

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #58

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

12 MARCH 2010

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### STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

#### 1. **Tactics: Crime to Fund Terrorism**

Security forces have reportedly disrupted an Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) terror cell operating in northeast Morocco. Authorities arrested six individuals who were planning to target senior members of the Moroccan government. The cell planned to finance their activities through bank robberies.

Moroccan authorities claim to have dismantled 60 terror cells since terror operations in 2003 killed 45 people.

ITRR analysts note that, once again, a close connection between criminal activity (the funding of activity through bank robbery) and terrorism has been affirmatively established. Such a phenomenon has repeatedly proven true in the case of North American terrorists as well, with members of organizations such as anti-government White Supremacist militias and *Hezbollah* front groups apprehended in stings targeting criminal enterprises. As in Morocco, the North America-based terrorists use income-generating crime primarily to fund their terror activities. In the US, such crimes have included bank robberies, the sale of counterfeit high-end products, cigarette smuggling and illegal sales, as well as the distribution of illegal narcotics.

Regarding North Africa, ITRR analysts have previously identified criminal and terror-related kidnapping as an ongoing risk. Security personnel in the North African area of operations should take immediate steps to prepare for terror activity ranging from kidnapping to vehicular-borne, improvised explosive devices (VBIED). This includes enhanced communication for

accountability purposes, as well as heightened situational awareness of pre-operational surveillance and of en route ambush vulnerabilities.

According to ITRR analysis, as terror cells are taken down and dismantled there is the potential for an increase in operational tempo by the adversary. The reason for this phenomenon is that the organizations are under pressure to prove that the security forces have failed to deter or hinder them from continuing in their mission.

## SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

### Sectors: ENERGY AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

#### **2. Nigeria: Regional Separatism Adds to Regional Risk Assessment**

In addition to the ongoing risk posed by inter-religious violence in Nigeria at this time (as noted in PAIB no. 57), ITRR analysts have identified heightened risk levels in the Niger Delta region due to separatist terror activities.

Last week separatist militants claimed to have attacked two Western oil facilities in the Niger Delta region. In one incident, the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC) said it had struck a major pipeline junction run by the Italian firm Agip. In an earlier incident, the group said it was behind an explosion at a non-producing oil flow station belonging to Shell Oil. The latter attack was formally claimed by the People's Patriotic Revolutionary Force of the Joint Revolutionary Council, Western Division.

The JRC called on foreign oil companies and personnel to leave the Niger Delta region, which the group wants to be independent of Nigeria. If the foreigners don't leave, the JRC warned, they will "be caught in the line of fire. ... Our strategy is to reduce the export capacity of the occupation Nigerian State to zero and weaken their financial strength before our guerrilla army will be unleashed to chase them out of our territory."

The JRC is continuing a campaign for independence originally led by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which has since been weakened by government amnesty and negotiation initiatives.

\*\*\*\*\*ANALYSIS\*\*\*\*\*

**T/I/W Rating: SEVERE**

The latest activity by the JRC is an added risk factor for Nigeria, which is faced with inter-religious violence and attempts to insinuate a jihadist agenda into regional incidents.

In PAIB no. 42, for example, ITRR researchers noted that Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) issued a communication pledging to avenge spilled Muslim blood in Nigeria by attacking Christians. This followed an August 2009 declaration by Nigeria's anti-Western *Boko Haram* (BH; a.k.a. Nigerian Taliban) Islamist group formally placing itself at the service of Al-Qaeda.

In addition, Nigeria, especially Lagos, is at the top of the list for piracy activity.

ITRR's Africa Desk expects inter-religious reprisal violence to continue, and possibly increase, as will attacks on the foreign petrochemical facilities and oil pipelines in the Niger Delta region. Violence against Westerners will increase in many areas of Nigeria. ITRR recommends that Westerners working in Nigeria increase personal protection at this time, including exchange students from the **University of Pennsylvania's School of Dental Medicine**. Disruption of oil supplies from Nigeria is likely to quickly affect North America, including Pennsylvania.

### **Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

#### **3. *Jihadist Ultimatum to Denmark, Holland and Sweden***

A jihadist communication intercepted by ITRR researchers includes an explicit ultimatum issued to the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden. It gives those states one month to apologize for insulting media representations of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, or else attacks within the named states and against those states' assets abroad will commence. The communication is addressed to the people of the named states, to Muslims in the European Union, as well as to Muslims in Islamic countries.

The communication cites cartoons and videos produced in Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands as the proximate cause for the current jihadist threat. "To those infidel nations: You have one month from the release of this letter (10 March 2010) to apologize to Muslims and stop your war on Islam," the jihadist communication says. "If not, then all your interests and your countries will be targeted by the jihad fighters. I swear to Allah that your deeds will not go unpunished."

The writer claims that the ultimatum is "not just words, but a warning, so that you don't say afterwards that the jihad fighters did not employ peaceful means."

To the Muslims in Europe, the communication says: "Get ready for a general assault against the above nations, and be aware that killing someone who insulted the prophet is an undisputed obligation. Don't hesitate in preparing cells to stand up to the enemies of Islam."

To the Muslims in Muslim-majority states, the communication enumerates two courses of action:

1. Boycott products and business from the named countries, "and whoever [trades with them] is one of them."
2. When the month-long ultimatum runs its course, do everything possible to attack the regional assets and interests of the cited nations, including abducting their citizens and "causing them as much damage as possible."

To the jihad fighters, the communication merely says: "You know exactly what to do."

\*\*\*\*\* **ANALYSIS**\*\*\*\*\*

**T//W Rating: MODERATE**

Regarding the states named in the jihadist communication cited above, the risk of lone-wolf or organized jihad attack is pronounced. ITRR researchers noted (see PAIB nos. 26 and 30) recent adversary communications from November and early December that have encouraged

lone-wolf terrorism against CONUS and European countries including the Netherlands, Germany, France, Denmark and Switzerland. Pennsylvanian students and researchers, as well as business travelers and tourists, throughout Western Europe (such as exchange students taking part in the International Student Exchange Programs [ISEP] and from **Indiana University of Pennsylvania**) should be aware of the heightened risk levels in the named states.

There is no identified Dutch consular representative in Pennsylvania.

Denmark has consular representatives in both **Philadelphia** and **Pittsburgh**. The Pittsburgh Consulate, headed by Consul Eva M. Robinson, is located at 104 Shanor Heights in **Butler**; The Philadelphia Consulate, headed by Consul Alfred John Kuffler, is represented by McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP at **123 S. Broad Street**.

Sweden's honorary consular representative in Pennsylvania is Jan Campbell-Westlind in Ardmore (28 West Montgomery Ave.).

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 facilities representing the aforementioned states.

## **Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

### **4. Bangkok on High Alert**

In addition to the increasing attacks by jihadist and Muslim separatist attacks in southern Thailand (as detailed in PAIB no. 54), the country is now facing an immediate risk of civil unrest in the capital, Bangkok. Special security regulations have been invoked for the period of 11-23 March 2010.

As of Thursday, the national security forces and police have been instituting preventive measures in the Bangkok area, especially around the central government buildings and foreign embassies, to stave off expected violence at a planned weekend demonstration. In addition, security measures and emergency travel alternatives have been increased at mass transit terminals and airports across the country.

The anti-regime protesters, known as "red shirts," have been holding regional rallies and they intend to begin gathering near Bangkok on Friday, entering the city on Saturday and Sunday for mass protests. The government has threatened to use force to prevent protesters from outside Bangkok getting into the city, but opposition elements have said they will enter by boat if necessary.

In addition, reports of firearms, ammunition and grenades stolen from an army base in Thailand's south, where jihadist separatists terrorist elements are active, have increased concerns that the anti-government protests in Bangkok may take a turn to severe violence.

In reaction to the expected anti-government protests, foreign governments - including Australia, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Hong Kong - have issued travel warnings regarding Bangkok. The warnings generally relate to this weekend through next week. In addition, Bangkok's Central

Islamic Committee issued an urgent letter to imams of 189 mosques in the city to be on alert for possible violence during the demonstrations. Even a Thai government spokesperson said on Wednesday that tourists should not visit areas near the anti-government demonstration sites.

\*\*\*\*\***ANALYSIS**\*\*\*\*\*

**T/I/W Rating: SEVERE**

Students from Pennsylvania schools (**Clarion University, East Stroudsburg, Indiana University, Mansfield University, and Westminster College**) taking part in International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP) in Thailand, as well as **University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine** exchange students at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University, should be made aware of the heightened risk levels in Bangkok and its environs. Avoidance of political gatherings or any large public rallies is called for at this time. Specifically threatened are Thai government buildings and military facilities.

ITRR analysts suggest that the threat level will remain elevated throughout March 2010.

## **Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

### **5. Communist and Separatist Elements Issue Explicit Threats in India**

As noted in PAIB no. 41, terror incidents in India indicate that the entrenched *Naxalite* (regional Maoist Communists) and regional insurgencies are pressing ahead, despite counter-terror successes. This past week has seen explicit threats issued by these groups.

\* A separatist group known as the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) issued an ultimatum to all non-Manipuri people living in the northeastern state of Manipur. According to the RPF communication, the non-Manipuris must leave by 31 March 2010 or "face action" against them. Ethnic Manipuris are also advised to boycott those people not originally from the state. Manipur is home to about 2.4 million people, including a large number of people from other Indian states.

\* Earlier the same week, a Maoist Communist terror leader in eastern India issued his own ultimatum to the Indian government. "Kishenji" threatened to attack major cities and towns if the administration does not immediately enter into negotiations with his Naxalite militia.

\* Just a few days later, intelligence reports indicated that Communist terrorists are planning to target power plants in Orissa state. Security measures at the facilities were increased in response. Orissa has six hydro- and two thermal power plants.

Of note is that these activities followed on the heels of the arrest of Maoist terror leader Telugu Deepak in West Bengal on 3 March 2010. (After which Naxalites issued an ultimatum demanding his freedom.)

\*\*\*\*\***ANALYSIS**\*\*\*\*\*

**Threat Level: SEVERE**

Recent events have reinforced 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 and insurgent militia attacks had begun, with no end in sight.

ITRR analysts reiterate that the Indian states most vulnerable to Communist or separatist attacks include: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. Added to this is Manipur, as the "ethnic cleansing" ultimatum mentioned above comes into effect.

Researchers and faculty at **New Delhi's University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India** (UPIASI), as well as business travelers and tourists from Pennsylvania, should be made aware of the heightened threat level in the aforementioned regions. Of particular note is that some stretches of railway track in those areas are seen to be under control of Naxalite terror organizations, with the cells building strength specifically in areas surrounding railway tracks and stations. Travel in such areas should be avoided.

**Sectors:** DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE, COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

## **6. Regional Iraq War 'Anniversary' Events**

Pennsylvania branches of the Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA) organization are planning a series of anti-war demonstrations in coming days to mark what they have determined is the "seventh anniversary of the Iraq War." More radical elements in the anti-war movement are planning "civil resistance" this month.

\* A "peace vigil" protest is slated for 19 March 2010 outside the **Newton, Pennsylvania**, facilities of defense contractor Lockheed Martin. The vigil is to take place at Silver Lake Park on the Route 413 Bypass.

\* Also on 19 March 2010, a separate group of CFPA supporters will be gathering for a protest on the **Morrisville, Pennsylvania**, side of the "Trenton Makes" Bridge (connecting Trenton, New Jersey, and Morrisville).

\* On 20 March 2010, CFPA is planning a protest event and vigil outside **Franklin Mills Mall**, at the corner of Knights Rd. and Woodhaven Rd. in northeast **Philadelphia**. They will be calling for the closure of the Army Experience Center (AEC) at the mall.

\* In addition, ITRR analysts reiterate (as noted in PAIB no. 50) a planned 13 March 2010 gathering of anti-war and environmentalist groups to set up a "tent city" (Camp OUT NOW) at the Washington Monument in Washington DC. According to activists' communications, the "camp" will remain there until our demands are met." The Camp OUT NOW organizers are calling for US troops to be returned to American soil from Afghanistan and Iraq.

\* More ominously, the Camp OUT NOW announcement declares that, starting 22 March 2010, "acts of civil resistance will begin ... and we will end when the troops start to come home." The Camp OUT NOW organizers say they expect each person's "individual commitment" to consist of an act of "civil resistance ... at least once a week," which can include "contributing to the running and infrastructure of our encampment and the care and feeding of activists."

\*\*\*\*\* **ANALYSIS** \*\*\*\*\*

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

As for the CFPA events listed above, ITRR analysts do not foresee physical confrontations; however, disruptions and obstruction of traffic may ensue in certain intersection protests. At a previous day of protests against the Franklin Mills AEC, 12 September 2009, there were cases of disorderly conduct and several arrests. Based on anti-AEC plans from November 2009 (noted in PAIB no. 12), protesters may enter the mall and confront store owners, shoppers and mall management with their demands.

It is not known at this time if the various organizations involved have sought police permits for their planned gatherings.

Analysts note that while many of the protest events are likely to be peaceful, the involvement of extremist anti-war elements is expected as well. Depending on their ability to attract the numbers necessary, the extremist factions may target public or private property for acts of vandalism. Other actions may include street blockades and attempts to spread the protest beyond cordoned areas assigned by law enforcement.

First cited in PAIB no. 50, the activists behind Camp OUT NOW have clearly indicated that they intend to present "ransom demands," as it were, for the peaceful relinquishing of illegally occupied property. In addition, their vague call for "acts of civil resistance" should not be dismissed, due to the potential involvement of violent groups and individuals (including Anarchists and eco-terrorists). ITRR analysts note that such acts of "resistance" may be inspired among activists in Pennsylvania, as well. Targets may include federal and state government offices, as well as military facilities and recruitment stations.

**No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:**

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD  
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  
COMMUNICATIONS  
POSTAL AND SHIPPING  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

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@itrintel.org](mailto:info@itrintel.org)

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