

Philippines IED map: January–December 2022



IED explosion (group suspected responsible)*

Abbreviations:

IED: improvised explosive device
 BIFF: Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
 NPA: New People's Army

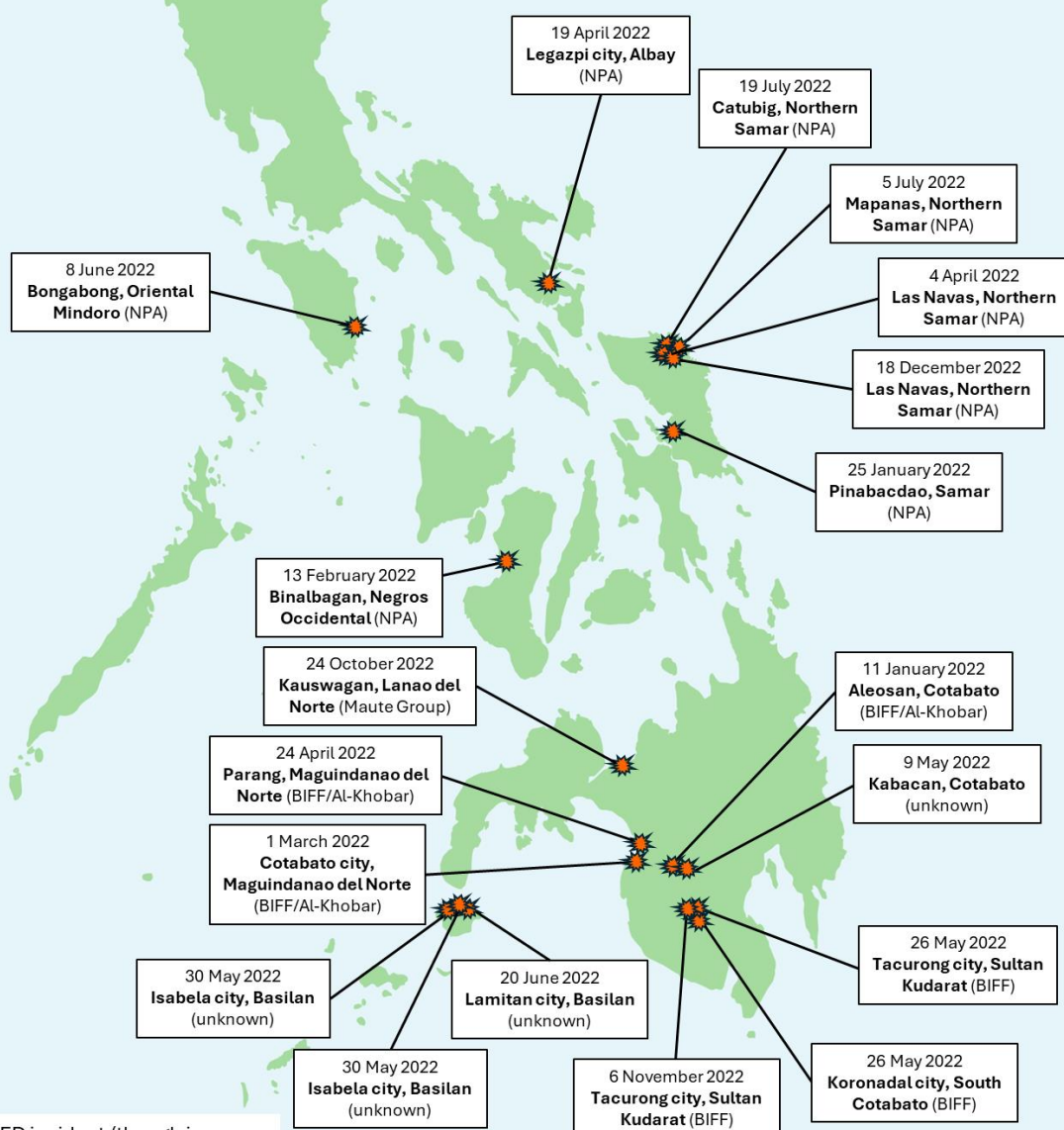
Key statistics: January–December 2022

Total IED incidents (in which at least one improvised device exploded): 19

Total casualties: 67 (6 killed, 61 injured)

Armed groups responsible:

- NPA (8 incidents)
- BIFF/AL-Khobar (6 incidents)
- Maute Group (1 incident)
- *Unknown* (4 incidents)



*Each marker denotes one IED incident (though in some incidents, more than one device may have exploded)

Analysis (January–December 2022)

- The New People's Army (NPA) targeted police and military forces using roadside IEDs across the Visayas, with the island of Samar a hotspot for such attacks. Primarily, the group used improvised landmines in these attacks, with devices often triggered using detonating cord or a mobile phone by rebels hiding in thick vegetation, before opening fire with automatic weapons. It is unclear if the NPA used victim-activated landmines.
- In Mindanao, the Islamic State-affiliated Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and an extortion gang, Al-Khobar, used IEDs to target passenger buses in the provinces of Maguindanao del Norte, Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, injuring and killing civilians. Authorities linked the blasts to attempts to extort local transport firms.
- The Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf, though severely depleted, retained the capability to construct IEDs. While no blasts in 2022 were conclusively linked to Abu Sayyaf, the AFP defused several devices planted by the group in Sulu and seized components including ammonium nitrate, nails, batteries and blasting caps. The Maute Group was linked to an IED blast that toppled an electricity pylon in Lanao del Norte, causing power outages.
- Islamic State-affiliated groups based on mainland Mindanao pose an ongoing threat of IED attacks, as the discovery of makeshift bomb factories by the AFP in 2022 evidenced their production efforts. Such an encampment linked to the BIFF was seized by the AFP in Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao del Sur in March, while a Maute Group IED-making camp was found in a forested area of Marogong, Lanao del Norte in December.

Incident log (January–December 2022)

Date	Location	Group suspected responsible	Casualties
11 January 2022	Aleosan (Barangay San Mateo), Cotabato	BIFF/Al-Khobar	1 killed, 6 injured (civilians)
Incident details: An IED explodes in the rear portion of a bus on route to Cotabato city. The device was reportedly placed in a bag under a seat and detonated remotely using a mobile phone. Extortion of the bus company was the likely motive. Investigations found the IED bore the signature style of Al-Khobar, an extortion group with close links to the BIFF and Dawlah Islamiyah. ¹			
25 January 2022	Pinabacdao (Barangay Pelaon), Samar	NPA	2 injured (1 AFP soldier, 1 CAFGU member)
Incident details: An IED, reported to be an improvised landmine, explodes at the roadside, wounding an AFP soldier and a Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) member near a rural outpost. ²			
13 February 2022	Binalbagan (Barangay Bi-ao), Negros Occidental	NPA	2 injured (PNP officers)
Incident details: An IED explodes at the roadside, targeting a passing police vehicle. Two PNP officers are wounded. The blast is followed by gunfire from NPA rebels. The group later claims responsibility. ³			
1 March 2022	Cotabato city, Maguindanao del Norte	BIFF/Al-Khobar	None
Incident details: A bomb explodes in the back portion of a bus parked at a terminal in Cotabato city. Passengers had disembarked and no injuries were inflicted. Police reported that the IED was triggered remotely using a mobile phone. Extortion of the bus company was the likely motive for the attack. ⁴			
4 April 2022	Las Navas (Barangay San Miguel), Northern Samar	NPA	2 killed (PNP officers), 4 injured (2 PNP officers, 2 AFP troops)
Incident details: An IED, reported to be an improvised landmine, explodes at the roadside, targeting an AFP-PNP patrol. Few details are available, but the device was likely command-detonated. ⁵			
19 April 2022	Legazpi city (Barangay Bariis), Albay province	NPA	4 injured (AFP troops)

Incident details: An IED explodes during a gun battle between the AFP and NPA, injuring four soldiers. AFP troops recover three unexploded improvised landmines and a 100-meter wire near the blast site, indicating that the devices were set up to be triggered from a distance using detonating cord. ⁶			
24 April 2022	Parang (Barangay Making), Maguindanao del Norte	BIFF/Al-Khobar	6 injured (civilians)
Incident details: A bomb explodes in the back section of a bus, wounding six passengers. The bus was parked at the roadside at the time of the blast. A mobile phone was used to trigger the device remotely. PNP bomb-disposal officers later safely defuse a second device found on board the bus. The AFP cites terrorism and extortion of the bus company as possible motives for the attack. ⁷			
9 May 2022	Kabacan (Barangay Poblacion), Cotabato	Unknown	None
Incident details: An IED explodes at the perimeter of an elementary school being used as a polling center for local elections. The device was triggered using a mobile phone and was fashioned from an 80mm mortar. Police say the blast was likely intended to create fear and disruption on polling day. ⁸			
26 May 2022	Koronadal city, South Cotabato	BIFF	2 injured (civilians)
Incident details: A bomb explodes in the back section of a bus. Two people, including a passing tricycle driver, are injured by shrapnel. Authorities report that the device was likely triggered by a mobile phone. The military says the BIFF likely carried out the attack in retaliation for recent AFP offensives. ⁹			
26 May 2022	Tacurong city, Sultan Kudarat	BIFF	None
Incident details: An IED explodes at a bus station, but does not inflict any injuries. The blast occurred shortly after an explosion on a bus 35km away in Koronadal city, with both attacks linked to the BIFF. ¹⁰			
30 May 2022	Isabela city, Basilan	Unknown	None
Incident details: An IED explodes in the parking lot of a food outlet in the central part of Isabela city. No injuries are reported, and it is unclear which group is responsible for placing the device. ¹¹			
30 May 2022	Isabela city (Barangay La Piedad), Basilan	Unknown	2 injured (civilians)
Incident details: An IED explodes at the terminal of a local transport company, wounding two people and damaging four vehicles. The bomb was reportedly concealed in a package loaded on a bus earlier in the day from Lamitan city. The AFP suggests that Abu Sayyaf militants may be behind the two blasts in Basilan on 30 May, though the reports are unconfirmed and extortion is also considered a motive. ¹²			
8 June 2022	Bongabong (Barangay Mambog), Oriental Mindoro	NPA	4 injured (PNP officers)
Incident details: An IED, reported to be an improvised landmine, explodes at the roadside, targeting a vehicle of PNP Special Action Force (SAF) officers. The blast is followed by gunfire from rebels nearby. ¹³			
20 June 2022	Lamitan city, Basilan	Unknown	None
Incident details: A bomb explodes near the gate of Lamitan City Hall. No injuries were reported. Police say the IED was left by the perimeter fence of the building by two unidentified men on a motorbike. ¹⁴			
5 July 2022	Mapanas (Barangay Magsaysay), Northern Samar	NPA	7 injured (AFP troops)
Incident details: An IED, reported to be an improvised landmine, explodes on a village trail, targeting AFP troops on patrol. NPA rebels were sighted nearby and fled after the attack, without an exchange of fire. The AFP said its troops were checking reports of mine-laying by the NPA when the blast occurred. ¹⁵			
19 July 2022	Catubig (Barangay Osang), Northern Samar	NPA	1 killed, 5 injured (AFP troops)
Incident details: A roadside IED, reported to be an improvised landmine, explodes, targeting AFP troops on patrol. The blast was followed by a 15-minute gun battle between AFP troops and NPA rebels. ¹⁶			
24 October 2022	Kauswagan (Barangay Bagumbayan), Lanao del Norte	Maute Group	1 killed (Maute Group militant)
Incident details: An IED explodes, toppling a National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) transmission tower. The blast causes power outages in the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental, and across the Zamboanga peninsula. A man later identified by the AFP as a Maute Group militant is found dead at the blast site, indicating that the device exploded prematurely. Investigations found the IED was constructed using a 60mm mortar and detonated using a remote control switch. ¹⁷			

6 November 2022	Tacurong city, Sultan Kudarat	BIFF	1 killed, 11 injured (civilians)
Incident details: An IED explodes in the back portion of a bus on route to the terminal in Tacurong city, killing one passenger and leaving 11 injured. Authorities say the BIFF is likely responsible for the blast, citing extortion of the bus company as the motive. The device was detonated using a mobile phone. ¹⁸			
18 December 2022	Las Navas (Barangay Quirino), Northern Samar	NPA	6 injured (AFP troops)
Incident details: An IED, reported to be an improvised landmine, explodes, targeting AFP troops tasked with securing a water pipe construction project. The detonation mechanism of the device is unclear. ¹⁹			

Notes on methodology

- This reporting is based on confirmed incidents of IED explosions in the Philippines in 2022. Incidents where IEDs were emplaced but defused by AFP or PNP bomb-disposal experts before they could explode as intended are not included in this incident log.
- This reporting does not include incidences of explosions from grenades or hand-held explosives, conventional weapons, or war remnants left behind from past conflicts.
- Details on the IED incidents included in this reporting are drawn from daily monitoring of media reports, with follow-up sometimes undertaken with local or military authorities in instances where details were unclear. This follow-up may be ongoing in some cases.
- Where an IED blast and gunfire occurred simultaneously or in quick succession, and it was not conclusively reported which weapon inflicted casualties, the casualties for the IED incident were recorded, with it specified that the incident also involved gunfire.
- This reporting is intended to be as exhaustive as possible. It is possible, however, that some IED blasts (likely smaller-scale incidents with no casualties, in rural areas) have gone unreported. The reporting will be updated if further incidents come to light.

Contact and disclaimer

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This research is produced solely by the author, with the findings and analysis not representative of the view or position of any organization to which the author is affiliated or has worked with. Sources from media monitoring are cited as endnotes.

Citation: Michael Hart, "Philippines IED map: January–December 2022," *Asia Conflict Watch*, updated August 2024.

¹ [Al Jazeera](#), 11 January 2022; [Philippine News Agency](#), 11 January 2022; [Philippine News Agency](#), 11 January 2022; [Philippine News Agency](#), 14 January 2022.

² [RMN Network](#), 26 January 2022; [Philippine News Agency](#), 14 July 2022.

³ [Philippine News Agency](#), 13 February 2022; [Digicast Negros](#), 15 February 2022.

⁴ [Philippine News Agency](#), 8 March 2022; [Brigada News](#), 2 March 2022.

⁵ [Philippine News Agency](#), 7 April 2022; [GMA News](#), 6 April 2022.

⁶ [Inquirer](#), 20 April 2022.

⁷ [Philippine News Agency](#), 24 April 2022; [Benar News](#), 25 April 2022; [Philippine News Agency](#), 27 April 2022.

⁸ [Philippine News Agency](#), 9 May 2022; [GMA News](#), 9 May 2022.

⁹ [Philippine News Agency](#), 26 May 2022; [Philippine Star](#), 26 May 2022; [Inquirer](#), 26 May 2022.

¹⁰ [Philippine News Agency](#), 26 May 2022; [Benar News](#), 26 May 2022; [Rappler](#), 26 May 2022.

¹¹ [Philippine News Agency](#), 31 May 2022.

¹² [Philippine News Agency](#), 31 May 2022; [Rappler](#), 1 June 2022.

¹³ [GMA News](#), 8 June 2022; [PTV News](#), 9 June 2022.

¹⁴ [Rappler](#), 20 June 2022.

¹⁵ [Associated Press](#), 5 July 2022; [Philippine Star](#), 20 July 2022.

¹⁶ [Benar News](#), 19 July 2022; [Philippine Star](#), 20 July 2022.

¹⁷ [Rappler](#), 25 October 2022; [Minda News](#), 26 October 2022; [Philippine News Agency](#), 25 October 2022; [Rappler](#), 27 October 2022.

¹⁸ [Philippine Star](#), 6 November 2022; [Benar News](#), 7 November 2022; [Borneo Bulletin](#), 6 November 2022; [Philippine News Agency](#), 9 November 2022.

¹⁹ [Rappler](#), 19 December 2022; [Manila Bulletin](#), 18 December 2022.