

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #22

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

18 DECEMBER 2009

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Philadelphia Event Indicates Growing Anarchist Assertiveness

The Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN) will be meeting in Philadelphia 19-20 December 2009. This regional meeting is expected to bring approximately 20-25 dedicated Anarchist activists into Philadelphia for the "Philadelphia Assembly".

The number above does not include members of the local Philadelphia Anarchist population. Areas from which Anarchists will be coming include Pittsburgh, Boston, Syracuse, and Ithaca. Logistical preparations have included the Anarchist organization Food Not Bombs providing meals for the Assembly.

The meeting will take place at the Lancaster Avenue Autonomous Zone (LAVA) at 4134 Lancaster Avenue.

A major portion of the meeting will be dedicated to the issue of how NEAN fits into the greater Anarchist movement of the United States and the world. It will also include reports from the G20 disorders and possibly the COP15 disorders in Copenhagen.

TAM-C analysts note that the subject matter indicates a growing assertiveness of Anarchist groups in the northeast.

North American Jihadists: A Growing Trend

This month saw the publication of charges filed against Chicago resident and American citizen Daoud Gilani (David C. Headley), in which he is accused of providing pre-operational surveillance for the November 2008 terrorist assault in Mumbai, India, which left 163 people dead and held the city hostage for almost three days. Initially Gilani was arrested in October in connection with yet another terrorist plot that was to be executed overseas - an attack on a Danish newspaper that published cartoons in 2005 depicting the prophet of Islam, Muhammad.

The charges against Gilani are only the most recent in a definitely increasing trend in 2009, as identified by Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center analysts, of citizens of Western states enlisting in jihadist operations abroad and in their home countries. In a communication released on Thursday (17 December 2009), the wife of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri said: "All the leaders of jihad support and encourage migration to the lands of jihad, and so must we [Muslim wives]."

Other fresh examples of this trend include a cell of North American jihadists captured in Pakistan, a Danish Muslim self-detonating in Somalia. Other instances were reported in Yemen, the UK, Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, and elsewhere. There have been approximately 70 interdictions of American citizens or US residents involved in jihadist terrorist activity worldwide since December 2008.

Such incidents may be the intended result of a calculated decision taken by Al-Qaeda and its affiliates over one year ago, as noted by TAM-C analysts at the time, to flood general Western online forums (Youtube, Facebook, other social media, music and gaming forums, etc.) with jihadist propaganda. Al-Qaeda believed that it would be effective to use the Internet's many general forums in order to recruit and persuade young Western Muslims who may not be familiar with, have access to, or understand the purely jihadist online forums. A secondary goal was to promote Islam to non-Muslims and to present jihad to impressionable Westerners as an issue of anti-imperialist struggle.

In a jihadist communication intercepted by TAM-C researchers in the past week, for example, there was a request for "articles and inflammatory religious legal opinions" to distribute to several potential new recruits to the jihad. "The most important things that I need are things that can make them jihadists," the communication says. "What should I teach them of jihad or different things, like prayers. I need your help."

As a second stage, Arabic jihadist Websites have periodically opened online forums in Western languages for their new non-Arabic-speaking "recruits". In addition, American jihadists and Islamists have their own Web presence with forums and blogs praising jihad attacks and, in some cases, even offering practical pre-operational intelligence.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Sectors: BANKING AND FINANCE

Immediate TAM-C Alert: Pittsburgh Protest

Environmental activists will be demonstrating today, 18 December 2009, at the Old PNC Bank Building, 5th Ave and Wood St. in Pittsburgh. Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center researchers note that the demonstration is scheduled to run from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM.

******* ANALYSIS *******

The 18th of December is the last day of the United Nations Climate Talks in Copenhagen. Many demonstrators have been arrested in Copenhagen, so, along with the issue of global warming, the protesters can be expected to voice support for their arrested fellow Anarchists.

TAM-C analysts expect the protest to remain peaceful. However, analysts expect street theater and other forms of minor disruption. It is unknown at this time if the individuals involved have obtained a police permit for this action.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

France's Veil Ban Not Forgotten by Jihadists

A jihadist communication intercepted by Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center researchers focuses on the decision by France's ruling party to promote a general ban on the Muslim face veil, the *hijab*. The public discussion of the issue is seen by the jihadists as a "trial balloon" by French leaders to test the reaction to such a law.

The communication calls for action or explicit threats by Al-Qaeda leaders ahead of the proposed bill, which they believe is due to be brought to a vote next month, to prevent the French from adopting the ban. Al-Qaeda is asked to state clearly: "O sons of France, a ban on the *hijab* and the imprisonment of our sisters [by forcing them to stay indoors if they wear the veil] literally means strikes in the heart of the country with human body parts everywhere."

Perhaps in response, a communication was released within less than three days by the wife of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri to Muslim women worldwide. Among other messages, to the wives of jihadists and imprisoned Islamists, Omayma Al-Zawahiri calls on women to withstand the "attack" on the *hijab*. She says: "The goal of those infidels is that the Muslim woman give up her distinctive appearance and her modesty." This effort on the part of the "infidels", she continues, should "encourage your husbands and sons on the path of jihad."

Omayma writes that women can assist the jihad in many ways, including collecting intelligence, spreading propaganda, medical treatment of the wounded and even physical attacks.

******* ANALYSIS *******

The two successive messages focusing on the potential ban on the *hijab* are initial indications of a new focus of Al-Qaeda on France. Until this week, the *hijab* issue has been off the jihadist radar, which turned its attention to elections in Germany and most recently the Swiss ban on

mosque minarets. TAM-C analysts believe that a series of anti-France communications will be coming from Al-Qaeda leaders in coming weeks and months.

In addition, if Al-Qaeda does not carry out its own dramatic attack on French assets, TAM-C analysts foresee such assets becoming high-priority targets for violent attack by lone-wolf jihadists or self-starting cells worldwide.

There is also a high potential for violent rioting among Muslim communities within France in response to a *hijab* ban. High-profile French assets worldwide will likely be targeted by vigorous protests as well, should the proposed anti-*hijab* legislation pass.

High-visibility French assets in Pennsylvania include the offices of France's Consulate General in Center City Philadelphia and the Alliance Française de Pittsburgh, which meets in the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. Students, business travelers and other personnel from Pennsylvania are advised to avoid known flashpoints in the suburbs of French cities.

Note: While attacks and riots may well target the French homeland, TAM-C analysts believe French assets in North Africa are under more immediate threat due to the active Al-Qaeda branch in that region.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

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@terrorresponse.org

***Working with organizations that refuse to surrender their
domestic or international operations to terrorism***

Ensure that you always receive the latest information from The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response. Add the e-mail address, "tamc@terrorresponse.org" to your personal address book.

This Intelligence report includes information from open and closed intelligence sources. Not all information is able to be verified; however, the TAM-C is actively evaluating the reporting to establish its accuracy and to determine if it represents a possible link to terrorism. If recipients have any additional or clarifying information, please contact the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) at +1.215.922.1080.

Actionable Intelligence Weekly Briefing® A general overview of actionable intelligence (upcoming events) used by directors of security and law enforcement managers to pre-plan their future operations. The Briefing is dispatched on Monday of each week by 1100 GMT to enable early planning of the upcoming weeks.

Threat and Hazard Monitoring (THM) A custom service meeting the needs for each client. With the assistance of our international analysts, this service identifies specific threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and assets our team of native language speakers researchers and ground resources, are to monitor and forward on to the client.

For additional information regarding the Center's services or specialized customized research and analysis programs, feel free to contact us at: tamc@terrorresponse.org