

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #79

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. **Pipelines: A Vulnerable Infrastructure Target**

Upon learning that Azerbaijan, Georgia and Romania are launching a liquefied natural gas project designated as the *Azerbaijan-Georgia-Romania Interconnector* (AGRI), ITRR analysts immediately identified the necessary pipeline as a vulnerable target for regional adversarial elements. The project is part of the European Union's planned Southern Corridor, providing Caspian Sea-region gas to Europe.

As noted by ITRR analysts in June 2009, international jihadist terrorists have been focusing attention on **energy projects**, **supplies** and **supply lines**. Regarding pipelines, jihadists see them as a weak point that can be exploited due to Western lifestyle dependency on them, as well as the potentially massive threat such pipelines can become where they run under and near major population centers.

An intercepted jihadist communication from mid-June 2009 singled out a planned Nigeria-Algeria-Europe pipeline as "future targets for the lions of **al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb**." While in May 2009, jihadist communications intercepted by ITRR analysts focused on energy supplies – namely oil pipelines to Europe from the Caucasus region. In the latter case, it was a deal between Azerbaijan and Turkey to deliver crude oil and gas to Europe by way of a 3,300-kilometer pipeline. The title given the latter communication was, "A call to blow up the energy pipelines between Europe and the United States and the Caspian Sea region." Accompanying maps purported to show the path of pipelines from the Caspian Sea to Europe.

In Iraq, Islamist insurgents recently bombed a key oil pipeline and disrupted crude oil exports to Turkey. In Nigeria separatist elements have recently (February and March 2010) targeted oil pipelines for attack.

In 2003, in North America, federal officials noted intensified jihadist chatter discussing the strategic and tactical aspects of attacks on energy infrastructure and pipelines in Houston. In 2006, similar jihadist discussions focused on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Then, in 2007, an apparent plot to blow-up a jet fuel pipeline under John F. Kennedy International Airport was foiled by authorities. Similarly, in 2007, a man who offered his services in online jihadist fora was convicted of plotting to blow up gas pipelines in Alaska, **Pennsylvania**, New Jersey and Wyoming. In incidents unrelated to the international jihad, a series of six bomb attacks targeted pipelines and wellheads in British Columbia, Canada, from 2008-2009.

In the Mid-Atlantic region, two of the largest interstate natural gas pipeline systems are operated by **Columbia Gas Transmission Company** and **Dominion Transmission Company**. Their extensive networks run through Maryland, New Jersey, New York, **Pennsylvania**, Virginia and West Virginia. The **Buckeye Pipe Line Company** serves major population centers in **Pennsylvania**, New York and New Jersey, including lines to **Pittsburgh** and through **northeastern Pennsylvania**. Additionally, Buckeye operates pipelines that transport fuel from Paulsboro, New Jersey, to **central Pennsylvania**, with a dedicated pipeline carrying jet fuel to the **Philadelphia International Airport**.

The principal intrastate pipelines in Pennsylvania include those run by **North Penn Gas Company** and **Penn York Energy Corp.**

Of particular note in this regard is that the **Tennessee Gas Pipeline**, through **northeast Pennsylvania**, is the primary path to market for the gas drawn from the Marcellus Shale area in Pennsylvania. In fact, Stephen Rhoads, president of the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association, was quoted last year as saying, "There will be a need for new (Marcellus Shale) pipelines in the future to accommodate the anticipated volume of gas."

The **Marcellus Shale** gas drilling project was specifically targeted late last year in communications and in "direct action" training conducted by the **Ruckus Working Group**, an anarchist organization. Earlier this month, anti-authoritarian **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)** held a training session referencing the Marcellus Shale projects as well. On 22 April 2010, Earth Day, environmental activists across Pennsylvania held protests against natural gas drilling, including Marcellus Shale, at each regional **Department of Environmental Protection office**.

In light of the indicators and incidents noted above, pipelines - oil, natural gas and other energy infrastructure - remain attractive targets for saboteurs seeking to disrupt the flow of fuel or to cause a high-profile public impact. ITRR advises taking terrorist scenarios into account in pipeline security and emergency response training.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

SECTOR: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

2. *May Day (1 May 2010) in PA*

CATA [*El Comité de Apoyo a Los Trabajadores Agrícolas*] (translation: The Farmworkers Support Committee) will be marching in **Kennett Square**, Pennsylvania, to mark May Day (a Communist holiday celebrated on the first day of May, also known as International Workers' Day).

In their announcement of the event, the migrant farm workers' organization said they will be calling for "an Immigration Reform - a positive solution that recognizes the work of the immigrant community and its important contribution to society as a whole."

The event is called for 12:00 PM at **Nixon Park at the soccer field, North Walnut Street, in Kennett Square**.

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: **LOW-to-MODERATE**

ITRR analysts do not currently foresee a significant likelihood of disorder or violence, although ITRR has no current information regarding necessary police permits. Law enforcement personnel will primarily be called upon to provide crowd control. However, due in part to the recent high-profile media coverage given to immigration legislation in Arizona, there remains a chance that radical or incited elements will be inspired to take more aggressive actions, which can include civil disobedience, vandalism, etc.

3. *Pittsburgh Animal Rights Activists to Protest for a Miami Whale*

As part of what is being promoted as an "International Day of Protest for Lolita," animal rights activists in the **Pittsburgh area** will be holding a protest rally in **Point State Park** on 15 May 2010.

The aim of the event is to "raise awareness about Seaquarium Orca, Lolita." Lolita herself is also being used more generally by the activists as a symbol to rally opposition to keeping sea animals like killer whales in captivity.

According to organizers, "Over thirty different cities and countries have signed up to be part of the massive collaboration to show the Miami Seaquarium along with other marine mammal parks and the world that Orcas do not belong in captivity."

In describing the conditions in which Lolita currently lives, the protest organizers added, "Only a small hurdle remains in the way of Lolita's retirement: Miami Seaquarium owners Arthur and Andrew Hertz." They conclude, "Now is the time to strike with letters, phone calls, demonstrations and media attention!"

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: LOW

ITRR analysts do not foresee a significant likelihood of disorder or violence, although ITRR has no current information regarding necessary police permits. Law enforcement personnel will primarily be called upon to provide crowd control.

SECTOR: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the MOVE Standoff*

13 May 2010 is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the violent standoff with the members of the radical **MOVE** organization in **Philadelphia**, which ended with police dropping a bomb on the group's row house. The resulting fire killed eleven residents (including five children) and burned down almost an entire city block.

On 12 May 2010, MOVE members and supporters have announced that they will be "delivering murder complaints to Seth Williams (Philadelphia's 1st Black DA)." They will be gathering at the **American Friends Service Committee** center in Philadelphia (15th and Cherry St.) for a morning "press conference." In the evening, the MOVE supporters said, they will again meet to watch two films on the 1985 MOVE standoff at the **African-American Museum** (7th and Arch St.).

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE

ITRR analysts have noted an increase this year in activity by supporters of the MOVE movement and its conflict with law enforcement.

Currently, ITRR analysts do not foresee a likelihood of disorder or violence in the above-mentioned MOVE events, although ITRR has no current information regarding necessary police permits. Law enforcement personnel will primarily be called upon to provide crowd control.

However, ITRR analysts also note the significant link between MOVE and the supporters of convicted murderer Mumia Abu Jamal, whose birthday has inspired several actions taken in April protesting his incarceration. In fact, MOVE recognizes Mumia Abu Jamal as one of their supporters and has advocated for his release.

As noted in PAIB No. 75, supporters of Mumia Abu Jamal lay blame for his imprisonment and pending execution at the feet of both the US government and the Pennsylvania criminal justice system. A similar analysis can be made of MOVE's motivations, as well. In addition, ITRR analysts note that the Free Mumia movement and MOVE have been essentially "adopted" by extremist left-wing anarchists worldwide as two of their anti-state causes.

As previously stated in PAIB No. 75, supporters of Abu Jamal or MOVE may come to reject peaceful means, which they will see as having failed them thus far. In light of the foregoing, ITRR analysts believe there is a possibility of more radical actions by individual supporters of Abu Jamal or MOVE.

5. Nigerian Inter-Religious, Ethnic Violence Claims Journalists' Lives

On 24 April 2010, near Jos, two journalists for a Christian magazine were hacked to death, apparently by a mob, in a predominantly Muslim area. Four other Christians were also murdered during the rioting which began following the discovery of a dead Muslim girl's remains in the region.

Jos, a predominantly Christian but with a sizable Muslim minority, is on the border area between Nigeria's Muslim north and its Christian south.

The latest violence is apparently part of a vicious revenge cycle that has been underway since January of this year. As noted at the time, in PAIB No. 40, nearly 500 people died in less than two months in the Jos region's inter-religious and inter-ethnic violence. As of this date, the number of deaths has reached over 1,500.

***** ANALYSIS ***** Threat Level: SEVERE

ITRR's Africa Desk expects inter-religious reprisal violence to continue, and possibly increase, in the above region. Westerners or Christians are advised to avoid Jos and its surroundings at this time, insofar as possible. Violence against Westerners who are perceived as Christians 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.

According to ITRR analysis, the violence in Nigeria will target not only ethnic and religious groups, but also personnel working for the petrochemical industry. Disruption of oil supplies from Nigeria is likely to quickly affect North America, including Pennsylvania.

Additionally, in PAIB Nos. 42 and 77, ITRR researchers noted that **al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)** issued communications pledging to avenge spilled Muslim blood in Nigeria by attacking Christians. Furthermore, the **AQIM** and religious rioting threat indicators are in addition to the ongoing, though unrelated, high risk of attack by separatist militants in the Niger Delta region (PAIB No. 72).

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
BANKING AND FINANCE
CHEMICAL
COMMUNICATIONS
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES
EMERGENCY SERVICES
ENERGY
HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS AND WASTE
POSTAL AND SHIPPING
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
WATER

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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@itrintel.org

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