

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #19

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

11 DECEMBER 2009

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Is Iran's 'Day of Reckoning' Coming?

An expatriate Iranian pro-democracy activist who was recently in Iran, just prior to the recent student protests first discussed in PAIB no. 15 (2 December 2009), provided analysis from Tehran in an online forum for Persians: "Most everyone hates (with a capital H) this murderous [Iranian] regime. For two days I chartered a taxi and traveled throughout the city of Tehran.... and had conversations with ordinary people, and make no mistake about it, at least nine of out 10 people that I was able to talk with *hate* Khomeini, Khamenei and, above *all*, Ahmadinejad. Even people whom I could trust that are on government pay roll or are current members of either the Basij [government militia] or the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps dislike [or] hate this tyrannical regime."

The significance of dissatisfaction within the IRGC, if accurate, cannot be overestimated. Along with the Basij forces, the IRGC is believed to be in charge of Iran's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs, as well as controlling nearly a third of the nation's economy.

"Situation is beyond explosive, and even the mullahs and the higher ups in the IRGC command structure know that they are sitting on top of a *raging* volcano. Simply said: People are *mad* as Hell, and are not going to take it anymore," according to the activist (AKA Mehdi2009).

Further protests in Iran, expected to be more popular and widespread than those of 7 December, are planned for this weekend, 12 December 2009. While solidarity events and rallies are scheduled in many places in North America, as of this briefing, there has been no specific discussion of anti-Iran protests organized for Pennsylvania venues. TAM-C is monitoring for additional developments affecting the Pennsylvania region.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Specific Tactical Guidance for Jihad Attacks in CONUS

Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) analysts have identified communications from a jihadist who has operated, or is currently operating, within CONUS.

The communication was issued in response to a suggestion by another jihadist that Islamic terrorists target law enforcement in the US:

- "Break into police stations in that heretic country [the USA] and shoot everyone there";
- "Snipers can be placed in the highest rooms [of the overtaken police station] and shoot all the infidels." As inspiration for his idea, the jihadist cited the recent multiple homicide of police officers in the state of Washington.

A response to the above suggestion, identified in a communication intercepted by the TAM-C, includes specific tactical intelligence and guidance for attacks on targets within the US. The responding jihadist writes:

- Although the USA is thought by non-Americans to be an environment in which automatic weapons can be had easily, this is not true. [At the time of the communication, the jihadist was only able to obtain a hand gun.]
- In order to limit children and Muslims as casualties, the targeting of adult holiday parties and night clubs is preferred [reference is made to the recent tragic Russian nightclub fire].

Specific mention is made of Halloween costume parties as "an opportunity that our brothers can exploit next year", because they "provide good cover for movement and the presence of many infidels of all ages, but not children."

- If the appropriate weapons or explosives can be located, sporting events and post-sporting event activities in bars provide good targeting opportunities with little security.
- There are an abundance of Jewish centers that provide soft target opportunities. "An attack on one of these centers that will kill 10 or 20 will have a huge impact," the jihadist explains.

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

TAM-C analysts note that the subject communicating the targeting advice has spent adequate time in CONUS identifying targets with the intent to carry out a lone-wolf style attack. The subject's intent is to follow previous communications dictating the intent to "move the war to enemy territory." The Mumbai Massacre of November 2008 - which required simple weaponry and few gunmen relative to the damage inflicted - is cited by the jihadist as "a great scenario and example for this kind of attacks."

TAM-C analysts note that the targeting advice provided in the communication enables the adversary to conduct terror activity using modest weapons obtained in the USA. The current

holiday season in CONUS provides a vast number of targeting opportunities, from sporting events to synagogue and church holiday events to New Year's Eve parties.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Swiss Corporations, Websites Targeted

As foreseen by TAM-C analysts in PAIB no. 18 (9 December 2009), the Nestle Corporation has become a target of Islamist attention following the recent referendum vote banning further mosque minaret construction in Switzerland. In addition to the threat of physical attacks on Swiss assets cited in PAIB no. 18, there is a new call in jihadist online forums to boycott Swiss products, starting with Nestle.

Jihadists also boast an Internet hacking attack on Swiss websites. The claim spread over Islamist forums is that Moroccan hackers destroyed 300 Swiss websites, forums and newspapers in the last week. One of the people who claims to be involved in the attack wrote that he will "continue the fight against the enemy of Islam." According to the jihadist forums, Swiss police are looking for the man that is behind the electronic attacks, who goes by the moniker "M0u34d".

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

TAM-C analysts note that hackers can do significant damage if they successfully target critical Internet-based networks. The intention to conduct further hacking attacks and to boycott Swiss products in no way precludes physical attacks by lone-wolf terrorists or organized cells. Parenthetically, TAM-C analysts have suggested the possibility that Anarchist groups or others opposed to the ban in Switzerland may take further "direct action" targeting Swiss corporations worldwide.

As noted in previous PAIB editions, Switzerland provides a target-rich environment with its tourist venues and business interests, including many American assets. In addition, 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.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Using Security Uniforms to Penetrate Defenses

TAM-C analysts note that jihadists have been sharing recent news items on a thwarted suicide bombing attempt in Saudi Arabia by infiltrators from Yemen. The foiled attack was apparently the work of Houthi tribesmen dressed in Yemenite army uniforms. The new tactic, according to jihadist forums, was adopted due to heavy Saudi reinforcements along the Yemen-Saudi border.

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

The threat of terrorists using law enforcement or other security forces' uniforms to penetrate defenses of secure facilities is not new. However, TAM-C analysts note the quick succession of jihadist discussions of attacks on American military targets due to the Afghanistan "surge" announced by President Barack Obama; of the use of explicit tactics for law enforcement targets within CONUS (as mentioned above), and the foregoing reference to a deception (dressing in military uniforms) useful for targeting military bases.

Law enforcement and military facilities, including recruitment centers, throughout the US may be seen as preferred targets for jihadists inspired by the recent series of detailed communications.

The Return of Greek Anarchist Rioting

This month (6 December) was the first anniversary of the shooting death of a young man in a confrontation with the Athens, Greece police. The 2008 rioting that occurred immediately after his death lasted weeks and resulted in large confrontations between the Greek Anarchist community and the mainstream of Greek society. Banks, car dealerships, and business offices were destroyed. Police stations were attacked. After the rioting appeared to have come to an end, 2 masked gunmen used an automatic weapon on a police van, severely wounding one of the officers inside.

The death of 15 year old Alexandros Grigoropoulos escalated to widespread rioting, with hundreds of rioters damaging property and engaging riot police with Molotov cocktails and stones. Outside of Greece, solidarity demonstrations (and in some cases riots) took place in a number of additional European cities including Istanbul, London, Paris, Brussels, Rome, Dublin, Berlin, Frankfurt, Madrid, Barcelona, Amsterdam, The Hague, Copenhagen, Bordeaux, Seville as well as Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, and the western Cypriot city of Paphos.

Domestic terror analysts of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center are observing the return of the Greek Anarchist riots. Since late November 2009, there have been repeated clashes between students and Greek law enforcement officials. In spite of the 6,000 police officers providing riot duty, TAM-C analysts believe that the clashes have not ended.

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

TAM-C analysts expect sporadic disorders to reoccur in Athens (and possibly Thessaloniki) for the next few weeks. These disorders will affect Americans in Athens, whether for business or studies. While there is potential for minor disorders to occur in other European cities, TAM-C analysts note that the attention of most European (and American) Anarchist groups is more focused on the United Nations Climate talks in Copenhagen that are scheduled to last through 18 December 2009. The likelihood of sympathetic Anarchist violence and actions throughout Europe and cities of the US is diminished.

Sectors: BANKS AND FINANCE; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; ENERGY; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Anarchist Actions Expected

The 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen is scheduled to run through 18 December 2009. Anarchist groups are basing their plans around the fact that COP15 is taking place soon after the ten-year anniversary of the Seattle WTO protests (November 30th 1999). They are mindful of how successfully the massive protests and direct actions affected the WTO summit, dissolving it in a cloud of teargas.

The groups actually going to Copenhagen plan to shut down the COP15. Those who can't travel to Copenhagen plan to honor the Seattle WTO anniversary by asserting themselves in very aggressive "direct actions" in their local areas. Seattle has become a symbolic reference point for the world's "anti-globalization" movement.

Their planned aggressive behavior is part of a larger game plan, that their voices are seen and heard during the summit and not just as a lead up to the main negotiations.

A "Global Day of Action for Climate Justice" was held on Monday, 30 November 2009. Actions, like the lock-down at the Chicago Climate Exchange, were conducted by environmental groups throughout the world. Anarchist groups are planning additional days of aggressive direct action throughout the COP15.

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

TAM-C analysts recommend enhanced security measures for electric utilities, coal mining corporations, and banks that provide financing to those industries. The higher level of security should remain in effect through the end of the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen on 18 December 2009.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

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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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