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A huge car bomb exploded in downtown Damascus, killing at least 53 people and injuring 235 others, Thursday February 21, 2013. The war on Syria is becoming uglier every day in which the Arab people in Syria are paying the price. (read story on page 4)

US Deploys Troops in Niger to Set Up Drone Base

The United States announced Friday the deployment of about 100 US troops to Niger to set up a

drone base near the border with Libya.

According to The Washington Post, the move

comes as the latest step by the Pentagon to increase its intelligence-gathering across Africa in response to what officials see as a rising threat from militant groups.

In a letter to Congress, President Barack Obama said about 40 US service

members arrived in Niger on Wednesday, bringing the total number of troops based there to "approximately" 100.

Obama said the troops would support a French-led military operation in neighboring Mali, where al-Qaeda fighters and other

militants have carved out a refuge in a remote territory the size of Texas.

But in reality, the move seems to signal some sort of 'competition' among Western powers on spheres of

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Belhaj Denies Knowledge of Al Qaeda Attack in Algeria

Tripoli-The head of the Tripoli Military Council Abdel Hakim Belhaj denied Wednesday that he had any previous knowledge of the attack on the Algerian gas

complex at Ain Amenas in January and rejected linking his name to the violent incident.

"I Strongly deny any attempts to link my name to

the attack on the Algerian Ain Amenas last month or that I had any prior knowledge of the attack as indicated by the

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