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#### Xinhua

## 1 killed, 2 injured in southern Afghan blast

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One policeman was killed and two people were injured Friday morning in a blast in Kandahar city, the capital of southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province, sources said.

"A police patrol came under attack by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Shkarpour Darwaza area at around 10 a.m. (local time). The blast seriously injured three people. The injured were shifted to a hospital where one policeman died of his wounds," a police source told Xinhua anonymously.

The two injured included a policeman and a passer-by teenage boy. The boy also remained in critical condition, the source added.

The IED was detonated through a remote-controller and the security forces have launched a massive manhunt in the area to nab the culprit, he said.

Kandahar is notorious for growing poppy and known as a Taliban hotbed.

Taliban militants often attack Afghan and NATO-led foreign forces with IEDs and roadside bombs but the lethal weapons also inflict casualties on civilians.

On Thursday evening, five civilians were wounded in three back- to-back IED blasts in neighboring Helmand province.