

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #57

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

10 MARCH 2010

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### ONGOING RESEARCH

#### 1. 'Direct Action' Targeting Energy Industry

Anti-coal mining activists and related organizations have recently been increasing training and actions targeting the coal industry and related facilities. Training sessions in West Virginia and Virginia have focused on "skills and knowledge" regarding tactics for "direct action". Eco-extremist and anti-capitalist communications of 8 January 2010 and thereafter include explicit calls for sabotage of major facilities and murder. Primary targets will continue to be coal and nuclear energy facilities, as well as nuclear waste transit points. ITRR analysts identified several specific assets and industries that may be targets for eco-activist "direct action" in Pennsylvania, including branches of financial institutions such as JP Morgan Chase, Citi Bank, Goldman Sachs and Bank of America. Other companies identified as targets of ecological activists were coal companies involved in open pit or "mountain top removal" coal operations, power companies that burn this coal, and the offices of Duke Energy. (PAIB nos. 2, 20, 32, 33 and 43)

#### 2. Anti-Nuclear Weapons Day of Action

Anti-nuclear weapons activists are planning and perpetrating "direct actions" as practical field training leading up to an International Day of Action on 3 April 2010, slated to be an International Day of Action to ban nuclear weapons. (See "Disruption and Possible Probing at Nuclear Site" herein, as well as PAIB nos. 44 and 50)

#### 3. May to be a 'Month of Anarchy'

The Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN) called upon "anarchists, anti-authoritarians and other comrades to turn this May (2010) into a Month of Anarchy, throughout the Northeast and

beyond." ITRR analysts believe that NEAN will be stepping up its activities (legal and illegal) in the northeastern US following its latest planning activities and through May 2010. In addition, there remains the risk that non-local Anarchist cells will adopt more radical behavior than their local counterparts. Even while "Anarchist Studies" are gaining legitimacy (SUNY Cortland has announced the 9 April 2010 opening of an "Anarchist Studies Initiative"), ITRR researchers are monitoring the Anarchist networks for targeting indicators in Pennsylvania. (PAIB no. 50)

#### **4. *Jihadists Focus on Sports Venues***

Recent jihadist communications have focused on tactics and strategies for attacks on sports events, using sports paraphernalia or infiltration of sports stadiums. The explicit reference to sports venues dove-tailed with previous jihadist tactical communications regarding the use of Western-born terrorists wearing inconspicuous, appropriate clothing. This intelligence takes on added urgency due to the high-profile professional and collegiate sporting events in Pennsylvania. (PAIB nos. 42 and 47)

#### **5. *India Confronting Violent Jihad, Separatism and Communism***

India has recently seen a notable increase in jihadist, Communist and separatist terrorism throughout the country, with the latest deadly bombing attack targeting a foreign bakery in Pune. In the wake of the bombing, India has moved to high alert. Aside from the general increased risk of jihadist attacks in the major cities (Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai specifically), there has been a jihadist focus on the Jammu and Kashmir regions. In addition, there is a small, extremely limited risk of jihadist lone-wolf targeting of Indian assets in Pennsylvania, such as Hindu and Sikh temples or activities of the **Indian Cultural Association of Pennsylvania (ICAP)**. The uptick in Communist and regional insurgent attacks was noted in October 2009 and has yet to abate. (PAIB 44, 41 and 47)

#### **6. *Turkey: Kurdish Unrest Expected; Possible Attacks in Planning Stages***

Turkish authorities expect that the Kurdish Communities Union (KCK) will hold large, unruly and potentially violent protests in the eastern and southeastern provinces of Turkey from 15 February 2010 until March 21. In December, the Freedom Hawks of Kurdistan (FHK) issued a clear and explicit threat against Turkish cities. ITRR recommends that faculty and students attending the **Philadelphia-based American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT)** facilities in Ankara and Istanbul, as well as at other regional institutions, increase situational awareness. (PAIB nos. 23 and 41)

#### **7. *Jihadists Reminded: Target the Chinese***

ITRR analysts have identified a jihadist call to target personnel and assets of the People's Republic of China (PRC) within the Chinese state and globally. Previous attacks - both in Xinjiang, China, and elsewhere - have ranged from bombings to ambushes with small-arms fire. Organizations in close proximity to high-profile Chinese assets or groups should take note of increased pressure to target these assets by lone-wolf or small unit terror organizations. Within China, students and faculty from Pennsylvania colleges taking part in International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP), **Indiana University of Pennsylvania** exchange students, as well as **University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine** exchange students should be made aware of the specific regional risks in western China. (PAIB no. 55)

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

### Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

#### 8. *Increased Risk of Attack in Belgium*

The Belgian government has been active in counterterror operations within the country of late. Two of those operations have been widely covered in both local and international media.

Fifteen Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) separatist terrorists were arrested earlier this week in Turkish-supported arrests at 25 locations in Belgium. The raids were made possible due to intelligence received from raids on PKK members in Italy and France in February of this year.

The PKK has been suspected of having practical, if not ideological, ties to Al-Qaeda, providing mutual support both inside Turkey and internationally.

Concurrently this week, the trial of nine Al-Qaeda agents began in Brussels. The suspects are on trial for recruiting jihadists and planning terrorist attacks. The coverage in the media has been higher because of the special interest in one of the suspects, Malika El-Aroud, 50, a Belgian-Moroccan who has prior convictions in Belgium and Switzerland and who has served time in jail for spreading jihadist propaganda.

El-Aroud is the widow of a jihadist fighter and wife to another. Her current husband is wanted for facilitating and training jihadists in Turkey and bringing them to the Pakistani-Afghani border area, where he is believed to be currently hiding.

ITRR analysts note that Malika El-Aroud is a familiar face among European pro-jihadist groups.

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

T//W Rating: MODERATE

The current two legal developments in Belgium in the war on terror indicate an increased risk of terrorist attack in that country, and possibly against Belgian assets elsewhere, according to ITRR analysts. Potential targets include governmental, judicial and public facilities.

In November (see PAIB no. 14), ITRR researchers noted that jihadist communications focused on Brussels, in one case declaring: "The next attack will be in Brussels." The past communications and current news items may inspire lone-wolf attacks. ITRR will be monitoring for an increase in the tempo of such calls for independent jihad attacks against Belgian assets.

Historically, local terror cells have carried out attacks in association with key dates in legal hearings in order to maximize media coverage and to show support to those being tried. The threat will increase as the end of the relevant trials comes closer, with the highest threat period expected on the day of and immediately following sentencing.

At Belgium's Catholic University, exchange students and faculty from the **University of Pennsylvania's School of Dentistry** should be made aware of the current increased risk levels. In Pennsylvania, Belgium's honorary consul is Mrs. Anne Billiet Lackner at the law offices of The Lackner Group, Inc. (700 North Bell Avenue, Suite 290) in **Pittsburgh**.

**Sector:** NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE

**9. *Disruption and Possible Probing at Nuclear Site***

A bomb threat led to the evacuation of a nuclear facility construction site in Georgia on 8 March 2010. The Vogtle Electric Generating Plant currently consists of two operating nuclear power units, which were not targeted. The go-ahead for the third unit was received in August 2009 and land clearing has proceeded apace ever since, with power plant construction slated to begin next year or in 2012.

The bomb threat was reportedly received by the Shaw Group construction project manager. Law enforcement was called in and employees were evacuated until the all-clear was given.

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

**T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

While the motivation behind the bomb threat has yet to be publicly disclosed, if it is fully known, the bomb threat is the type of activity ITRR analysts believe can be expected in the run-up to an anti-nuclear-weapons International Day of Action on 3 April 2010. Anti-nuclear activists in Europe are planning, perpetrating and encouraging "direct actions" as practical field training for the April event, with probable solidarity "actions" in North America.

In addition, bomb threats are often used by adversarial elements as powerful pre-operational probing techniques. They learn from observation about the targeted facility's weaknesses, emergency protocols and routines, as well as about law enforcement's response.

In Pennsylvania, nuclear facilities such as those of **Beaver Valley**, **Limerick**, **Peach Bottom**, **Susquehanna Steam Electric Station** and **Three Mile Island** may be targeted for protests or other direct actions in coming weeks through 3 April 2010. Additionally, environmental activists have repeatedly cited Pennsylvania as a leader in nuclear waste production (although the state does not have a disposal site), and nuclear waste through shipments. (Also see PAIB nos. 44 and 50)

**Sector:** GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

**10. *Nigerian Massacres Continue***

On 7 March 2010, Muslim men wielding machetes and firearms launched a pogrom-style massacre that left up to 500 Christians dead near Jos, Nigeria. Nearly 100 people were arrested and many weapons were confiscated.

Jos, 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 under two months in the Jos region's inter-religious and inter-ethnic violence.

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

Threat Level: SEVERE

In PAIB no. 42, ITRR researchers noted that Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) issued a communication on 1 February 2010 pledging to avenge spilled Muslim blood in Nigeria by attacking Christians. This followed an August 2009 declaration by Nigeria's anti-Western Boko Haram (BH; a.k.a. Nigerian Taliban) Islamist group formally placing itself at the service of Al-Qaeda.

ITRR's Africa Desk expects inter-religious reprisal violence to continue, and possibly increase, in the above region. 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 will target not only ethnic and religious groups, but it will also be aimed against personnel working for the petrochemical industry. Disruption of oil supplies from Nigeria is likely to quickly affect North America, including Pennsylvania.

#### **Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

##### **11. A Global Women's Strike**

Mothers March Globally will mark International Women's Day and the 11th Global Women's Strike on Saturday, 13 March 2010, with a maternal "strike."

The event will include a march from Arch St. Methodist Church to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Family Court, ultimately circling back to the church. The marchers also intend to watch a pseudo-documentary on DHS allegedly taking children away from their parents.

The march is billed to be on behalf of "mothers" everywhere. Called by Global Women's Strike and Every Mother is a Working Mother Network, the event was endorsed by DHS: Give Us Back Our Children, Women of Color in the GWS, Payday mens network, Wages Due Lesbians and WinVisible.

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

Threat Level: LOW

The above event will most likely conform to conditions of a legal protest, although ITRR has no current information regarding needed police permits. No illegality, violence, vandalism or other rioting is expected, due to the nature of the event and its organizers. Nonetheless, a small chance exists that more radical elements among the supporters of the "mothers' strike" will be inspired to more "direct action" targeting the above-named government offices.

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

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD  
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES  
ENERGY  
HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS  
BANKING AND FINANCE  
WATER  
CHEMICAL  
COMMERCIAL FACILITIES  
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING  
DAMS  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
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@itrintel.org](mailto:info@itrintel.org).

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