

Two Yemeni officials escape assassination

Officials survive assassination attempt after Al Qaida killed more than 10 soldiers in ambush

- By Nasser Arrabyee, Correspondent
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Sana'a: Two Yemeni officials survived assassination attempts after Al Qaida fighters killed more than 10 soldiers in an ambush in a volatile town south of the country, local sources said late on Friday.

One soldier was killed and six others were injured in the two separate assassination attempts in Lawdar where government troops are launching a military and security campaign against Al Qaida men who ambushed three military supply vehicles in Amain area close to Lawdar town earlier Friday.

Commander Mohsin Juzailan, head of Brigade 111, survived an assassination attempt but one of his bodyguards was killed and three were injured seriously, while he was inspecting the area where at least 10 of his soldiers were killed in an ambush earlier in the day.

Ali Awad, secretary-general of the local council of Lawdar district, also survived an assassination attempt, but three of his bodyguards were seriously injured, in same area, the local sources said.

A security official statement said that the troops launched a campaign immediately after about 15 Al Qaida fighters ambushed the soldiers.

"Time has come now to cut the hand of terrorism and uproot it from the area," according to the statement.

Local source said that the army started pounding with artillery and missiles on mountainous areas of Aked, and Maliha in Lawdar district where Al Qaida attackers are believed to be hiding.