

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #80

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

3 MAY 2010

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### ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

- **4 May 2010:** Anarchist student groups across the US will be holding anti-war actions protesting "Obama's wars and fighting the police state." This day holds particular significance as the students protest the 40th anniversary of the killing of students at Kent State by National Guard troops. It is also the anniversary of the 1886 Haymarket Square Affair/Riot/Massacre in Chicago, when anarchists clashed with police; the ensuing bombing and gunfire resulted in the deaths of more than eight people, primarily police officers. ITRR notes the potential for student actions on campuses.
- **6 May 2010:** Environmentalist targeting of JP Morgan Chase continues. The radical **RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK (RAN)** calls for "actions on campuses, in the streets and out in front of Chase's branches and offices around the country." The group concludes its call for action saying, "See you in the streets!" (PAIB No. 75)
- **9 May 2010:** BP gas stations nationwide to be blockaded by environmental activists. The "action" is to be of unlimited duration. (See details below.)
- **12-13 May 2010:** The twenty-fifth anniversary of the violent standoff with the members of the radical **MOVE** organization in Philadelphia. On **12 May 2010**, MOVE members and supporters will be "delivering murder complaints" to Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams and holding a "press conference" at the AFSC center at 15th and Cherry Streets. In the evening, they will meet at the

**African-American Museum.** (PAIB No. 79)

- **15 May 2010:** European anarchists are planning a "No Borders" protest in Paris, France. (See details below.)
- **15 May 2010:** The International Day of Protest for Lolita. Animal rights activists in the **Pittsburgh** area will be holding a protest rally in Point State Park to "raise awareness about [Miami] Seaquarium Orca, Lolita" and to rally opposition to keeping sea animals like killer whales in captivity. (PAIB No. 79)
- **15 May-30 May 2010:** Potential high-profile targets for anti-gun protest activity include Pennsylvania gun shows this month, including:

**15-16 May 2010, Philadelphia** (Oaks): Greater Philadelphia Expo Center

**22-23 May 2010, Philadelphia:** National Guard grounds

**29-30 May 2010, Bristol:** Kings Caterers (4010 New Falls Rd.)

**29-30 May 2010: Wind Gap,** Plainfield Township Fire Company Social Hall (6480 Sullivan Trail)

- **23 May 2010: Philadelphia.** The annual Israel Independence Day celebration, attracting thousands, will be held at **Penn's Landing** on the Delaware River Waterfront. Recent chatter among jihadists, anarchists and radical anti-war elements discuss targeting for attacks on Jewish and Israeli assets worldwide, which include the **Israeli consulate in Philadelphia**, high-profile **Jewish institutions, synagogues, communal events and pro-Israel gatherings** (such as the Penn's Landing event.) An example of the type of threatened incident occurred on 28 April 2010, when a police patrol car carrying Israel's Deputy Ambassador in Britain was violently attacked by an angry mob following her speech at the University of Manchester.

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

### SECTORS: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

#### 1. **Failed Times Square Attack: Sign of the Times**

While deemed "amateur," the failed Saturday evening, VBIED (vehicular-borne, improvised explosive device) attack in Times Square had the potential to cause a major explosion, taking many lives on New York's crowded streets.

The VBIED, placed in a Nissan *Pathfinder*, was left in Times Square near the Marriott Marquis Hotel, the Disney Company's Lion King Show Theater as well as the offices of Viacom (producers of South Park, which recently faced controversy over a cartoon lampooning Muhammad).

The Pathfinder was loaded with two or three propane tanks, fireworks, two filled 5-gallon gasoline containers, some material that may have been fertilizer, and a timing device. The bomb was in fact activated, but the ignition source failed and it did not detonate. A street vendor noticed the vehicle parked in a No Standing area with the engine running and notified the police department. The police bomb squad eventually detonated the timing device using a disposal robot.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

#### Tactics

A series of attacks in the United Kingdom in 2007 used IED similar to those found in Times Square. Two VBIED were found in central London, one outside a nightclub near Piccadilly Circus and the other was just off Trafalgar Square. The following day, a would-be suicide bomber rammed a Jeep laden with propane gas through security barriers at Glasgow International Airport.

In Times Square the fire department apparently responded to the smoke coming from the suspect vehicle without waiting for a bomb disposal team. ITRR analysts note that a secondary device, which is quite common in terrorist bombings, would have been effective in knocking out the first responders in this case. ITRR advises awareness among all response teams of the likelihood of secondary devices.

ITRR analysts further note that the use of a license plate number from a different vehicle, as was seen in the Times Square incident, is a technique used in Israel (and noted throughout ITRR training materials).

#### Motives

In looking at the possible motives for the attack, ITRR analysts note that the last Times Square bombing (March, 2008) was perpetrated by anarchists and targeted the military. However, the tactic, the likely mass-casualty nature of the intended attack, as well as the high-profile public civilian target and venue, points most strongly to a jihadist connection.

ITRR analysts currently believe the failed effort and improvised nature of the explosives indicate a poorly funded cell with no real engineering abilities - an inexperienced lone-wolf cell or a "freelance" cell operating almost alone on behalf of distant handlers. In this regard, it is noteworthy that Pakistani Taliban communications in the aftermath of the failed bombing included claims of responsibility (although they have been known to claim attacks in which they had no part). Significantly, the communications included images of the Taliban leader allegedly filmed in early April declaring that the organization was now focusing all its efforts on attacks within American cities.

Regardless of whether or not the Taliban claim is accurate, ITRR analysts suggest that there is every reason to believe that independent lone-wolf-style or long-arm freelance jihadist cells are already acting on strategic guidance provided in Islamist forums and electronic communications. As noted in previous editions of the PAIB, law enforcement will have to depend on an informed citizenry (such as the t-shirt vendor who spotted the suspect Pathfinder in Times Square) and close inter-agency coordination, or effective intelligence centers, to identify such potential terror cells operating in the United States at the current time.

### SECTORS: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND ENERGY

#### 2. *BP Stations to be Blockaded Starting 9 May 2010*

Environmental and anti-capitalist protesters are planning to blockade BP gas stations for an unlimited period of time, starting 9 May 2010.

Referring to the planned nationwide disruption of BP services "an action" to "end the global exploitation by the banks and corporations," the organizers call on supporters to "blockade your local BP station starting Mothers Earth's Day [9 May]."

More generally, the organizers of the planned BP blockades call for an end to "cooperation with the system" and "corporate power," and for supporters to "create our own alternative community."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts note that BP service stations are only one of the multinational's corporate holdings that may be targeted by determined environmentalists. The BP group includes Amoco, ARCO and BP, as well as the AM/PM outlets and Castrol motor oil.

**BP, ARCO and Amoco assets in Pennsylvania** include service stations in:

- Altoona
- Beaver
- Bensalem
- Bentleyville
- Brookville
- Broomall
- Bryn Mawr
- Butler
- Chambersburg
- Chester
- Clarion
- Coal Center
- Doylestown
- Franklin
- Green Tree

- Greensburg
- Hamburg
- Hatfield
- Havertown
- Lancaster
- Latrobe
- Monroeville
- Mountainhome
- Newtown Square
- O Hara
- Pittsburgh
- Philadelphia
- Robinson
- Ross
- Scranton
- South Fayette
- Springfield
- Tannersville
- Tunkhannock
- Vanport
- West Chester
- White Oak
- Youngsville
- others

According to ITRR analysts, because of lack of operational capability, under most circumstances the anti-corporate BP protesters will be unable to effectively blockade targeted stations; however, varying types of protests are nonetheless likely to be held at locations throughout the Commonwealth.

### SECTOR: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

#### 3. *Lebanon-Based Al-Qaeda Affiliate Threatens 'Revenge'*

A new communication from the Lebanon- and Syria-based **Abdullah Azzam Brigades** of **Al-Qaeda** promises "revenge" for the deaths of Iraqi Al-Qaeda leaders Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi and Abu Ayyub Al-Masri (AKA Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir) last month.

The jihadist organization promises to "take revenge, and we will disgrace the Jews and their allies with the power Allah gave us. [Our actions] will complete the work and the efforts of our brothers."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts note that the Abdullah Azzam Brigades have the immediate operational capability to conduct attacks in Lebanon, northern Israel, Syria and Jordan. They have previously been involved in rocket attacks on Israeli targets.

The risk to Western assets in the Middle East is generally raised at this time. The risk is especially elevated for non-governmental organizations (NGO). ITRR analysts believe they present the softest targets in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. ITRR analysts note that a January 2010 attack against the Israeli Embassy staff in Jordan was conducted with IED; similar tactics could be used against other Western targets in the region, including tourists moving between the Israel and Jordan.

ITRR analysts reiterate that **Pennsylvanian students, tourists and business travelers** should be made aware of the heightened level of risk in the named venues. Of note is that University of Pennsylvania students on **AMIDEAST programs at Qasid Institute in Amman** initially stay in a hotel in the city during orientation week. ITRR analysts reiterate that recent acts of terror targeting civilians have struck hotels and other venues used by Westerners.

**Pennsylvania students, researchers and faculty** at the many overseas programs in Israel (e.g., **Temple University, Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania**, and various Jewish and Christian religious seminaries), as well as business travelers in the country, should be advised of the apparent increase in jihadist targeting of the country at this time. Visitors are advised to adhere to guidance provided by local security forces and to increase awareness of cross-border tension on Israel's northern front.

## SECTOR: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

### 4. *International Anarchist Protest in France*

European anarchists are planning a "No Borders" protest in Paris, France, on 15 May 2010. They are calling it "a day of mass action" that will start at Jaures Metro station.

Those involved will be protesting "the increasing control and surveillance of the social sphere each day via an expanding toolbox of security legislation" ("Time to resist European 'migration management'," they say.). However, their openly-proclaimed, over-arching agenda is the elimination of national borders altogether.

The anarchists have specifically cited Calais as a key point on an illegal migrant route from France to the United Kingdom. Thus, the organizations involved in promoting the "day of action" include anti-nationalist anarchists from London.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

As with many recent anarchist protests, ITRR analysts believe the Parisian "No Borders" event can be expected to attract violent radicals involved in the various European anarchist movements. The likelihood of "direct actions" should be considered high in this case, with law

enforcement focusing on crowd control, identifying and isolating more violent elements, as well as riot prevention and containment.

Pennsylvanian students and faculty participating in foreign study programs in France should be made aware of the high potential for violent or disruptive actions in Paris and Calais. Pennsylvania-based programs in France include:

- Clarion University
- East Stroudsburg
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania (in Nancy)
- Mansfield University
- Westminster College
- third-party programs attended by Indiana University of Pennsylvania students such as those of the American InterContinental University in London and Paris, and of the Cultural Experiences Abroad organization in France.

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

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

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-**

**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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