

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #55

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. **Jordan: Target and Jihadist Waystation**

The video message recorded by Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal Al-Balawi, a.k.a. Abu Dujana Al-Khurasani, and released posthumously, has been repeatedly analyzed since it first appeared in the general media. ITRR analysts have noted a somewhat hidden strategic angle that is apparently part of a larger Al-Qaeda agenda in the Middle East.

Al-Balawi, it will be remembered, was responsible for a suicide attack against a CIA base near Khost, Afghanistan, on 30 December 2009. Nine people were killed, including seven CIA agents.

At one point, Al-Balawi said, "There is no solution to the situation in Jordan but emigration to the lands of jihad. Train in all areas of warfare and then return to Jordan to carry out missions. Nothing is too difficult, as evidenced by what I did despite all the challenges."

According to ITRR analysis, the key aspect of this recording is found in the above statement, indicating that jihadists are able to leave Jordan for Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and then to return armed with new knowledge and battle training. This poses a threat not just to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as explicitly stated in the Al-Balawi recording, but to its neighbor Israel, as well as to the states of the Arabian Peninsula.

Crossing into Israel from Jordan, for example, is extremely easy, ITRR analysts note. Jordanian terrorists - freshly returned from jihad training in Pakistan, Afghanistan or Iraq - can make their

way into Israel clandestinely or even openly, by way of the official border crossings and ports. Once in the country, these jihadists can collect intelligence, begin establishing sleeper cells, make contact and collaborate with Israel-based adversarial elements, and ultimately carry out terrorist atrocities in the name of Al-Qaeda.

If successful, such an operation in the heart of the "Zionist beast" would raise the profile of Al-Qaeda to new heights. It will also be taken as evidence of Allah's approval, and of the persistence with which Al-Qaeda is pursuing its lengthy plan of stages (which includes ringing Israel with jihadist cells and then attacking inside the country). All of this, of course, would contribute greatly to the Al-Qaeda recruitment efforts among Palestinian youths, who are already fairly well disenchanted with the Palestinian Authority leadership - both that of the relatively secular Fatah in the "West Bank" and that of the Islamist Hamas in Gaza.

In Jordan, Israel and Saudi Arabia, ITRR analysts caution, Western interests and assets will also face a new and serious threat from the returning Jordanian jihadists. Such assets will most likely come under greater scrutiny for attack, including pre-operational surveillance and probing. If the possibility of attack appears realistic to the Al-Qaeda operatives in Jordan and Israel, then the Jordanian "returnees" are likely to be tasked with keeping up a tempo of strikes against Western targets in Jordan and in neighboring states (Israel and Saudi Arabia).

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

2. *Jihadists Reminded: Target the Chinese*

ITRR analysts have identified an Arabic language call to target personnel and assets of the People's Republic of China (PRC) within the Chinese state and globally. The targeting guidance provided in the communications cited three reasons:

- 1) The PRC is abusing Muslims in China so the targeting is in "support our brothers in Turkestan" (a reference primarily to the ethnically Uighur, Muslim-majority Xinjiang area of China);
- 2) The PRC is destroying the economy of the Arab world, and as a result, Arabs have become "slaves" to the Chinese; and
- 3) The PRC is spreading Communism, an ideology that should be rejected by Muslim countries.

The jihadist communication refers to the Chinese presence in Muslim countries as the "next new form of economic and ideological conquest." Finally, the communication indicates that the Chinese businessmen and workers in Islamic countries "congregate together, because they understand the power of unity and the weakness of dispersal. However, this is actually to our benefit..." The jihadist goes on to explain that the Chinese tendency to congregate in certain markets and in specific locations makes it easier to hit them. "We must strike those markets and

those companies in our countries as revenge for our brothers [in Xinjiang] and to hit those bringing a corrupting and defiling influence to our bodies and our lands."

***** ANALYSIS*****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

A recent motivating factor for this communication to be released now, ITRR analysts believe, is the reported killing of the head of the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP) Emir Abdul Haqq in North Waziristan. His followers will, like other jihadist groups, be under pressure to take action proving that his death has not harmed their ability to execute attacks.

Also contributing an additional layer of impetus to execute attacks is the November 2009 declaration by Al-Qaeda's Abu Yahya Al-Libi of jihad against China. He called on Uighur Muslims to take up the Islamic war in their region of the country.

ITRR analysts note that PRC targets have already been hit in recent years both in Xinjiang, China, and in the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Previous attacks have ranged from bombings to ambushes with small-arms fire aimed at Chinese contract workers abroad. Organizations in close proximity to high-profile Chinese assets or groups should take note of increased pressure to target these assets by lone-wolf or small unit terror organizations.

Students from Pennsylvania schools (Clarion University, East Stroudsburg, Indiana University, Mansfield University, and Westminster College) taking part in International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP) in China, Indiana University of Pennsylvania exchange students in China, as well as University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine exchange students at China's Fourth Military Medical University College of Stomatology, should be made aware of the specific regional risks in western China.

Sectors: BANKING AND FINANCE

3. *Royal Bank of Canada Catches Rainforest Action Network Eye*

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) has declared its intention to "keep the pressure on" the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) over its financing of the Alberta, Canada, tar sands crude oil extraction project.

Thus far, RAN has praised its supporters for sending thousands of emails to the RBC chief executive and has called for a campaign of phone calls to RBC's toll-free lines. They have also sponsored a protest, along with representatives of "indigenous communities", inside and outside RBC's annual shareholder meeting at the Metro Toronto Convention Center.

***** ANALYSIS*****

T/I/W Rating: LOW

Motivations for the opposition to the Alberta tar sands project include both environmental concerns - saving a local forest - and Canadian aboriginal land rights.

ITRR analysts suggest that the importance of the targeting of RBC lies in the potential for radical environmentalists to seek more active opposition than mere email and phone call

campaigns. As ITRR has repeatedly cautioned, RAN has in the past either escalated, or inspired supporters to escalate, to extremely aggressive tactics in their campaigns. Previous RAN targets have been the scene of illegal actions including trespassing, lock-downs and vandalism.

In light of this, security personnel should review policies dealing with the protection of relevant facilities - such as the RBC branches in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Scranton, Lancaster, Kennett Square - and businesses in the vicinity thereof.

Sector: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

4. *Flashpoint: Anti- and Pro-Israel Activists to Converge at Trader Joe's*

Anti-Israel activists are reportedly planning to target Trader Joe's grocery stores this Sunday, 7 March 2010, for protests and possible direct action. The initiative is part of what they are calling International Israeli Apartheid Week (1-14 March 2010), as initially reported in PAIB no. 50.

In reaction, pro-Israel activists from the Philadelphia and southern New Jersey areas are calling for counteractions on the same day at area Trader Joe's. Such counteractions will most likely involve directed purchasing of Israeli products and counter-protests.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

Past anti-Israel boycott events worldwide, including several at Trader Joe's outlets last year, have included protests outside the targeted stores, organized in-store disruptions, and "de-shelving" (coordinated wholesale removal of Israeli products from the store shelves) by the activists.

This weekend, the convergence of both pro-Israel and anti-Israel activists on Trader Joe's stores will generate high tension that may well degenerate into various types of confrontations, some potentially violent in nature.

Specifically, Philadelphia-area and southern New Jersey law enforcement would do well to maintain awareness of potential flashpoints at Trader Joe's outlets in: Center City Philadelphia (2121 Market St.); Ardmore (112 Coulter Ave.); Jenkintown (933 Old York Rd.); Media (12 E State St.); Wayne (171 E Swedesford Rd.); Marlton (300 Route 73 S.); North Wales (1460 Bethlehem Pike); and Wilmington (5605 Concord Pike). Other Trader Joe's outlets may also be targeted; however, these have been cited by name by pro-Israel activists for counter-protest activities.

Communities with significant Anarchist populations should also be aware of the potential for more vigorous protests and direct action at the Trader Joe's locations or in the area of Israeli-identified facilities. In Pennsylvania, this primarily means the Israeli consulate in Philadelphia; however, potential targets for vandalism or lone-wolf terrorism in the region include any high-profile Jewish institution, synagogue or communal event.

In addition, as previously noted in PAIB no. 50, pro-Israel gatherings or counter-demonstrations (such as those at Trader Joe's, but only if they develop into large events) during this period may be seen as population targets for attacks by extremist activists or lone-wolf terrorists.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	DESCRIPTION
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@itrintel.org

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