At least three army soldiers were killed and 16 injured in a landmine explosion on a busy highway in eastern Nepal, Nepalese army officials said Sunday.

(04.01.2004) The officials blamed the attack late Saturday in the Chitwan district, about 60 kilometers southwest of the capital, on Maoist rebels waging an armed insurgency in the kingdom. The soldiers were heading from the district to Kathmandu in an 11-vehicle army convoy when their truck drove over a landmine, the officials said. Maoist rebels, waging a rebellion to overthrow the Nepalese monarchy and end multiparty rule, have lately been laying landmines targeting security personnel across the kingdom.

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