

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #45

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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### ONGOING RESEARCH

#### **1. Housing Foreclosure Protests to Increase**

What activists are calling "foreclosure resistance" - including trespassing, property occupations, vandalism, and other "direct action" - is steadily becoming a focus for anarchist, communist and socialist groups nationwide. Such actions and training for such actions are ramping up, with American anarchist groups learning from more aggressive housing rights groups across the Atlantic. Upcoming "foreclosure resistance" events include those in Stockton, CA, on or around 12 February 2010, and in West Philadelphia, PA, the weekend of 13 February 2010. (PAIB nos. 37, 42 and 44)

#### **2. More 'Direct Action' Training to Target Coal Industry**

Anti-coal mining activists and related organizations have recently been increasing training and actions targeting the coal industry and related facilities. Recent and upcoming training sessions in West Virginia and Virginia have focused on "skills and knowledge" regarding 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." ITRR analysts are monitoring for planned "actions" targeting facilities in Pennsylvania, such as in the Marcellus Shale area. (PAIB nos. 2, 20 and 43)

### **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. As noted in PA Actionable Intelligence Bulletins in November and December, 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, as well as nuclear waste transit points. (PAIB nos. 32 and 33)

### **4. *Increase in Greek Anarchist Terror***

Recent events in Greece are indicators of renewed vigorous anarchist activity there. ITRR analysts further 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. Students and faculty participating in programs in Greece from institutions such as Pennsylvania State University, Arcadia University, Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges, Carnegie Mellon University, and others, should be made aware of the increased risk of anarchist violence in the country. Business travelers are advised to maintain situational awareness regarding local developments, including threats to local banking and state institutions. (PAIB no. 36 and 38)

### **5. *Specific Targeting: Kenya***

ITRR analysts believe the potential for a "preemptive" attack against Western-identified or Western-allied targets within Kenya and Somalia is increased at this time. Kenyans have been tracking threats of attacks on their capital, Nairobi, which hosts many United Nations personnel and assets, as well as international humanitarian institutions. Furthermore, jihadist communications from late 2009 through early 2010 have explicitly called for terrorist attacks on Kenya, specifically targeting the tourist industry and economic assets. Several high-level Pennsylvania-based delegations have developed links to the African country in recent years. Those organizations with continuing contacts in Kenya should be made aware of the increased risk of attack or abduction in the Horn of Africa and surrounding regions. (PAIB nos. 13, 37, 43 and 44)

### **6. *'Barrel Bombs' - What's Next?***

Previously intercepted jihadist discussions and an attempted bombing attack along Israel's coast in early February 2010 focused on the use of barrels laden with explosives as improvised naval mines. ITRR is continuing and intensifying efforts to identify further targeting guidance in what Islamists have termed *Jihad Al-Bahr* ("jihad of the sea"). (PAIB no. 39)

### **7. *Caucasus Jihad Continuing***

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. A large-scale attack targeted an express passenger train in November 2009 and killed upwards of 30 people, with the IEC promising more of the same. Subsequent counterterror operations in Chechnya and elsewhere, and much smaller attacks on security forces, have increased the pressure on the IEC to act within Russia in the near term. Students at Russian educational institutions through programs such as those of Bryn Mawr College in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Vladimir should be made aware of the current increase in risk. Researchers and linguists pursuing continuing studies through American Councils and similar programs in the

Caucasus regions of Russia are particularly vulnerable to attack and abduction by local jihadist elements. (PAIB nos. 16, 30 and 40)

### ***8. India Confronting Violent Jihad, Separatism and Communism***

India has recently seen a notable increase in jihadist, Communist and separatist terrorism throughout the country. Aside from the general increased risk of jihadist attacks in the major cities (Delhi and Mumbai specifically), there has been a jihadist focus on the Jammu and Kashmir regions following several months of stepped up infiltrations from Pakistan. In addition, there is a small, extremely limited risk of jihadist lone-wolf targeting of Indian assets in Pennsylvania, such as Hindu and Sikh temples or activities of the Indian Cultural Association of Pennsylvania (ICAP). The uptick in Communist and regional insurgent attacks was noted in October 2009 and has yet to abate (in previous editions of the PAIB, ITRR analysts have identified the Indian states most vulnerable to Communist or separatist attacks). (PAIB 44 and 41)

### ***9. MEND Ceasefire Ending - Again***

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) declared that its recent unilateral ceasefire 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, with the expected disruption of supplies likely to quickly affect North America importers, including those in Pennsylvania. (PAIB no. 41)

### ***10. 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 February 2010 until March 21. In December, the Freedom Hawks of Kurdistan (FHK) issued a clear and explicit threat against Turkish cities. ITRR recommends that faculty and students attending the Philadelphia-based American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) facilities in Ankara and Istanbul, as well as at other regional institutions, increase situational awareness. (PAIB nos. 23 and 41)

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

### Sectors: ENERGY; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

#### 11. Detailed Guidance for Al-Qaeda's Next Steps

A fresh jihadist communication intercepted by ITRR analysts this week details advice and guidance about the way ahead for Al-Qaeda and affiliated jihadist groups.

Along with guidance regarding propaganda efforts and organizational structuring, the communication singles out the following terrorist strategies, tactics and targets:

- Strengthening AQ's grip and broadening it in places where it already has gained a foothold.
- Focus on an "external" enemy, such as the West and Israel (Jews and Christians), and not on "internal" enemies, such as the Arab governments. Specifically targeting Western military bases, "especially those of the United States, scattered across the [Persian] Gulf, as it is known these few are exceedingly easy to hit."
- The communication also points out that "American soldiers are to be found when on leave in the malls and in the marketplaces of [the Gulf] countries (and I am mainly referring to countries where the Organization has yet to strike)." *Parenthesis in the original.*
- "Bringing the economic jihad to the forefront." This may refer to attacking infrastructure assets in the Middle East or to propaganda efforts to emphasize the economic interests of the West in the region.

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

T/I/W Rating: SEVERE

The recent guidance communication echoes jihadist communications intercepted in January that specifically named Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain as Persian Gulf countries where "US forces are deployed." As noted in PAIB no. 41, the jihadists are evidently seeking intelligence on targets in easy reach of Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula and others. Specifically, ITRR analysts foresee an effort to strike Western ships in a Yemeni harbor. (Regarding the focus on maritime targets, see "Tactical Discussions of Maritime Jihad Continue", in PAIB no. 39.)

The recent terrorist communications have specifically targeted American military personnel; however, ITRR analysts note that in jihadist communications, civilian personnel are also considered part of the "Crusader" presence in the Arabian Peninsula and throughout the Muslim world. In addition to a US military presence, the Gulf countries have a large Western civilian population, which may provide softer terror targets than the military.

Business travelers, military personnel, and oil industry employees and executives from Pennsylvania should be made aware of the increased risk in the named Gulf states, as well as of the ongoing high risk levels in Yemen. In addition, in PAIB no. 27 ITRR warned that AQAP and affiliated groups will likely target oil pipelines and energy shipping lanes within the Arabian Peninsula or in the Gulf of Aden. Such attacks, if successful, would likely disrupt energy supplies to Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

**Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

**12. Universities Singled Out in Targeting Guidance**

New jihadist communications coming from an Al-Qaeda leader, Abu Yahya Al-Libi, refer specifically to King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) and to American University branches in the Middle East.

KAUST, located in Saudi Arabia, Al-Libi calls "the most poisoned tree that was planted in this land." He says that it is the "head of the devil in all aspects: from the thinking aspect, the academic aspect, [regarding] assimilation and more." Calling KAUST a "disaster", Al-Libi adds, "There is only one solution: to destroy the institution."

Referring to the American University in Cairo and Beirut, Al-Libi notes that "many heretics study there. Allah will destroy them."

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

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

In November 2009 ITRR analysts issued an alert on the targeting of KAUST based on a communication from Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The university was denigrated as a symbol of the policies of the Saudi regime's leaders - whom are referred to as "infidels" - which will end in the elimination of Islam if left unchecked.

ITRR analysts believe that the risk of a terror attack aimed at the American University in Cairo, the American University in Beirut, the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia, and other Western-oriented educational institutions in the region is high. The above targeting dovetails with the focus on Persian Gulf states mentioned herein above ("Detailed Guidance for Al-Qaeda's Next Steps") and in PAIB no. 41.

Pennsylvania students and researchers at KAUST, American University branches in Cairo, Beirut and Sharjah (UAE), and other regional educational facilities should be advised of the current increased danger of terrorist activity. Also of note in this regard, although less attractive to students from the US, is the American University of Afghanistan, the American University of Dubai, the American University of Iraq, and the American University of Kuwait.

**Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

**13. Incident Highlights Risk in Netherlands**

A man aboard a train headed into a station in 's-Hertogenbosch (Den Bosch) in the Netherlands was arrested 9 February 2010 by police after he claimed to have activated explosives. He was identified by other passengers as a potential threat when he apparently called out "Allahu Akbar", an Islamic call to action, spoke in Arabic and made reference to the 9/11 Al-Qaeda attacks on America. The man wore a long tunic with a jacket, in the Middle Eastern style. However, he also declared his love for the Dutch and asked for a cigarette.

Despite signs that the individual in question was mentally ill, security forces shut down and evacuated the Den Bosch station in light of the apparent risks. Local press has since confirmed

that there were no explosives found and that the man was identified as "disturbed, not a terrorist".

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

**T//W Rating: MODERATE**

Despite the fact that it is unlikely, according to ITRR researchers, that international jihadists would draw attention to themselves as the above-mentioned man did before carrying out their operation, such cannot be said for lone-wolf Islamists. While the Dutch man's behavior may have been exaggerated and erratic, a modified form of such declarations of jihad have been noted prior to or during terrorist attacks worldwide.

In the Dutch case, many passengers identified the man as mentally ill while others feared a terror attack (and contacted police); however, more subtle actions may be mistakenly identified as merely 'odd', rather than indications of pre-operational behavior. The Dutch incident, although an apparent false alarm, emphasizes the need for security personnel responsible for high-profile assets or public venues in Pennsylvania to heighten their awareness, and the awareness of relevant others, of behavioral and situational clues indicating hostile intent.

Regarding the Netherlands specifically, the risk of such 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 (Christmas Day bomber Abdulmutallab's departure point), Germany, France, Denmark and Switzerland. Pennsylvanian students and researchers, as well as business travelers and tourists, in Europe should be aware of the heightened risk levels in the named states.

## **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  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
POSTAL AND SHIPPING

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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](mailto:info@terrorresponse.org)

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