

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #33

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

13 JANUARY 2010

ONGOING RESEARCH

1. Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus: Terror Campaign

Several recent communications from the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus (IEC), following the 27 November 2009 double bombing of the Nevsky Express in Russia (which killed around 30 people), warn that the group is beginning a lengthy terror campaign deep inside Russia. As noted by ITRR analysts, one of the jihadist focuses will likely be infrastructure attacks, insofar as such are feasible. On 12 January 2010 a bomb was detonated along a gas pipeline in Dagestan (Caucasus), disrupting delivery to eleven towns. Earlier in the day, another suspected explosive device was found near the same pipeline. (PAIB no. 16, 4 December 2009, and PAIB no. 30, 6 January 2010)

2. The Next American Headache

New jihadist tactical communications intercepted by ITRR researchers discuss what they believe is an explosive that Western technology is unable to detect, which is why it was able to pass through checkpoints in three recent bombing incidents. Christmas Day bomber Abdulmutallab allegedly told investigators that 20 other young men are being prepared in Yemen to use same material to blow up airliners. (PAIB no. 32, 11 January 2010)

3. Eco-Terror: Multiple Indicators

* European eco-extremist and anti-capitalist communications of 8 January 2010 and thereafter include explicit calls for sabotage of major facilities and murder.

* Environmental activists are preparing for protests targeting the Second Annual Carbon Trade Summit at the Embassy Suites Hotel in New York City on 12-13 January 2010.

* ITRR analysts are continuing to monitor events surrounding the upcoming "direct action" training camp for environmentalists, scheduled for 4-25 January 2010. It will focus on disrupting the coal industry.

* As noted in PA Actionable Intelligence Bulletins in November and December, environmentalist extremists and associated anti-capitalists have pivoted off of the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit to encourage more "direct action" by their cadres worldwide. (PAIB no. 32, 11 January 2010, PAIB no. 31, 8 January 2010, and PAIB no. 20, 14 December 2009)

4. Spain Threatened Over Caricature of Muhammad

Jihadist communications indicate the intent to target Spanish assets in response to a magazine caricature of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. ITRR analysts warn of increased risk of lone-wolf or organized terrorist activity against Spain in the Iberian Peninsula, North Africa and elsewhere. Other Western European assets in Muslim states, particularly those of Denmark and the Netherlands, may be targeted as well. In addition, there is an increased risk of kidnapping of Westerners in North Africa. (PAIB no. 30, 6 January 2010)

5. SHAC Targeting PA-Based Firms

ITRR analysts expect a concerted effort on the part of local members of the SHAC movement to target AstraZeneca and Glaxo SmithKline, with offices in Pennsylvania. (PAIB no. 28, 1 January 2010)

6. Monitoring Expanding Egypt Targeting

ITRR analysts have expressed the view that there will be international jihadist or Gaza-based attacks on Egyptian military forces, as well as possible targeting of civilians - Sinai resorts, synagogues, churches and other non-military targets. Terrorists will likely seek to strike Israeli and American assets in the region, as well. (PAIB no. 23, 21 December 2009, and PAIB no. 31, 8 January 2010)

7. Indian Marxist Terror Campaign: No End in Sight

A bus bombing was averted in India on 10 January 2010, when an IED with a timer was discovered aboard a parked passenger bus parked on the outskirts of Kalchini. The IED, timed to detonate when the bus was expected to be full, was found in a foot-tall steel lunch box. Several similar bombs were discovered when Indian forces defeated Maoist gunmen in a two-hour firefight in Chhattisgarh two days later. Recent events reinforce the nature of the ongoing threat within India from Communist terrorists and local insurgents. As noted by ITRR analysts in October 2009, a sharp uptick in Communist (AKA Marxist or Naxalite) militia attacks had begun, with no end in sight. (PAIB no. 29, 4 January 2010)

8. Intelligence Sharing for 'Jihad Al-Bahr'

Responses to the detailed requests by jihadist elements for intelligence on Western maritime assets continue to be shared enthusiastically. As previously noted, ITRR sees a clear intent by jihadist cells to begin waging a deadly form of Jihad Al-Bahr ("jihad at sea") as soon as operationally possible. (PAIB no. 28, 1 January 2010)

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: COMMUNICATIONS; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS; POSTAL AND SHIPPING

9. Specific, Detailed Targeting in the UK

ITRR researchers have identified a jihadist communication from 8 January 2010 which explicitly threatens British infrastructure, most likely mass transit. In a mocking of Western complacency, the known jihadist described "two men, British by birth and rearing" who will "attack as lions the lines of transportation and movement in the land of the English and paralyze it, then the sun shall indeed set on the (British) Empire...."

ITRR Arabic specialists note that the original text translated here as "birth and rearing" does not necessarily mean descent and that "transportation" can also refer to "haulage" or "communication lines".

The British people, the communication continues, "shall not expect that he (the attacker) shall be one of them and of their sons, and that he shall be the one to inflict the fatal blow."

The jihadist cites recent terror attacks as examples of the infiltration capabilities of the jihad movement. He warns Westerners should "be wary of the soldier standing at their doorstep, or of the officer providing the intelligence from the jihad fighters, or of the cook making their food...."

The communication closes with a phrase often quoted by Al-Qaeda top echelon spokesmen: "The event (or information) is what you see and not what you hear." Enigmatically, the communication concludes with: "And the information (also intelligence) is with Rakan Bin Williams."

Rakan Bin Williams is a reference to an English-speaking Westerner, who was said to be from Great Britain. The last jihadist communication in which the name appeared, in 2009, claimed he was in the United States. However, in the view of ITRR analysts, the name is not used to refer to a specific individual, but as a code word for designated English-speaking jihadists or jihadist cells in the West.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

Though most of the above communication is a general threat, which is no different than scores of other adversarial communications, the specification of two men, their backgrounds and their targets is unusual. ITRR analysts see this pinpointing as a generally significant indicator of a more concrete and imminent risk to British assets.

ITRR analysts recommend heightened awareness at those assets upon which an attack would "paralyze" or significantly disrupt British transit. As attacks on both the underground and on commuter buses have proven successful in England, such transportation and transportation nodes are especially at risk. Pennsylvania students, faculty, tourists and business travelers in the UK should be made aware of the current risk levels to reduce their exposure.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

10. Churches Targeted in Wave of Attacks

There has been a lengthy series of attacks on churches and Christians in the Muslim world which began just before the Western Christmas (25 December) and has continued through this week.

* In Malaysia, at least eight churches have been targeted in firebombings or vandal attacks as of 12 January 2010. The attacks began 31 December 2009, when a court decision overturned a ban on the use of the word *Allah* by non-Muslims in reference to God. Thousands of Malay Bibles using the word *Allah* have been confiscated by the state, which is appealing the court's decision. (In contrast, *Allah* is typically used by non-Muslims throughout the Arabic-speaking world merely as a translation for the word "God" as it is used in English.)

* In Algeria, Muslims looted and burned a Protestant church in the city of Tizi Ouzou on Saturday night, 9 January 2010. No one was injured even though local police failed to contain the anti-Christian rioting.

* As noted in PAIB no. 31 (8 January 2010), a gunman in a car opened fire with an automatic weapon on a crowd of Coptic Christians outside a church in southern Egypt. Six Christian worshipers and one Muslim security guard were murdered in the attack, which was perpetrated on the Coptic Christmas Eve.

* In Iraq, a bomb attack in December targeted a church in Mosul. Two people were killed and five others wounded.

* Also in December, an Indonesian mob vandalized and burned a church under construction in Bekasi, West Java. Attackers arrived in cars and motorcycles following a parade celebrating the Islamic New Year.

* In Pakistan, twelve people, including two police officers, attacked Christians exiting a church on Christmas (in December) in Lahore.

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

T/I/W Rating: LOW (PA) / MODERATE (WORLDWIDE)

The focus on easily accessible Christian communities in majority-Muslim countries, according to ITRR analysts, is a product of what is seen as an ongoing assault on Islam and its symbols in recent months. Local Christians serve as "stand-ins" for the "Christian West", which has published caricatures of Muhammad, banned minarets, fought the Muslim veil, and of course is involved in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Local jihadist preachers and international jihadist communications feed this perception and incite Muslim youth to act against the nearest "infidel" targets.

In the Western states where Muslims are a minority, ITRR analysts note, such mob attacks are impractical (in fact, certain Muslim organizations have condemned the Malaysia arson attacks). However, the risk of lone-wolf jihadist attack in the West remains constant. ITRR does not believe that the recent events targeting minority communities in the Islamic world are an indicator of increased risk in the West.

Pennsylvania students, faculty and travelers in Muslim-majority states - including Turkey, Egypt and Slavic Muslim republics - are advised to increase situational awareness in the vicinity of Christian religious sites. As for increasing risk levels for religious minority institutions within Egypt, see PAIB no. 31 (8 January 2010).

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
BANKING AND FINANCE
WATER
CHEMICAL
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
EMERGENCY SERVICES
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

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@terrorresponse.org

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