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## Kandahar, Afghanistan, Police Chief Abdul Raziq survives bombing

August 27, 2012

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- Kandahar Police Chief Abdul Raziq, one of the most powerful men in southern Afghanistan, survived a massive bombing late Monday that appeared to have been aimed at him, a provincial spokesman said.

At least four civilians died in the blast, apparently set off by a suicide bomber in a minivan, and 20 people were hurt, including Raziq, whose injuries were described as minor.

The bomb exploded about 10 p.m. as Raziq's convoy was driving past on a main road on the city's outskirts, said spokesman Jawed Faisal.

Raziq, who was installed as police chief after his predecessor was assassinated, is credited with many in Kandahar with helping contain the Taliban presence in the city.

Previously the head of the provincial border police, he is a favorite of the American military, which helped boost his power and prestige. However, he has also been dogged by allegations of human rights abuses and corruption.