

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #91

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. ***Al-Qaeda Boasts of Worldwide Interests, Multi-Faceted Tactics***

In its newest recording, released Wednesday of this week, **AL-QAEDA OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA** (AQAP) issued a series of boastful threats against Americans and American assets worldwide.

Called "The USA and the Final Trap," the video message speaks of "the ongoing Crusader war against the Islamic nations - Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Arabian Peninsula and Yemen." The Americans, the AQAP spokesman says, kill "innocent tribesman" in Yemen, Iraq, the Palestinian Authority, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Specifically, the recording cites the American use of unmanned aerial vehicles and "collaboration with the respective traitorous governments." AQAP also claims that America arranged terrorist attacks on mosques and markets in Iraq and then blamed jihadist groups, in order to incite the Muslims against one another.

In calling for Islamist viewers to fight against Americans and Yemeni government elements, specifically, AQAP says, "It is a shame the Christians are killing us in Afghanistan and then travel in the summer in our islands."

Including previously published clips of the Nigerian man who tried to blow up Delta Airlines Flight 253 in December 2009 training in Yemen, the AQAP spokesman explains that his attack was "not just a response for what is happening in Yemen, but to ... what is happening to us all over the world." Explaining that Islam justifies jihad against America, AQAP says, "We will fight them wherever they are." The video then goes on to cite examples of what that may mean:

- "We will destroy their navy that anchors on our beaches like we destroyed the ship [USS] Cole."
- "We will kill their intelligence men as Abu Dujana [Al-Khorasani] did." This references the Jordanian suicide bomber who killed CIA agents in Afghanistan in December 2009.
- "We will attack their embassies like we did in Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Jeddah, Karachi and Sana'a."
- "We will bring the war to their country. ... We will kill their soldiers in their secured bases, like the action of Nidal Hasan."
- "Also, their planes are a legitimate target for us. ... We have many like [Delta Flight 253 would-be bomber] Omar Al-Farouk."

Regarding targeting, the video continues by warning, "You won't kill our women and children and stay safe. The equation is clear: as you kill, we will kill." Although the primary focus is on America and Americans, the video speech concludes: "We will continue until our battalions reach Jerusalem."

The seamless, interrelated references to Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Israel, the United States and "our islands" - which ITRR analysts believe may refer to Southeast Asia's majority-Muslim areas - is an indication of the global view of all branches of the Al-Qaeda network. The entire world, or certainly the Islamic world, is clearly seen as a single theater with many individual fronts. This means that if counterterrorism efforts prove successful in Yemen, for example, retaliation may come in the form of attacks in North Africa or Afghanistan. This is a major force multiplier for the movement with separate compartments that can react to actions globally.

Furthermore, the reference to women and children, tourists in "our islands" and airline passengers is yet another clear indication of the Al-Qaeda ideology that fails

to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants among non-Muslim enemies. This reinforces the repeated ITRR analysis that suggested the increased likelihood of attacks on Western non-governmental organizations even when the stated targets of jihadist communications were military or government assets.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

2. *Al-Qaeda Again Inciting Against Western Educational Institutions*

In a new journal issued by **AL-QAEDA OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA** (AQAP), the organization places repeat emphasis on the presence of Western-oriented educational institutions in the Muslim-Arab Middle East.

In an article in the journal attributed to senior AQAP leader Abu Yahya Al-Libi, the organization points an accusing finger at regional educational institutions for the "infiltration" of foreigners in Saudi Arabia and other "lands of Islam." Specifically, he names the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, calling it "a tree ready to be uprooted." Al-Libi blames KAUST, which has international students, for spreading atheism and allowing proselytizing for Christianity.

More generally, the AQAP leader attacks the Saudi royal family for being what he sees as pro-Western in both word and deed.

In his text, Al-Libi further accuses all Western educational facilities in Muslim countries of missionary activity, spreading Christianity, opening churches, setting up Christian courts and centers. In this context, he names the American University branches in Beirut and Cairo as among the worst offenders.

The jihad fighters, Al-Libi says, do not have any sophisticated weapons; "all they have is explosives and suicide [vests]."

In the same edition of the AQAP publication, there is an additional article focusing on KAUST. In this item, the writer objects to the university itself, as well as to specific educational content.

***** **ANALYSIS** ***** **T/I/W Rating: MODERATE-to-SEVERE**

ITRR analysts note that jihadist communications have been increasingly focusing on KAUST and Western higher education institutions in Islamic lands recently, with the aforementioned AQAP journal entries being the most recent example of this phenomenon. For example, in February 2010 (PAIB No. 45) AQAP's Al-Libi issued

nearly identical threats against KAUST and American University branches in the Middle East. At the time, Al-Libi said of KAUST, "There is only one solution: to destroy the institution." Referring to the American University in Cairo and Beirut, Al-Libi noted that "many heretics study there. Allah will destroy them." Similar Al-Qaeda targeting of KAUST was intercepted by ITRR analysts in November 2009.

ITRR analysts believe that the risk of a terror attack aimed at KAUST and identifiably Western educational institutions in the Middle East is high. Pennsylvania students and researchers at KAUST, American University branches in Cairo, Beirut and Sharjah (UAE), and other regional educational facilities should be advised of the current increased danger of terrorist activity. Also of note in this regard, although less attractive to students from the US, is the American University of Afghanistan, the American University of Dubai, the American University of Iraq, and the American University of Kuwait.

ITRR analysts additionally note that the latest AQAP article on this issue specifically names cultural institutions and churches.

3. AQIM Targeting of France, Spain and Mauritania

ITRR analysts have intercepted communications from **AL-QAEDA IN THE ISLAMIC MAGHREB** (AQIM) naming France, Spain and Mauritania as urgent current targets for attack.

According to the communication, "The infidels in Spain and Algeria have worked together and prepared the unjust trial" in which three jihadists were sentenced for death in a Mauritania court. The three were convicted of murdering four French tourists in 2007.

The communication first addresses Mauritania's leaders, asking "Do you follow blindly the infidels' regime in Algeria? Deliver our brothers to the jihad fighters and no harm will come to you or rulers of Mauritania. ... If you refuse, know that we will do everything to get them released. And all they have tasted in prison and are tasting now, you will taste the same poison."

Addressing France and Spain, AQIM says: "Our swords are already drawn. You have refused; all the crusader countries should know that the lives of our brothers are tied to the lives of your nations. If our brothers won't be at peace, then you won't find the peace you are yearning for, God willing." The communication concludes, "France: Blood, Blood, Destruction, Destruction."

***** ANALYSIS ***** T/I/W Rating: MODERATE-to-SEVERE

ITRR analysts believe that either AQIM or sympathetic jihadists will likely try to carry out kidnapping operations in an attempt to win the release of the above-mentioned prisoners in Mauritania. Security personnel responsible for the safety of non-governmental organizations and foreign assets in North Africa should increase anti-kidnapping procedures at this time.

Regarding the risk within France and Spain, ITRR believes that sympathetic lone-wolf or organized cells of jihadists may be inspired to perpetrate terrorist attacks targeting high-visibility assets. Pennsylvanian students and faculty participating in foreign study programs in Spain or France - such as those of the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Clarion University, East Stroudsburg, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Mansfield University and Westminster College - should be made aware of the current heightened risk levels.

In Pennsylvania, high-visibility French assets include:

- the offices of France's Consulate General in Center City Philadelphia
- The *Alliance Française de Pittsburgh*, which meets in the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

4. **Immigration Activists Planning Protests in EU**

A pro-immigration, anti-border organization known as **STOP DEPORTATION**, in conjunction with other anti-nationalist groups, has called for a series of actions and protests for what it is calling the European Week of Action Against the Deportation Machine, 1-6 June 2010. Targets include governmental and private facilities.

Related events and actions are possible in several locations in Europe; however, as of this writing, the primary locus of activity appears to be London and elsewhere in England.

Significant events from a security perspective during the Week of Action include: 1 June - picketing immigration reporting centers; picketing Communications House and Becketts House in London; 3 June - unspecified "actions against private contractors"; 5 June - a mass demonstration against deportations in Parliament Square, London.

***** ANALYSIS ***** T/I/W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE

Students and researchers from Pennsylvania taking part in the many exchange programs in the United Kingdom (e.g., University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University

of Pennsylvania, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Mansfield and Westminster) are advised to increase situational awareness at the current time. Especially of note in this regard are the areas around the named government facilities. ITRR analysts are attempting to ascertain which facilities associated with "private contractors" are likely to be targeted by protests.

In Pennsylvania, the British-American Business Council (BABC) has chapter offices in Philadelphia (200 S. Broad St.) and Pittsburgh (425 Sixth Ave.) which may be targeted for protests. There is a small potential for more destructive action by anarchist or communist elements, depending on the coverage the Week of Action receives in anarchist forums. ITRR researchers are monitoring for relevant risk indicators in Pennsylvania.

5. *Anti-War Protest in Philadelphia*

A coalition of anti-war groups will be holding a street protest with the theme, "Funding for Philadelphia, Not for War!" The location is 40th Street and Market Street, Philadelphia. The protest will take place on Thursday, 3 June 2010. ITRR researchers note that two different times have been announced for the start of the protest – 4:30pm and 5:30pm.

The rally will include a march to Congressman Chaka Fattah's district office. It is unknown if a permit has been obtained for this event.

6. *Rally in Support of "Fort Dix 5"*

A rally to support the "Fort Dix 5" will take place at noon, Tuesday, 1 June 2010, at the U.S. Court House, 601 Market Street, Philadelphia. The organizers of this protest state that the rally will focus attention on the "terrible injustice done to these five Muslim men, in the hope that the Appeals Court will realize that there is no evidence at all that these men are terrorists."

Organizers state that "many people believe that the Fort Dix 5 - from Cherry Hill, New Jersey – (Dritan, Eljvir, and Shain Duka, Mohamad Shnewer, and Serdar Tatar) were preemptively prosecuted by the use of a long and costly FBI "sting" operation that resulted in their convictions and long prison sentences." The leaders of this protest state that "provocateurs persuaded the men to buy some automatic weapons" and to "discuss a possible attack on the military base at Fort Dix, New Jersey." It is unknown if a permit has been obtained for this 12pm rally.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

7. **Potential for Anti-Israel Protests in Philadelphia**

Anti-Israel activists in Canada are holding daily protests at the Israeli Consulate in Toronto through this weekend. These protests are in the wake of an expected maritime confrontation this weekend off the coast of Gaza. The maritime confrontation is believed to comprise a flotilla of up to nine ships carrying hundreds of activists and thousands of tons of supplies attempting to force its way through an Israeli sea embargo on the *Hamas* regime.

The organizers say the protests will continue "until at least Sunday, possibly longer, depending on Israel's response; more direct actions may be proposed." They name "hunger strikes, sit-ins, etc." as the preferred tactics "until the flotilla is allowed to reach Gaza."

***** **ANALYSIS** ***** **T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

ITRR analysts see the developing high-profile maritime confrontation between Israeli naval forces and the Free Gaza Movement activists as a potential trigger for protests similar to those in Toronto at other official Israeli assets worldwide. In **Pennsylvania**, this primarily means the **Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia**. In addition, the Gaza coast events may add fuel to the fire of increased chatter noted by ITRR analysts among jihadists, anarchists and radical anti-war elements discussing hostile attacks on **Jewish and Israeli assets worldwide**, such as high-profile **Jewish institutions, synagogues or communal events**.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
BANKING AND FINANCE
CHEMICAL
COMMUNICATIONS
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES
EMERGENCY SERVICES
ENERGY
HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS AND WASTE
POSTAL AND SHIPPING

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
WATER

Compiled by NR

THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
LOW (Level 4)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have little capability or intent to take action against the target. It is assessed that, although it cannot be ruled out, an attack or action is unlikely to be mounted based on current available intelligence.
MODERATE (Level 3)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have the capability to take action against the target and that such action is within the adversary's current intent. It is assessed that an attack or action is likely to be a priority and might well be mounted.
SEVERE (Level 2)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have an established capability and current intent to take action against the target and there is some additional information on the nature of the threat. It is assessed that an attack or action on the target is a priority and is likely to be mounted.
CRITICAL (Level 1)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements with an established capability are actively planning to take action against the target within a matter of days (up to two weeks). An attack or action is expected imminently.

END-CLASSIFIED-TAM-C-

For additional information, please contact the TAM-C of the Institute of Terrorism Research and Response at: +1.215.922.1080 or info@itrrintel.org

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