

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #43

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

5 FEBRUARY 2010

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## STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

### 1. Al-Qaeda Expanding Its Network

The ongoing development of Al-Qaeda in Africa has begun to take more concrete form, with pledges of collaborative action within and beyond Africa's borders.

In recent bulletins, such as PAIB nos. 40 and 42, ITRR analysts noted the increasing linkage between Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Nigerian Islamists. A Nigerian Islamist group, Boko Haram, announced its decision to put itself at Al-Qaeda's disposal in August 2009.

On Monday, Somalia's Shabab Al-Mujahideen (Shabab) jihadist organization pledged to contribute cadres to the global jihad led by Al-Qaeda, rather than just focusing on Somalia. The Shabab decision, it was explained in communications intercepted by ITRR, came in response to AQIM's announcement (see PAIB no. 42) that it will assist the Muslims in Nigeria against their Christian neighbors.

Representatives of the Shabab and another local Islamist militia held a meeting recently at which they declared their collaboration in an effort to establish an Islamic state in Somalia. In the immediate term, they are set to unify their armed cells and link their jihad in the Horn of African with the global jihad, hoping to increase Muslim unity. To this end, they will assist Al-Qaeda to increase its presence in Africa.

ITRR analysts note that even now there is a connection between the Shabab and Al-Qaeda, with foreign fighters (including Americans) streaming into Somalia to carry out attacks there. In addition, those same fighters are primed to carry out attacks abroad on behalf of Al-Qaeda.

Much as the Christmas Day bomber was a Nigerian national apparently trained by Al-Qaeda in Yemen, the unification of the various African Islamist movements under the umbrella of Al-Qaeda will only increase such cross-pollination and tactical cooperation. This, in turn, increases the risk to Western nations from radicalized African expatriates.

In reaction to these developments, as well as recent explicit threats, Kenya has reinforced its security measures. The Kenyans fear attacks on the capital, Nairobi, which hosts many United Nations personnel and assets, as well as international humanitarian institutions.

Separately, another jihadist communication intercepted by ITRR this week said that "this month shall be a blessed one for jihad. And though our brothers are facing a difficult financial phase on all fronts, starting with Yemen and on to Chechnya, Somalia, Palestine and all other fronts, I trust in God and in victory."

Although the latter statement has little operational effect on its face, ITRR is investigating the significance of the fact that the names of two important Al-Qaeda members were graphically incorporated into the words "month" and "financial phase". The names thus intertwined were of an Al-Qaeda leader and of the terrorist who tried to assassinate a Saudi prince in 2009 with a bomb concealed inside his body.

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

**Sectors: ENERGY; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; EMERGENCY SERVICES;  
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

### ***2. Jihadists Discuss Targeting in CONUS***

ITRR's Arabic-language researchers have identified a series of jihadist communications, exchanged over a period of time, discussing targeting within the United States. The discussions have included guidance from a number of sources. Among others, the communications include the following:

- \* "What are the pivotal areas or structures which, if hit, [the effect] will be overwhelming? The banks, oil fields, oil refineries?"
- \* "Would an attack on the major banks within the USA be of consequence? Or perhaps an attack on oil related infrastructures and oil wells?"
- \* "What are the major corporations upon which the American economy rests?"
- \* "Where could the blow be as painful and overwhelming as 9/11?"
- \* "Perhaps an attack on research centers or institutes would be of value as well."

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

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

The above series of communications is reminiscent of a similar, although more specific, targeting discussion in December 2009 (see PAIB no. 19). At the time, the communications focused on attacking police stations, large parties, sports events and Jewish centers.

ITRR analysts see some significance in the more recent focus placed on the banking and energy sectors, as well as efforts to identify other non-governmental assets ("corporations"). The jihadists are apparently beginning to widen their view of which targets, if hit, would cause "overwhelming" damage to the United States.

Both the communications from 2009 and those from this year indicate that some of the targeting guidance comes from people who are familiar with the US and the Western way of life, according to ITRR analysts. Other communications indicate writers who hate the West, but are not intimately familiar with it.

ITRR analysts also note that the jihadist communications indicate decentralized target selection and planning, as opposed to the centralized Al-Qaeda target selection. The discussion indicates a pooling of intelligence resources, as has been seen recently in multiple terrorist communications. This decentralized aspect of the global jihad benefits lone-wolf and small-cell terrorists.

Security personnel of the banking sector, energy sector, and major corporations in Pennsylvania should review security planning and disaster recovery plans at this time.

**Sectors: ENERGY; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

**3. More 'Direct Action' Training to Target Coal Industry**

The anti-coal mining organization Mountain Justice has announced a training and action seminar for college students called "Mountain Justice Spring Break". Scheduled to take place in Natural Tunnel State Park in southwest Virginia, on 12-20 March 2010, the event is designed to provide "the skills and knowledge you need to fight back!" The lengthy gathering will include "education, community service, speakers, hiking, music, poetry, direct action and more...."

The Mountain Justice group said that the "struggle for environmental justice in Appalachia has never been as publicized, analyzed, or urgent as RIGHT NOW!" It offers supporters "the training you need to not only make things happen in your community, but train others to do it as well!"

Mountain Justice wants to "abolish mountaintop removal" coal mining in the Appalachian mountains (and beyond). According to its own publicity, it brings together "coal field residents, college students, environmentalists, Earth Firsters, and other concerned citizens".

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

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

Previously, aggressive environmentalists met in Rock Creek, West Virginia (4-25 January 2010) to learn tactics for: "direct action" (which can include vandalism, obstruction of public and private venues, arson, threats of violence, assault, etc.); handling the media; legal support; action planning; and "other skills relevant for... future actions." (See PAIB no. 20)

Like the January gathering in West Virginia, the immediate target of the Mountain Justice Spring Break training is the regional coal mining industry. However, as in PAIB no. 20, ITRR analysts reiterate that attendees at the Spring Break camp are likely to apply the skills and lessons learned in "actions" targeting coal operations in Pennsylvania, as well.

Additionally, sophisticated variations of the aforementioned tactics were taught at the Ruckus Society training in New York in December 2009. This training was aimed at preparing to use 'direct action' tactics to call attention to the planned drilling in New York's and Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale area (as reported in PAIB no. 2).

**Sectors: ENERGY; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

**4. RAN and Rising Tide Planning Disruptions for April 1st**

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) is publicizing a nationwide campaign promoted by Rising Tide North America (RTNA) slated for 1 April 2010 ("Fossil Fool's Day"). The campaign focuses on fighting "destabilization of the global climate, communities from Alaska to Appalachia being destroyed by dirty energy extraction and combustion, devastating super hurricanes, droughts, flooding...."

Tactics advocated for the April RTNA campaign include, according to their promotional materials, "the simply subversive to the downright disruptive: office occupations, banner drops, road blockades, clownish parades, spoof product launches, sub-vertising, leaflets, street theater, lock-downs and laugh-ins."

Activists are encouraged to take action in their own regions.

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

**T//W Rating: MODERATE**

RAN and RTNA are extremely aggressive in their campaigns, according to ITRR analysts.

Rising Tide (a symbol of which is a green fist) describes itself as "a grassroots network of groups and individuals who take direct action to confront the roots causes of climate change... to bring a more radical voice." In North America, the group takes what it calls "a no-compromise approach of stopping the extraction of more fossil fuels and preventing the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure."

ITRR analysts note that previous RAN targets have been the scene of illegal actions including trespassing, lock-downs and vandalism. In a recent call for direct action targeting Chevron Oil (see PAIB no. 40), RAN reminded supporters that "RAN and its members have transformed the policies of some of America's most powerful corporations, from Home Depot to Citigroup to Goldman Sachs."

Energy firms in Pennsylvania, particularly coal-based energy producers and nuclear waste transportation companies, should be made aware of the impending targeting of their facilities and liaise with local law enforcement.

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

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

Compiled by NR

THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	DESCRIPTION
<b>LOW (Level 4)</b>	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.
<b>MODERATE (Level 3)</b>	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.
<b>SEVERE (Level 2)</b>	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.
<b>CRITICAL (Level 1)</b>	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-**

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