic of targeting bridges and road infrastructure to disrupt military logistics and civilian movement in the Lake Chad Basin.

- **Device Type:** IED — likely command-wire or victim-operated road/bridge emplacement. Specific construction not confirmed in open sources.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Emplaced on or near bridge structure or approach road.

\*All information in this report is gathered from publicly available sources.



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- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources.
- **Target Type:** Bridge/road infrastructure; probable secondary target was military or police vehicles using the crossing.
- **Effects:** 6 KIA. Nature of victims (military vs. civilian) not specified in open sources available as of 15 March.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** ISIS West Africa Province — claimed directly via official media channels.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (Sahel LiveUAMap; Critical Threats Africa File March 12 2026 entry)
- **Source Reliability:** Medium-High — claim from ISIS-WA official channel (corroborated by two independent aggregators: Sahel LiveUAMap and Critical Threats)

## Sources:

- Sahel LiveUAMap — [“ISIS West Africa claims responsibility for an IED attack on the bridge between Diffa and Doutchi”](#) — 12 March 2026
- Critical Threats — [“Africa File, March 12, 2026”](#) — 12 March 2026

**Analyst Note:** ISIS-WA’s Ramadan offensive in 2026 is targeting infrastructure as well as personnel — a maturation of the group’s operational strategy beyond direct-fire ambushes. Bridge interdiction forces security forces to use alternate routes (which may also be mined) and disrupts resupply of remote garrisons. The Diffa region has historically been a crossing point for ISIS-WA elements moving between Nigeria’s Borno State and Niger’s Diffa Region, using the Lake Chad Basin as a permissive operational environment. This attack, combined with the Borno FOB assaults (Card 9), suggests a synchronized cross-border operational cycle. For C-IED planners advising Niger’s armed forces or regional partners: bridge approaches in the Diffa Region should be treated as high-priority IED survey and clearance zones.

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## CARD 9: ISWAP Coordinated Assault on Nigerian Army Bases — Borno State, Nigeria

**Location/Time:** Multiple FOBs including Banki, Goniri, Kukawa, Mainok, and Sambisa Forest, Borno State, Nigeria | Night of 8–9 March and 13–14 March 2026

**Category / Context:** Terror/Insurgent — Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP)

**Incident Type:** Detonation + Ground assault

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**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** Between the night of 8 March and early 9 March 2026, ISWAP and affiliated Boko Haram factions executed at least six simultaneous coordinated attacks against Nigerian Army forward operating bases in Borno and Yobe states. Targets included positions at Delwa, Goniri, Kukawa, Mainok, and a troops' harbor position in the Sambisa Forest. During at least one of the operations, a leading Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle struck an IED, suffering tire damage. Nigerian Army troops supported by Nigerian Air Force aviation assets repelled the attacks. A second engagement occurred 13–14 March at the Banki military base, where ISWAP fighters launched a further assault that was repelled by ground forces and air support. Additionally, on 12 March, army operations in Ngoshe, Borno State, foiled a separate terrorist attack.

- **Device Type:** IED (vehicle-targeted, MRAP strike) plus small-arms and indirect fire during ground assaults. Device type against MRAP not specified in open sources.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Road emplacement targeting military vehicle in convoy or patrol approach.
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources.
- **Target Type:** Military forward operating bases; military convoys.
- **Effects:** MRAP vehicle damaged (two tires); additional casualty figures not confirmed in open sources as of 15 March. Attacks described as involving “heavy casualties” in initial reporting; official figures not released.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** ISWAP and affiliated Boko Haram elements — confirmed by Nigerian Army Operations Hadin Kai statements and multiple Nigerian defense media outlets.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (multiple Nigerian defense ministry/army press releases; PRNigeria; The Times Nigeria; Guardian Nigeria)
- **Source Reliability:** Medium-High — Nigerian military communiqués are the primary source; independent verification limited due to access restrictions in Borno State.

## Sources:

- PRNigeria — [“Troops Repel Coordinated ISWAP Attacks on 5 Locations in Borno”](#) — 9 March 2026
- Daily Post Nigeria — [“Troops repel ISWAP attack in Borno”](#) — 14 March 2026
- PRNigeria — [“Army Foils Terrorist Attack, Secures Ngoshe Community in Borno”](#) — 12 March 2026

**Analyst Note:** The scale of the 8–9 March assault — six simultaneous attacks across two states — indicates ISWAP retains the command, control, and logistics capability to orchestrate multi-axis operations. This is not a degraded organization conducting sporadic harassment; this is a functional insurgent army capable of joint-style operations. The IED-

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against-MRAP employment confirms ISWAP maintains a vehicle-defeat capability within its force, not just antipersonnel mines. Nigerian Army MRAP crews should be operating with ECM active on all movements in Borno/Yobe; route survey and clearance of known FOB approach roads must be treated as a daily pre-movement requirement. The Ramadan offensive timing is deliberate — ISWAP historically escalates operations during Ramadan to leverage religious symbolism and strain security forces over a 30-day sustained tempo.

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## CARD 10: Nigerian Army Destroys IPOB/ESN IED Factory — Imo State, Nigeria

**Location/Time:** Orsu-Ihiteukwa General Area, Imo State, Nigeria | 11–13 March 2026

**Category / Context:** Criminal/Insurgent — Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) / Eastern Security Network (ESN)

**Incident Type:** Cache find + Disruption

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** Nigerian Army troops operating under Operation UDO KA conducted clearance operations in the Orsu-Eketutu Mother Valley area of Imo State from 6 March onward, culminating in the discovery and destruction of what the military described as an IPOB/ESN IED manufacturing facility on 11 March. Items recovered included pipe components used for priming IEDs, electrical wires and clips used in device assembly, 7.62mm NATO ammunition, pistol magazines, double-barrel guns, CCTV cameras, and Biafran flags. The military also reopened the Lilu-Eketutu Road, which had been closed due to insecurity for three years. IPOB denied involvement and issued a counter-claim alleging the Nigerian Army used photos from a 2024 Lagos/Oyo IED seizure to fabricate the Imo discovery. The Army invited media and civil society representatives to conduct an independent verification tour.

- **Device Type:** IED factory components — pipe (barrel) components, priming materials, electrical initiator components. Not assembled devices.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Fixed facility, concealed in forested area.
- **Initiation Method:** N/A (manufacturing site, not emplaced device).
- **Target Type:** Factory disruption.
- **Effects:** Factory destroyed; road reopened. No confirmed injuries.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** IPOB/ESN — attributed by Nigerian Army. IPOB disputed attribution and alleged evidence fabrication.
- **Confidence:** Probable (Nigerian government military statement; independent verification claimed but not yet reported in open sources as of 15 March; IPOB counterclaim raises credibility questions)
- **Source Reliability:** Medium — primary source is Nigerian Army press release; IPOB denial and alleged image manipulation documented by independent journalists.

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## Sources:

- allAfrica — [“Nigeria: Army Destroys Explosives Factory, Reopens Road Shut for 3 Years in Imo”](#) — 13 March 2026
- PRNigeria — [“Troops Destroy IED Factory in Imo, Reopen Strategic Road After Three Years”](#) — 13 March 2026
- Counter-IED Report — [“Nigeria: Army reopens Imo road shut for three years, destroys explosives factory”](#) — 2026

**Analyst Note:** The attribution dispute requires flagging. IPOB’s counter-narrative — that the army recycled 2024 imagery from another state — has been circulated with apparent GPS/timestamp evidence by independent Nigerian journalists. If accurate, this would be a significant information operation by Nigerian security forces. Regardless of attribution, the pipe-and-initiator component profile is consistent with the type of devices used in attacks on security forces in southeastern Nigeria over the past three years. For EOD professionals working with Nigerian partners: the IPOB/ESN device signature in the south-east has historically centered on pipe bombs and command-initiated devices targeting military convoys — lower-complexity construction than ISWAP devices in the north-east. The factory discovery, if genuine, represents a meaningful degradation of ESN assembly capacity in Imo State.

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## CARD 11: JNIM Ambush Kills 30+ Police — Yamba, Fada N’Gourma, Burkina Faso

**Location/Time:** Yamba Village, approximately 20 km from Fada N’Gourma, Est Region, Burkina Faso | 6 March 2026 (first reports 9 March)

**Category / Context:** Terror/Insurgent — Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM, al-Qaeda affiliate)

**Incident Type:** Detonation + Armed ambush

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** At least 30 officers from the GUMI (Mobile Intervention Unit Group) were killed in an armed ambush near Yamba village, approximately 20 km from Fada N’Gourma in eastern Burkina Faso. The military base was looted and set ablaze following the assault. No official death toll has been released by the Burkinabé junta. JNIM has a confirmed presence in the Fada N’Gourma region. The attack occurred on 6 March but did not surface in media reporting until 9–10 March due to junta media restrictions on security reporting. The incident is one of the deadliest single attacks on Burkina Faso security forces in recent years.

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- **Device Type:** IED/explosives likely used in ambush initiation (consistent with JNIM ambush doctrine); specific device details not confirmed in open sources. Ambush also included small-arms fire.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Fixed ambush position along route used by police detachment.
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources.
- **Target Type:** Police Mobile Intervention Unit — GUMI detachment.
- **Effects:** 30+ KIA; base looted and burned.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** JNIM — attributed by regional security analysts and VOA; no formal claim released as of 15 March (consistent with JNIM's pattern of operating without formal claims in Burkina Faso).
- **Confidence:** Confirmed for attack and approximate casualty figures (VOA reporting; Voice of Emirates; Maghrebi.org; ACLED Africa Overview March 2026)
- **Source Reliability:** Medium-High — VOA, ACLED reporting; junta restricts independent journalism in the region

## Sources:

- VOA News — [“35 Civilians Killed When Vehicle Hits Explosive Device in Northern Burkina Faso”](#)
- Voice of Emirates — [“Deadly attack in Burkina Faso: 30 policemen killed in an armed ambush in the east”](#) — 9 March 2026
- Maghrebi.org — [“Burkina Faso: Attack on police detachment kills dozens”](#) — 10 March 2026

**Analyst Note:** The looting of the base following the ambush indicates JNIM is executing deliberate weapons and equipment seizure operations, not just casualty-generation attacks. Arms seized from GUMI detachments feed JNIM's logistics chain — a self-sustaining acquisition cycle. Burkina Faso's junta media blackout on security incidents means the actual tempo of IED and ambush activity is almost certainly higher than what surfaces in open sources. For EOD and C-IED analysts: the most credible unclassified data aggregator for Sahel incidents continues to be ACLED, which published the March 2026 Africa Overview citing this period. GUMI units operating in the Est Region should be treating all approach roads to detachment positions as high-IED-probability routes.

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## CARD 12: Roadside IED Injures Civilian — Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region, Myanmar

**Location/Time:** Near Ngar Kin Village, Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region, Myanmar | 15:30 local | 1 March 2026 (just prior to reporting window; included for regional continuity)

**Category / Context:** Conflict-related — attributed to People's Defence Force (PDF) by Myanmar military government sources

**Incident Type:** Detonation

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** A civilian, U Chit Shwe (70 years old), was injured when his vehicle was struck by a roadside IED near Ngar Kin Village while traveling from Kambalu Township to Mandalay City. The victim was admitted to Mandalay Public Hospital with shrapnel injuries. The Myanmar military government's official news attributed the device to "PDF terrorists." The PDF (People's Defence Force) is the armed wing of the National Unity Government opposing the military junta. Junta-sourced attribution should be treated cautiously, as the military routinely attributes civilian-area incidents to PDF regardless of actual perpetrator.

- **Device Type:** Roadside IED — shrapnel-producing; exact construction not specified.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Roadside emplacement along civilian travel route.
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources.
- **Target Type:** Civilian vehicle (or possibly a targeted individual; not specified).
- **Effects:** 1 WIA (civilian, shrapnel injuries).
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** PDF per Myanmar military government attribution. Independent verification not available; attribution should be treated as Probable pending corroboration.
- **Confidence:** Probable (single source: Myanmar government official news; attribution unverified)
- **Source Reliability:** Low for attribution (Myanmar military source); Medium for incident facts (hospitalization confirmed)

### Sources:

- Myanmar Government News — "[Innocent Civilian Injured in Improvised Explosive Device Explosion](#)" — 1 March 2026

**Analyst Note:** Myanmar's civil conflict has normalized IED use by multiple parties. The Sagaing Region has been one of the most active areas for IED and armed clashes since the

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2021 coup, with both PDF resistance forces and junta-aligned militias documented using IEDs. The deliberate targeting of civilians by road-emplaced IEDs is a war crime regardless of perpetrator. For EOD advisors: Sagaing road corridors between towns represent a persistent risk environment; all vehicles transiting the region should maintain standoff distances on non-paved roads.

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## CARD 13: Pipe Bomb Discovery and Arrest — Sumter, South Carolina, USA

**Location/Time:** North Lake Cherryvale Drive area and suspect residence, Sumter, South Carolina, USA | 28 February – 1 March 2026 (arrest and evidence development 1 March; included as within-window follow-on)

**Category / Context:** Criminal

**Incident Type:** Cache find + Arrest

**Incident Summary (TTP-focused):** Sumter County law enforcement discovered a pipe bomb on private property on 28 February following a report of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. On 1 March, a multi-agency search warrant executed at suspect Edward Lee Bick III's residence recovered additional bomb-making materials. Bick was charged with multiple weapons offenses. An earlier November incident, in which Bick allegedly placed an IED on a neighboring property following a dispute, established the criminal rather than ideological motive. ATF and FBI were involved in the investigation and render-safe operations.

- **Device Type:** Pipe bomb; additional bomb-making materials at residence.
- **Delivery & Placement:** Placed on private property (extortion/intimidation context).
- **Initiation Method:** Not specified in open sources.
- **Target Type:** Individual/private property — criminal extortion/intimidation.
- **Effects:** No detonation in the immediate incident; device rendered safe.
- **Suspected Perpetrator:** Edward Lee Bick III — arrested and charged.
- **Confidence:** Confirmed (WIS-TV reporting; law enforcement statements)
- **Source Reliability:** High — local law enforcement and regional TV reporting

### Sources:

- WIS-TV — [“Discovery of pipe bomb in Sumter leads to multi-agency investigation, arrest”](#) — 11 March 2026

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**Analyst Note:** Domestic criminal pipe bomb cases in the US overwhelmingly follow a personal grievance pattern. The November-to-February escalation (prior incident to self-inflicted shooting to pipe bomb discovery) indicates a deteriorating behavioral trajectory. For bomb technicians: rural South Carolina property-dispute devices typically use off-the-shelf pipe fittings and commercially available low-explosive initiators. The multi-agency response (ATF, FBI, SLED, local) reflects appropriate federal involvement when initial discovery suggests deliberate device construction rather than industrial or agricultural explosive material.

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## WEEKLY TTP AND THREAT PATTERN ANALYSIS

### The European Antisemitic IED Wave: A Campaign, Not Coincidence

The defining analytical story of this reporting period is not any individual incident but the pattern they collectively form. Five explosive attacks against Jewish or American diplomatic targets occurred across four European countries in six days (Belgium 9 March, Norway 9 March, Netherlands/Rotterdam 13 March, Netherlands/Amsterdam 14 March), with a contested unverified claim against a target in Greece on 11 March. Every confirmed attack was non-injurious — devices caused property damage but no casualties — which is itself analytically significant. Non-injurious attacks against high-symbolism targets are a classic influence operation TTP: the political effect (fear, media coverage, community intimidation) is achieved without generating the counter-terrorism heat that mass-casualty attacks produce.

The group Ashab Al Yamin (IMCR) claimed at minimum three of the four confirmed attacks and linked them explicitly in its messaging. The group was unknown before 9 March 2026. It emerged simultaneously with the attacks, suggesting it is either a purpose-created front label for an existing cell or a franchise label activated by a parent network for this campaign cycle. FDD's Long War Journal assessed it as "purported Iran-backed." Norwegian PST — one of Europe's most credible intelligence services on Iranian threat — was already assessing Iranian state actor involvement in the Oslo attack as of 11 March. The video of Khamenei posted to the US embassy's Google Maps page, the Farsi caption, and the arrest of Iraqi-heritage Norwegian nationals all feed the same analytical direction: Iranian state direction or inspiration, using local criminal-network cutouts, targeting Jewish and American soft targets in retaliation for the US-Israeli war with Iran.

Device construction across all four confirmed European attacks appears consistently low-sophistication — ground-placed charges, incendiary-explosive hybrids, and possibly gas-cylinder or pipe-based charges. This is consistent with a network that prioritizes operational security (no martyrdom, no suicide method, moped egress) over destructive

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effect. The moped-and-two-person emplacement team confirmed in Amsterdam is the TTP to watch for continuity.

## TATP Re-Emerges in the Western Hemisphere

The Gracie Mansion attack introduced TATP as an active synthesis product in the US domestic ISIS-inspired threat space. Prior US ISIS-inspired plots have mostly involved blade attacks or crude pressure-cooker devices; TATP-from-scratch by teenagers is an operational elevation. The compound's extreme sensitivity means most amateur syntheses either fail catastrophically during manufacture or fail to detonate on employment — which is what likely saved lives at Gracie Mansion. But the pipeline from online synthesis instructions to operational product is clearly functioning. EOD technicians responding to future suspected ISIS-inspired incidents in the US should now default to TATP contamination protocols rather than treating homemade explosive as a lower-tier hazard.

## Ramadan Escalation Cycle: Sahel and West Africa

ISIS-WA and ISWAP are executing synchronized Ramadan offensives across the Lake Chad Basin. The simultaneous FOB assaults on 8–9 March (Nigeria), the bridge IED in Niger (11–12 March), and continued pressure in Burkina Faso by JNIM form a recognizable pattern: jihadist groups across the Sahel use Ramadan to demonstrate operational tempo and symbolically dedicate attacks to the holy month. This is a repeating annual cycle, but 2026's coordination appears tighter than prior years. The cross-border nature (Niger and Nigeria in the same week) suggests either command coordination between ISIS-WA and ISWAP or a shared operational planning calendar. For EOD and C-IED professionals advising Lake Chad Basin partners: Ramadan runs through early April 2026 — current operational tempo is expected to remain elevated for the next three weeks.

## Pakistan's TTP: Route Exploitation and SHO Targeting

The Lakki Marwat IED fits a documented TTP pattern: exploit known police patrol routes, target command personnel (SHO), and conduct follow-on operations to destroy the cell before accountability reporting reaches Islamabad. Seven police killed in one IED strike is operationally significant for KPK, where local police capacity is already strained. The CTD's rapid follow-on (six militants killed) indicates counter-IED intelligence collection in the area was sufficient to identify the cell. For planners: TTP's investment in SHO-targeting reflects a strategic calculation that paralyzing sub-district police command generates a security vacuum exploitable for months, even if the cell responsible is destroyed.

## Implications for the Next Reporting Cycle

EOD/C-IED professionals and security managers should track: (1) whether Ashab Al Yamin attacks continue into Week 2 of Ramadan, particularly as additional European Jewish or

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diplomatic targets; (2) whether the Oslo/Rotterdam cell arrests produce intelligence on the network's European logistics chain; (3) whether ISIS-WA's Niger bridge interdiction extends further into civilian routes; and (4) whether domestic US law enforcement surfaces additional TATP synthesis networks in the wake of the Gracie Mansion investigation.

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## APPENDIX: CONVENTIONAL CONFLICT CONTEXT — IED AND ASYMMETRIC IMPLICATIONS

### The 2026 Iran War and Its IED/Proxy Threat Implications

**Situation Summary:** A US-Israeli military campaign against Iran's nuclear and missile infrastructure commenced 28 February 2026. Subsequent Iranian retaliation included drone and ballistic missile barrages against energy infrastructure, airports, military bases, and diplomatic facilities across Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Jordan, and Oman during the week of 9–15 March. Iraqi and Syrian airspaces were closed. Iran-backed militias in Iraq (the Islamic Resistance in Iraq) continued conducting attacks against US forces and regional infrastructure. US CENTCOM conducted airstrikes on Iran-aligned militia targets in Iraq throughout the period.

**IED/Asymmetric Implications:** The conventional conflict is generating second and third-order IED threats across three vectors. First, Iranian proxy networks in Europe — PST, French DGSI, and BfV have all assessed that Iran uses criminal network cutouts for European kinetic operations when direct attribution is undesirable. The Ashab Al Yamin European bombing wave this week is consistent with this doctrine. As the Iran war continues, European security services should anticipate continued low-signature IED employment against US and Israeli-linked targets. Second, in Iraq, the degradation of Iran-backed militia command infrastructure through US airstrikes may paradoxically increase IED employment: experienced fighters dispersing from structured militia units into less-disciplined armed networks are historically more likely to revert to IED tactics. Third, ISIS in Syria and Iraq is exploiting the security disruption caused by the Iran war to regenerate — the 16 March raids on ISIS cells in Abu Kamal (reported the day after this window closed) indicate ongoing Syrian government operations against reconstituted ISIS cells in the Euphrates Valley. EOD advisory teams operating in Iraq and eastern Syria should anticipate a more permissive ISIS IED environment as Iranian militia disruption creates security vacuums.

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## DATA GAPS AND LIMITATIONS

**Middle East & Levant:** IED-specific incidents in Iraq were not isolable from the dominant conventional conflict reporting during this period. The volume of Iranian drone/missile strikes and US counter-strikes saturated regional media. ISIS IED activity in Iraq and Syria almost certainly continued but could not be individually carded. Reporting likely suppressed by the volume of conventional conflict coverage. Search terms used: “IED Iraq March 2026,” “ISIS IED Syria March 2026,” “explosive device Iraq March 9-15 2026.”

**Sahel & West Africa:** Burkina Faso junta media restrictions significantly limit independent verification of incident frequency and casualty figures. The actual IED and ambush tempo in Burkina Faso is assessed to be substantially higher than open-source reporting reflects. Mali produced no cardable incidents this week in open-source search results; media restrictions under the AES junta coalition make this a persistent data gap. Search terms used: “IED Sahel March 2026,” “engin explosif improvise Niger Mali,” “JNIM Burkina Faso March 2026,” “ISWAP Borno March 9-15 2026.”

**East Africa & Horn of Africa:** Kenya’s al-Shabaab IED activity appeared in search results but date confirmation for specific March 9–15 incidents was not achieved from open sources. The Liboi-Kulan road IED killing two BPU officers may be within or near this window; it was excluded from the ledger due to date uncertainty. Somalia produced no individually carded Mogadishu IED incidents in open sources for this specific period; al-Shabaab activity is ongoing but mainstream media coverage is limited. AFRICOM confirmed a strike on al-Shabaab on 11 March, consistent with continued operations tempo. Mozambique’s ISM showed movement near mining areas in Quissanga/Ancuabe (March 5) but no confirmed IED detonation within the window. Search terms used: “al-Shabaab IED Kenya March 2026,” “Somalia IED Mogadishu March 2026,” “Mozambique ISM IED March 2026.”

**South Asia:** India’s Naxalite theater showed no high-confidence IED incidents in the March 9–15 window. Indian authorities claimed Naxalism would be “eradicated by March 2026” per prior statements; the security picture in Chhattisgarh remains active but individual incidents did not surface in this week’s search results. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka produced no incidents. Search terms used: “IED Pakistan March 9-15 2026,” “Naxalite IED India March 2026,” “TTP Balochistan IED March 2026.”

**Southeast Asia:** Philippines/Mindanao produced no confirmed IED incidents in the reporting window from open sources. Thailand’s Deep South showed one low-detail incident (10 March shrapnel attack) with no confirmed casualty data. Myanmar produced one incident just prior to the window (1 March). Search terms used: “IED Philippines Mindanao March 2026,” “Thailand Deep South bomb March 2026,” “Myanmar IED Sagaing March 2026.”

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**China:** No IED or criminal explosive incidents surfaced in open-source search results for March 9–15, 2026. The February 2026 Hubei/Jiangsu fireworks shop explosions are excluded as accidental industrial events. Search terms used: “China bomb explosion 爆炸炸弹 March 2026.”

**Scandinavia:** Sweden’s gang bombing crisis continued through the first quarter of 2026, but no specific confirmed incidents from the March 9–15 window surfaced in open-source searching. The baseline rate of approximately one gang explosion per day in greater Stockholm is assessed as ongoing. Denmark and Norway produced the Oslo embassy bombing (carded). Search terms used: “Sweden explosion March 2026 gang,” “Sweden bombing March 9-15 2026.”

**Russia & Former Soviet Union:** The significant Russian domestic incidents (Moscow railway station IED, 24 February; Moscow police attack IED, 24 February) fall outside the reporting window. No confirmed IED or explosive device incidents in Russia or FSU countries surfaced for March 9–15 specifically. Ukraine is excluded as a conventional conflict. Search terms used: “Russia explosion bomb взрыв СВУ March 2026.”

**European Union:** Beyond the Netherlands and Belgium incidents (carded), no additional EU member-state IED incidents surfaced for March 9–15. France, Germany, Spain, and Italy produced no confirmed incidents. The unverified IMCR Greece claim on 11 March produced no open-source corroborating explosion report. Search terms used: “IED bomb Europe March 2026,” “Greece explosion March 11 2026,” “Germany bomb March 2026.”

**British Isles:** No confirmed IED or controlled explosion incidents in the UK or Northern Ireland surfaced for March 9–15 specifically. Prior incidents in Belfast (January 2026 viable device, Newtownabbey pipe bomb devices) fall outside the window. Search terms used: “Northern Ireland controlled explosion March 2026,” “UK bomb squad March 2026 viable device.”

**North America:** Canada produced no confirmed explosive device incidents in open-source search results for March 9–15, 2026. The US incidents (Gracie Mansion TATP attack carded; Sumter SC pipe bomb carded; Maryland storage unit pipe bomb noted below) represent the full window coverage. A homemade pipe bomb was discovered in a storage unit in Prince George’s County, Maryland (Hillcrest Heights area) — rendered safe by county bomb squad; no timeline confirmed for this specific incident as within-window. Search terms used: “pipe bomb bomb squad North America March 2026,” “Canada explosive device March 2026.”

**South America:** Ecuador/US joint airstrike on Comandos de la Frontera FARC-dissident camp (Operation Southern Spear, 3–9 March) is a conventional military strike, not an IED event, and is excluded. Colombia and Brazil produced no confirmed IED incidents in the

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reporting window. Search terms used: “artefacto explosivo Colombia March 2026,” “bomba Brasil Ecuador March 2026.”

**Central America:** No confirmed IED or grenade incidents in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, or Mexico surfaced for March 9–15 specifically. The Honduras lawmaker grenade attack (January 2026) falls outside the window. Mexican cartel IED use is ongoing but no window-specific incidents were confirmed. Search terms used: “artefacto explosivo Central America March 2026,” “grenade Honduras Guatemala March 2026.”

**Caribbean:** No IED or explosive device incidents surfaced for the Caribbean region during March 9–15, 2026. Search terms used: “Caribbean bomb explosion March 2026,” “explosive device Caribbean March 2026.”

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*End of Brief – Next scheduled brief: Monday, 23 March 2026*

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*Research methodology: 50+ distinct web searches conducted across all regions listed above, including direct search of counteriedreport.com, Sahel LiveUAMap, Critical Threats, VOA, ACLED, and major wire services. All sources are OSINT. No classified material was used or implied.*

\*All information in this report is gathered from publicly available sources.