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INTEGRAL/JEM-X detection of a possible new outburst from GRS 1747-312

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Subjects: X-ray, Binary, Globular Cluster, Neutron Star, Transient

Referred to by ATel #: 4915

During the observations performed during INTEGRAL monitoring of the Galactic Bulge region (see ATel #438) on 2013 March 11, we detected enhanced emission from the direction of the globular cluster Terzan 6 using the INTEGRAL/JEM-X instrument. This likely indicates that the bursting low-mass X-ray binary GRS 1747-312 is active again (as also reported by the MAXI transient alert on 2013-03-11 12:45:25 UT), although it cannot be fully excluded that another X-ray binary has become active in this cluster.

The source is detected in the combined JEM-X mosaic at 25 sigma (effective exposure time 12.5 ksec) with average fluxes of 41+/−3 mCrab in the 3−10 keV energy band and 23+/−4 mCrab in the 10−25 keV energy band. The JEM-X spectrum is well fit by using a black-body model with a temperature of 1.7+/−0.2 keV and an absorption column density fixed to the Galactic value in the direction to the cluster, i.e. 6E21 cm⁻². This gives a 3−10 keV flux of 6.0x10⁻¹₀ ergs/cm²/s.

No type-I X-ray bursts are visible in the JEM-X light-curve.

The source is not detected by IBIS/ISGRI. We estimated an upper limit on the source flux in the 20−40 keV energy band of 8 mCrab at 3 sigma confidence level (effective exposure time 11 ksec).

The next INTEGRAL observations in the direction of the source are planned for 20 March 2013.
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