Two policemen and a soldier have been hurt in bomb blasts in Chechnya, the Russian news agency RIA reported on 21 March.

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The two police officers, with the special-purpose police force from Vladimir Region, were injured when a truck with the military convoy they escorted was blown up by a roadside bomb. The device, which was described as "home-made", was radio-controlled, the Chechen police said.

"The Ural truck was blown up at 1410 [local time] yesterday within one kilometre of the town of Lermontov-Yurt in Achkhoy-Martanovsky District [southwest of Groznyy, on the Chechen-Ingush border]," the police sources said. The two, one a police senior lieutenant and deputy company commander, and the other - the driver - a police warrant officer, "were given first aid on the spot".

In a later report, RIA Novosti said that a contract service private in the Russian army had been injured when another explosive device blew up during an operation in Chechnya. The man has been taken to hospital.

"At about 0900 [local time] yesterday, a home-made land mine was detonated during reconnaissance and search operations by servicemen from a Russian Defence Ministry commandant's company near the town of Gansolchu in Nozhay-Yurtovsky District [southeast of Groznyy, on the Chechen-Dagestani border]," an army spokesman told the agency.