

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #39

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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ONGOING RESEARCH

1. New OBL Recording Threatens Continuing Attacks

An new jihadist recording purporting to be from Osama Bin-Laden threatens continuing attacks in the United States and ties the violence to American support for Israel. Thus far, the recording has inspired jihadist lone-wolf intelligence sharing. Previous jihadist tactical communications clearly declared there will be "top quality worldwide actions in the coming days and months that will emanate from the Arabian Peninsula." Earlier, the Christmas Day bomber Abdulmutallab allegedly told investigators that 20 young men are being prepared in Yemen to use PETN to blow up airliners. (PAIB nos. 32 and 38)

2. High-Profile Attack in Israel 'Within the Month'

ITRR researchers have identified internal jihadist communications indicating that a large-scale suicide attack aimed at Israel is planned for sometime within the month. Jihadists cited the need to maintain cell opsec to ensure success, and cut off discussion of the operation. (PAIB no. 37)

3. Increase in Greek Anarchist Terror

Recent events in Greece are indicators of renewed vigorous anarchist activity there: ITRR analysts 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. (PAIB no. 36 and 38)

4. *Explicit Threat of British Bombers in the UK*

A jihadist communication from 8 January 2010 explicitly threatened British infrastructure, most likely mass transit. A known jihadist described "two men, British by birth and rearing" set to "paralyze" transportation in the UK. (PAIB no. 33)

5. *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 pivoted off of the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit to encourage more "direct action" by their cadres worldwide. (PAIB no. 32)

6. *SHAC Targeting PA-Based Firms*

ITRR analysts expect a concerted effort on the part of local members of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) movement to target AstraZeneca and Glaxo SmithKline, with offices in Pennsylvania. (PAIB no. 28)

7. *Algerian Youth Seeks Guidance for Terror*

An Algerian youth offered himself to Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) as a suicide bomber and sought guidance on preparing explosives. He later turned to a specialist in terrorist weapons, whom ITRR analysts know to be reliable, for guidance on how he should go about attacking a church frequented by "foreign workers". While he may be deployed to attack in a major city in North Africa (especially in Algeria or Morocco), the threat extends to France due to that country's large North African population. Initially, the Algerian's preferred target was said by jihadist communications to be a nightclub. (PAIB nos. 27 and 34)

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

8. Black History Month and White Supremacists

February is Black History Month in the United States and Canada. ITRR analysts believe there is a potential for protests or more violent reactions from white supremacist groups during this period.

One potential focal point during the month is a white supremacist conference on 19-21 February 2010. The American Renaissance conference is slated to be held at the Dulles Airport Westin Hotel in Herndon, VA. Anti-racist groups have already begun targeting this meeting with phone calls to the hotel. Subsequent anti-racist communications, indicating a desire for confrontation, stated, "If they do not cancel, then we converge!"

*****ANALYSIS*****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts expect confrontations during the American Renaissance conference in Virginia, stemming from vigorous anti-racist groups as well as from groups attending the event. More generally, ITRR analysts believe that several indicators point to a higher risk of violent white supremacist activity this year, including in Pennsylvania.

- There has been a general rise in hate group activity and popularity in the past two years. This has been partially due to the candidacy and election of President Barack Obama and partially a reflection of the general economic downturn, as well as longer term factors such as immigration and ethnic demographic issues.

Pennsylvania, like the rest of the nation, has had increased organized white supremacist activity in recent years. The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), for example, has documented 11 white supremacist hate groups in Pennsylvania, many with multiple local chapters.

- The Obama administration's recent decision to give refuge to undocumented Haitian aliens in the United States has sparked fierce responses among nativist and racist hate organizations.

As Pennsylvania has been seen as an active white supremacist hub for the East Coast, there is an increased risk of protests or more violent reactions from white supremacist groups there during the month of February. In the past, such organizations have held provocative rallies and white-power concerts, as well as perpetrating vandalism and physical violence. Lone-wolf terrorists affiliated with certain of the white racist organizations have also been involved in armed attacks.

Centers of white supremacist activity in Pennsylvania (based on a more inclusive list of hate groups produced by the SPLC) include: Altoona; Bethlehem; Chester County; Greensburg; Harrisburg; Johnstown; Lemoyne; Philadelphia; Pittsburgh; Revere; Saint Thomas; State College; Wilkes Barre; and York.

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

9. Anarchist Groups Preparing for Nationwide Anti-War Demos

ITRR researchers are monitoring planning activity of various anarchist groups as they prepare for major anti-war demonstrations scheduled for 20 March 2010. The intent is to "to demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all US and NATO forces from Afghanistan and Iraq."

Mass marches and protest rallies "against war escalation in Afghanistan" are planned for Washington, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco. A coalition of Pittsburgh anti-war groups is organizing to take part in the Washington event.

***** ANALYSIS *****

T//W Rating: MODERATE

While the 20 March rallies themselves appear to be planned as legal, peaceful events, more unrestrained elements from among the anti-war or anarchist elements are likely to seek confrontation with law enforcement either during or on the sidelines of the events.

Of note is that in December 2009 a Pittsburgh-based anti-war coalition published a statement saying that "street protests" were a necessary immediate response to the administration's decision to continue the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, they added, "More protest and resistance must follow..." What form this "resistance" may take was not detailed, but ITRR analysts believe certain sectors involved in the anti-war protests will soon seek an escalation to "direct actions" involving vandalism, street confrontations and the like.

Sector: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

10. Animal Rights Group Targets AstraZeneca: Tri-State Facilities

An extremist animal rights organization, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), has declared 29 January 2010 to be "AstraZeneca Global Action Day". The group intends to target and encourage targeting of AstraZeneca facilities worldwide.

Animal rights activists have been provided with email addresses to be used in order to create telecommunication denial of service attacks. Additionally, activists are encouraged to physically confront facilities with on-site demonstrations.

***** ANALYSIS *****

T//W Rating: MODERATE

In the typical (and fairly successful) approach developed by SHAC, companies having any business links whatsoever with Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) are targeted by activists for harassment, threats, vandalism and, sometimes, assault. AstraZeneca is currently being targeted because they continue to have their products tested at HLS, which uses animal subjects. ITRR analysts see a clear intention and determination among animal rights activists to focus on AstraZeneca at this time.

Among the global facilities of AstraZeneca identified by SHAC and in related intelligence sharing forums are several in Philadelphia's tri-state area. The company's US corporate headquarters is located at 1800 Concord Pike in Wilmington, Delaware, with a research facility at 587 Old

Baltimore Pike in Newark, Delaware. AstraZeneca also has a sales office at 690 Lee Road in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

**Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES;
HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

11. *Pittsburgh Anarchists to Target UPMC, Pitt*

The Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG), an anarchist and anti-authoritarian organization, has called to join a protest on 30 January 2010 outside the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)-Braddock Hospital. In the announcement of their intentions, POG insists they will "participate consistent with the tone and tactics developed by our allies in the Braddock community." That is, non-violent demonstrations.

The Saturday protest is a last-ditch effort to prevent the 123-bed hospital's closure on Sunday, 31 January 2010. POG and other opponents of the closure have called it "UPMC's profit-driven decision. ... It has become clear that while Braddock is widely used it provides UPMC the 'wrong kind' of patients, i.e., poor and working class people, many of whom lack health insurance and have substance abuse issues."

Opponents of the closure noted that UPMC is building a similar-sized hospital in Monroeville, "an affluent community northeast of Braddock."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts believe that, in addition to joining the peaceful protest in Braddock, activists from POG or other anarchist cells will likely target the University of Pittsburgh or UPMC facilities with "direct action" - type vandalism or possibly site occupations. In this regard, it is notable that the university itself has active anarchist supporters, as seen during the G20 talks in Pittsburgh in September 2009. POG, specifically, played a very effective leadership role in highly organized anarchist protest activity during the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN.

Depending on the efforts by activists abroad to publicize the event for the sake of global anarchist solidarity (a growing initiative noted in PAIB no. 36 and others), protest actions may also be seen at UPMC facilities in Italy, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Qatar and Cyprus.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; ENERGY

12. *Tactical Discussions of Maritime Jihad Continue*

A new jihadist communication intercepted by ITRR researchers discusses a tactic for terrorist groups with limited means to target American maritime assets.

As part of the ongoing intelligence sharing among jihadists focusing on ships and how to attack them (as cited in PAIB nos. 27 and 28, and thereafter), there were explanations about naval mines and how they work. However, because most terrorist groups can't obtain or deploy them,

another option was suggested. "Make a similar mine by packing a big barrel with explosives and deploy it in narrow sea passages where the water level is low, like the Suez Canal, Bab Al-Mandab (connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden - ITRR), or at harbors where ships anchor; and when the ship is getting close, [the terrorists] can trigger the explosion...."

***** ANALYSIS*****

T//W Rating: MODERATE

While the likelihood of an attack executed precisely as detailed in the intercepted communication is not high, according to ITRR analysts, it cannot be discounted. The jihadist behind the above communication is likely from Yemen, home to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), where control and monitoring is very weak.

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. ITRR analysts also foresee an effort to strike Western ships in a Yemeni harbor.

The aforementioned recent communication is part of a trend repeatedly noted by ITRR analysts indicating a clear intent by jihadist elements to launch a deadly form of *Jihad Al-Bahr* ("jihad at sea") as soon as operationally possible. In past communications (cited in PAIB no. 27), jihadists made it clear that they see maritime travel as vulnerable and relatively easy to infiltrate. As previously recorded, ITRR analysis indicates that future maritime attacks may involve explosives smuggled onto a Western-flagged or US-bound ship.

While the ships of the Naval Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility (NISMF) in Philadelphia do not appear to be as significant a target for jihadist attack as active duty ships at sea, the Delaware River tri-state port complex (Philadelphia, PA; Camden, Gloucester City and Salem, NJ; and Wilmington, DE) can be a high-profile target for jihadists intent on carrying out certain maritime attacks discussed in jihadist communications. Other vulnerable ports include those of Erie and Pittsburgh. Regarding the smuggling or transfer of explosives to target countries, jihadist communications recommended the use of ships, due to the lower level of security surrounding sea travel.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

13. Al-Qaeda's Foothold in Mali Endangers Westerners

Jihadist communications have cited unidentified sources in northern Mali as saying that large sectors of local tribes have expressed their support in Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). According to the sources, AQIM is controlling significant areas in northern Mali after bringing some of the influential tribes under the aegis of Al-Qaeda.

Aside from what the communication claims is "fertile ground" for the jihadist ideology, AQIM has apparently been providing "logistic and economic support to the tribes. This is can offer quick development and benefits for both sides."

*****ANALYSIS*****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

AQIM has perpetrated kidnappings or obtained hostages captured in states bordering the regions where AQIM has significant bases of operation. Mali, Niger and Mauritania, specifically, have become high-risk regions for Westerners (PAIB nos. 23, 30 and 31), even as AQIM is based primarily in Algeria. As stated by ITRR analysts (in PAIB no. 37), the high mobility of hostage-taking operations perpetrated by jihadist groups from one state in a neighboring state requires cross-border assistance and collaboration.

In many cases, this collaboration comes from criminal elements in the target state. In Africa, the actual physical kidnapping operations themselves have been carried out in some cases by criminal gangs who then "sell" the captured foreigners to AQIM. In other instances, the jihadist group carries out revenue-generating criminal activity itself in tandem with non-ideological gangs, including kidnapping-for-ransom.

As noted in PAIB no. 23, there has recently been a great number of abductions or attempted abductions by AQIM targeting Westerners across North Africa. In light of the ongoing multiple indicators, ITRR recommends that Pennsylvanian students, faculty, researchers and volunteers in North Africa enhance accountability, vary travel routines and increase situational awareness.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES
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
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

COMPILED BY NR

| 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

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