

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #42

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

3 FEBRUARY 2010

The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produces this document specifically for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in support of public and private sector, critical infrastructure protection initiatives and strategies. The ITRR, a commercial research and analysis organization, uses open-source, human, and closed-source intelligence resources to derive products. ITRR used only native-tongue researchers (English, Hebrew, French, Arabic, and Spanish) in the collection, interpretation, translation, analysis and production of this product. The analysis is performed by former law enforcement officials, counter-terrorism experts, and military intelligence personnel. Consider in context with other known information.

ONGOING RESEARCH

1. First 'Barrel Bombs' Deployed Against Israel; Where Next?

In PAIB no. 39 it was noted that current jihadist discussions of maritime terrorism focused on the construction and deployment of barrels laden with explosives as an improvised naval mine. On 1 Feb 10 Israeli police and naval assets identified two such free-floating barrel bombs along Israel's coast, deployed by Gaza-based terrorists with the apparent intent of attacking shipping. Israel's southern coastline remained closed as of 2 Feb 10. In light of this first attempt by jihadist elements to deploy the bombs discussed, ITRR is continuing and intensifying efforts to identify further targeting guidance in what Islamists have termed *Jihad Al-Bahr* ("jihad of the sea").

2. Increase in Greek Anarchist Terror

Recent events in Greece are indicators of renewed vigorous anarchist activity there. ITRR analysts expect a continuing increase in anarchist protest actions, vandalism and terror attacks in Greece. There is also a likelihood of protests and possible sympathetic violence abroad. (PAIB no. 36 and 38)

3. Threatening Imminent Attacks - Arabia, Israel, Jordan, UK, US

Several recent jihadist communications made specific threats of imminent attacks targeting: the United States; Israel (sometime within the month); Jordan; Britain (infrastructure, most likely mass transit); and the Gulf states of Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. An earlier communication stated that "top quality worldwide actions in the coming days and months that will emanate from the Arabian Peninsula." Earlier, the Christmas Day bomber Abdulmutallab allegedly told investigators that 20 young men are being prepared in Yemen to use PETN to blow up airliners. (PAIB nos. 32, 33, 37, 38 and 41)

4. Eco-Terror: Multiple Indicators

European eco-extremist and anti-capitalist communications of 8 Jan 10 and thereafter include explicit calls for sabotage of major facilities and murder. As noted in PAIB in Nov 09 and Dec 09, environmentalist extremists and associated anti-capitalists have encouraged "direct action" by their cadres worldwide. ITRR analysts have seen confirmation of their alert regarding increasingly vigorous protests set to continue for the coming months. Primary targets will continue to be coal and nuclear energy facilities and transit points. (PAIB nos. 32 and 33)

5. MEND Ceasefire Ending - Again

The *Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta* (MEND) declared on Friday that its recent unilateral ceasefire (implemented on 25 Oct 09) has come to an end. MEND warned that all oil facilities operating in the region will be torched and their personnel attacked in an "all-out onslaught." Any MEND attacks would target Africa's largest oil and gas industry. (PAIB no. 41)

6. Turkey: Kurdish Unrest Expected; Possible Attacks in Planning Stages

Turkish authorities expect that the *Kurdish Communities Union* (KCK) will hold large, unruly and potentially violent protests in the eastern and southeastern provinces of Turkey from 15 Feb 10 until Mar 21. In December, the *Freedom Hawks of Kurdistan* (FHK) issued a clear and explicit threat against Turkish cities. (PAIB nos. 23 and 41)

7. Caucasus Jihad Continuing

A suspected terrorist bomb exploded beneath a railway engine at the Baltic Station in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 2 Feb 10. The conductor was slightly injured. For several months, ITRR analysts have noted explicit statements by the *Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus* (an apparent Al-Qaeda affiliate) threatening a lengthy terror campaign deep inside Russia. Subsequent counterterror operations in Chechnya have only increased the pressure on the IEC to act in the near term. (PAIB nos. 16, 30 and 40)

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sector: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

8. Body Bombs: Have Jihadists Been Perfecting the Tactic Since August?

Western intelligence agencies have let it be known among the general media that they suspect Al-Qaeda jihadists of planning to surgically insert explosives into suicide bombers' bodies, in the buttocks of men and the breasts of women.

According to open source reports, the body bombs are a reaction to the recent introduction of full-body scanners at international airports.

*****ANALYSIS*****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

Jihadist discussion of such "body bombs" long preceded the intention to deploy full-body scanners as a security measure. In PAIB no. 27 ("The Christmas Day Attack: What's Next"), ITRR analysts suggested that future jihadist attacks may involve a tactic used in Aug 09 by *Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula* (AQAP) in Yemen to strike Prince Mohammed Bin-Nayef inside the prince's own palace: explosives inserted inside the bomber's body cavity. As noted by ITRR analysts at the time, this tactic received extensive attention in jihadist circles.

Of note was the fact that the explosives inside the terrorist's body cavity failed to kill the target, even in close proximity, due to the impact absorption provided by the perpetrator's own body. ITRR analysts are of the view that the plan to surgically implant explosives closer to the surface of the suicide-bomber's skin is due to that lesson learned by AQAP.

Increasing international traffic at **Philadelphia International Airport**, along with its central location, significantly raises its profile as a target for jihadist agents seeking to detonate such a device aboard an airliner in American airspace. As the second most well-traveled airport in Pennsylvania, and as a US military transit point with facilities for military personnel and their families, **Pittsburgh International Airport** would also be a high-profile target for such terrorists.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

9. Exploding Soccer Balls in 'Message to Jordanian Intelligence'

In a fairly explicit communication from 2 Feb 10, ostensibly directed at Jordanian intelligence services, a jihadist discusses bombing tactics and strategies that he implies are already in motion:

- * Mentioning the Jordanian terrorist who blew himself up at the CIA post in Afghanistan, the communication says there are many more like him in Jordan, "and the list is much longer than you think."
- * "You do not take into account those who wear jeans and those who have a fashionable haircut and carry a soccer ball, which may contain explosives like those [the CIA post

bomber] had. ...You shall be surprised to hear that the names [of the new generation of jihadists] are George or Michael, or they may even be females."

* The jihadist communication states that the coming attack "is dependent upon 'a particular hour' that was predetermined and which is symbolic."

* The jihadist goes on to intimate that he personally and/or Al-Qaeda operatives have shadowed the royal Jordanian family in the streets of Paris.

* Ridiculing the attempt to extract information from 89 jihadists arrested in Jordan, the communication says "the rules of the game have been determined by 'Osama Bin-Laden of the city' ... He has within him the heart, braveness and vision of Osama, but [he has Western looks]."

* Alluding to deadly bombings in Amman in 2005, the communication continues, "Do not believe an attack in a hotel is our upper limit. The attacks on the hotels were executed within two days. How will you handle it when we say the [current] attack planning took place over two years prior to the attack on the hotels?"

The communication says that "Jordan is in the circle of the global jihad, like Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, the Caucasus, North Africa, Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula. There are many fronts and all these fronts want to free Jerusalem, and the easiest and most appropriate way is through Jordan." The writer also states that there are additional signs of the coming attack within the communication itself, adding that Jordanian intelligence "should try to decipher what is here instead of watching the soccer match between Egypt and Ghana."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts note several key aspects of the lengthy communication:

* The repeated reference to terrorists of the new generation who appear to be modern and have modern traits call to mind previous statements regarding Western-born terrorists (including English speakers referred to as "Rakan Bin Williams" in Al-Qaeda communications).

* The reference to Paris may hint that the writer is located in Europe.

* Encircling Israel from the "front-line states" has been a noted Al-Qaeda tactic for several years.

* Tactically, the use of a soccer ball to penetrate security lines could prove effective. As alluded to in the jihadist communication, one could penetrate security lines with explosives hidden in the ball, then set off the device at a game, on a plane or elsewhere. The advantage of such an explosive device is twofold: it can contain an explosive fluid or solid that may be hard to identify using electronic equipment; the apparent innocence of such an object, in the hands of a Westernized "soccer fan", can be a sophisticated way to bypass security suspicions.

In light of the foregoing, ITRR analysts recommend that **Pennsylvanian students, tourists and business travelers** be made aware of the heightened level of risk in Jordan, in Israel, as well as a potentially correlated risk in Paris, France. Additionally, Pennsylvania security personnel should heighten awareness for Westernized terrorists targeting or carrying out pre-operational surveillance at high-profile sporting events in or near the state. Tactically, personnel responsible for mass transit and other public venues should also note the possibility of an explosive device concealed as any innocuous item, such as sports paraphernalia.

Sector: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

10. AQIM Pledges 'Revenge Against the Christians'

In reaction to the ongoing bloody clashes between Christians and Muslims in the Jos region in Nigeria, which has claimed hundreds of lives in under two months, *Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb* (AQIM) issued a communication on 1 Feb 10 pledging to avenge spilled Muslim blood by attacking Christians.

The Christian world, with the help of the local Christian minority, is accused of plotting to eliminate the Muslims and take control Nigeria's natural resources.

"You can be sure that your blood didn't get spilled for nothing and we will do whatever we can to take our revenge on the Christians," AQIM declared. " ... Don't worry, we will take revenge on the children- and woman-killers and mosque-destroyers."

AQIM also announced that they are "willing to train your sons in weapons and fighting and to supply them everything we can, such as fighters, weapons, ammunition and tools that can help you defend your selves from the Christian minority." Nigerian Muslims are called upon to "send your sons to the jihad battlefield ..."

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

T/I/W Rating: SEVERE

As noted in PAIB no. 40 ("Nigeria's Deadly Sectarian Clashes: An Opening for Al-Qaeda"), ITRR analysts believe that there are strong indications the current round of sectarian violence in Nigeria is an outgrowth of the incitement promoted by a radicalized *Boko Haram* (BH; a.k.a. Nigerian Taliban), an Islamist group that has formally placed itself at the service of Al-Qaeda. "The latest killings will also, no doubt, serve to encourage some Muslims to join the Nigerian franchise of Al-Qaeda to demonstrate fidelity to Islam and hatred for the Christians," ITRR analysts stated.

In Aug 09 AQIM, which already expressed its call for jihad in Nigeria, issued a communication explicitly supporting BH and saying that all Nigerian Muslims must come together under the banner of Islamic law. All Muslims must be "as one hand," the AQIM statement said, to "burn the cross-worshippers, and to water the tree of Islam in Nigeria."

The new communication from AQIM in support of a Nigerian jihad, and promising their own form of "revenge," is seen by ITRR analysts as an indication that AQIM will attempt to take action against Christian assets outside Nigeria. Mali, Algeria, Niger and Mauritania, specifically, have become high-risk regions for the abduction of Westerners (PAIB nos. 23, 30 and 31).

Additionally, AQIM may seek to perpetrate IED or shooting attacks on churches or other Western-identified ("Crusader") assets in North Africa. In light of the ongoing multiple indicators, ITRR recommends that **Pennsylvanian students, faculty, researchers and other volunteers** in North Africa enhance accountability, vary travel routines and increase situational awareness.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND BANKING AND FINANCE

11. Housing Rights Activists to 'Train' in Philadelphia

The *Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign* (PPEHRC) organization is planning to hold what they have called "national training" in Philadelphia from 5-7 Feb 10. Under the banner of "Zero Evictions and Foreclosures," the PPEHRC will be hosting "a weekend of training, networking, and movement building to end poverty!"

Among other training sessions, attendees will learn practical lessons in "nonviolent civil disobedience," including illegal occupations of foreclosed properties, setting up tent cities and other forms of "resistance," in their lexicon.

On Saturday, 6 Feb 10 - following a session called "How to Do Housing Takeovers & Resist Foreclosures" - the trainees are slated to travel as a group to an unidentified location in West Philadelphia. It is unknown at this time if the purpose of this trip is for active "resistance" or otherwise.

In their promotional material for the training weekend, PPEHRC makes specific reference to what is seen as a successful foreclosure resistance in California. As noted in PAIB no. 37, anarchists and other activists on behalf of the Miwok tribe in California claimed to have successfully halted eviction proceedings against a foreclosed property in Stockton. (In this regard, it bears noting that the bank has granted the property owners 30 days to find the necessary funds to pay their mortgage bills. Therefore, further active attempts to block the eviction in Stockton can be expected on or around 12 Feb 10.)

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

The PPEHRC training session may be an indication of the influence of the Stockton "success", as detailed in PAIB no. 37. As the anarchists put it at the time: "Thus, large scale public resistance to the eviction of a foreclosed home in the center of the foreclosure crisis has been a success. The struggle is not yet over."

Furthermore, ITRR analysis (PAIB no. 37) indicated that American anarchist groups are learning from more aggressive housing rights groups across the Atlantic. As stated in an "Open Letter to US Activists:" "... there is much to be learned from activists elsewhere who have been grappling with these issues for years."

Pennsylvania communities with strong anarchist organizations, including Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, may see similar activity as a "poster child" foreclosure property is identified and local activists decide to take direct action.

The specific targeting of West Philadelphia during the PPEHRC training seminar should be taken into account as a strong indication of potential immediate or future takeover-style actions in the area. Identifying high-profile foreclosures in the relevant neighborhoods may give further indication of activist planning.

More generally, ITRR analysts recommend that local authorities state-wide become aware of street-level (posters, free newspapers, etc.) communications encouraging similar "occupations."

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
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
EMERGENCY SERVICES
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNICATIONS
POSTAL AND SHIPPING
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Compiled by NR

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

***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