

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #18

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

9 SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

ONGOING RESEARCH

Continuing Threat to Infrastructure from Caucasus Jihad

As noted in the PAIB-16 (4 Dec 09), a Caucasus-based jihadist group explicitly declared its strategy to defeat Russia by striking at the Russian economy, its tactic of deploying sleeper cells and using explosives, and its targeting of infrastructure targets, mass transit and Russian civilians. The group, *Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus* (IEC), also warned that its campaign of terror had just begun.

Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center researchers are monitoring jihadist chatter regarding the declared IEC campaign for threats posed to American assets in Russia and the neighboring republics. In addition, TAM-C analysts are watching for indications that the IEC's methods of targeting national infrastructure are praised or emulated by jihadist or anarchist cells elsewhere.

More Expected from Iranian Dissident Movement

Iranian dissidents and pro-democracy activists renewed their anti-regime protests on 7 Dec 09. There were reports of harsh responses from the Islamic Republic, including the use of live ammunition, tear gas, fierce beatings and arrests as more and more people joined various protests in the streets. There were reportedly similar events at universities throughout Iran during the day. TAM-C's Ground Truth sources have said that larger, more vigorous protests against the Islamic Republic are expected in Iran 12 Dec 09.

As noted in PAIB-15 (2 Dec 09), Iranian expatriate pro-democracy movement activists have called for people around the world to hold rallies in support of the Iranian dissidents. They have particularly called for support from university students on their various campuses.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS; CHEMICAL; AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Reference to Sarin Attacks in Jihadist Comms

Jihadist communications intercepted by Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center analysts included tactical and strategic intelligence sharing referencing the 1995 Sarin gas attacks in the Tokyo subway.

In the context of information sharing related to equipment, weapons, gases and similar tools of attack, a question was raised as to how to make white phosphorus and Sarin gas. Initial replies to the request included guidance regarding phosphorus, which can be used as a highly destructive incendiary agent or to generate a smokescreen as part of other attacks.

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

TAM-C analysts point out that the latest request is one in an increasingly extensive collection of detailed exchanges among jihadists of practical, detailed information about weapons and tactics, as well as of pre-operational intelligence on proposed infrastructure targets. TAM-C analysts continue to monitor the relevant communications for indications of intended targets, tactics or timing.

In Pennsylvania, TAM-C analysts note, companies producing phosphorous compounds for commercial farming (e.g., United Phosphorus Inc., King of Prussia) should be alert to the possibility of terrorist cells seeking to steal their products or purchase them through straw-man entities. In addition, this recommendation applies to key US manufacturers of white phosphorus such as FMC Corporation (with corporate headquarters and sales offices in Philadelphia, PA).

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Stop & Shop Chain to be Targeted by Wage Activists

Aggressive left-wing activists, who have changed the policies of major fast-food companies including Taco Bell, McDonalds, Burger King and Subway, have decided to target Stop & Shop supermarkets. The organization, Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), focuses on pay and living conditions of migrant workers, especially those workers who pick tomatoes in Florida.

The CIW will be announcing its targeting of Stop & Shop on 11 Dec 09 by going to its Quincy, MA headquarters and delivering a letter "demand(ing) fair treatment and fair wages for farm workers." The Coalition of Immokalee Workers has used tactics ranging from massed demonstrations to boycotts to threats. In the past, pressures placed on targeted organizations have been decentralized -- a facility in Allentown, PA is as likely to be targeted as a facility in Massachusetts.

Stop & Shop stores are located throughout Pennsylvania. Additionally, Stop & Shop is a sister organization of the Giant supermarket chain.

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

From 11 Dec 09, until a settlement is reached with the targeted company (Stop & Shop), pressure will be applied to Stop & Shop stores, Super G groceries, and potentially the sister organizations of Giant-Landover and Giant Food of Carlisle.

Much of the pressure will be legal, which will require law enforcement personnel to provide crowd control. However, student groups in support of the CIW have used tactics that include sit-in-type demonstrations.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; BANKING AND FINANCE

A Warning to Switzerland: Incitement to Jihad

Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center analysis presented in PAIB no. 14 (30 November 2009) stated that jihadists were almost certainly going to exploit a recent referendum banning mosque minaret construction in Switzerland as fodder for incitement. This week, TAM-C researchers have identified Arabic-language communications specifically intended to inspire lone-wolf or lone-wolf cell terror attacks within Switzerland and against Swiss interests.

Calling Switzerland "the country of shame that wants to bully the Muslims," the communications made a clear threat: "Whoever hurts and insults the Muslims will be punished. America and her allies are far, and we attacked them, so we can easily attack Switzerland." The implication appears to be that this is a call for European Muslims to take action.

TAM-C analysts note that the targeting guidance includes the following: "Your churches are in the range of our guns, and every Swiss can be a target."

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

The identification of religious institutions in Switzerland as primary targets was a predictable reaction to the minaret construction referendum results. However, Switzerland provides a target-rich environment with its tourist venues and business interests, including many American assets.

In addition to the likely heightened threat of terrorism within Switzerland, Swiss assets in the United States and elsewhere may now be under increased adversarial surveillance. Potential targets in the Pennsylvania region include: the Swiss consulate for the Philadelphia area, located in bordering Hockessin, Delaware; Credit Suisse offices in West Conshohocken and Plymouth Meeting; UBS offices in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Bethel Park, Conshohocken, Erie, Newtown and Plains. Iconic institutions such as the Nestle Corporation are at increased risk world-wide, as well.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Jihadists in Egypt Shooting in All Directions

Researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center have intercepted communications indicating targeting by jihadists in Egypt that focuses on all the regional regimes - Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Of particular note is the communication's singling out of the Sinai Peninsula.

TAM-C analysts note that the jihadists aspire to:

1. assist members of the jihadist organizations in Gaza as they fight against Israel;
2. emulate the Muslims in Pakistan, attacking the Egyptian government, particularly Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak;
3. fire rockets at the Jews in Israel;
4. "light a fire" under Fatah and Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas (described as "Arab Jews" who betrayed Palestine); and
5. recapture the glory of the Sinai.

TAM-C analysts note that the communication's conclusion, "Fight the tyrant, break his fortress, and fight his soldiers. Fight every heretic," refers to both the Jewish state of Israel and President Mubarak, who is referred to as a tyrant in jihadist circles.

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

According to TAM-C analysts, the timing of a clear, targeted jihadist communication referencing the Sinai Peninsula takes on added significance because of the large numbers of Western vacationers who visit Sinai resorts during the December holiday season. Typical travel agency packages offered in the US for Egypt and Israel include a Sinai resort stay.

Sinai resorts have been the site of large-scale jihadist terror attacks targeting foreign tourists several times. Therefore, TAM-C analysis indicates the potential for terror activity in Egypt - especially against high-visibility government offices, tourist sites and in the Sinai - is increased at this time. In addition, Pennsylvania students attending the American University in Cairo, Egypt (BEG) should be advised of the current increased danger of terrorist activity.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES
ENERGY
HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS
WATER
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
EMERGENCY SERVICES
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNICATIONS
POSTAL AND SHIPPING

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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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