

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #34

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

15 JANUARY 2010

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### STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

***Urgent Update:*** Unconfirmed information is being spread and taken seriously in Lebanon regarding an imminent launch of hostilities between Israel and Hizbullah. According to some information, Lebanese civilians in the south of the country have begun packing and fleeing the region, while batteries of Iranian missiles have reportedly been deployed by Hizbullah forces for use against Israel. As of 15 January 2010, in the afternoon local time, there has been no concrete indication of imminent hostilities.

#### **1. Major HAZMAT Incident in US: Terrorists Taking Notes?**

North Carolina's Morehead City Port, one of the deepest on the East Coast, was closed, the town was ordered evacuated, traffic on Highway 70 nearby and through town was halted, and the Coast Guard established a two-nautical-mile temporary exclusionary zone around the port on 12 January 2010. The extreme precautions were taken when a container of highly explosive PETN was punctured by a forklift. PETN is the same substance that the Christmas Day bomber attempted to detonate aboard Northwest Airlines flight no. 253.

Morehead City Mayor Jerry Jones said that the shipper of the damaged container duly notified authorities of its contents when it arrived at port. Jones noted that Morehead City Port is an international shipping port through which HAZMAT frequently pass.

ITRR analysts have yet to note commentary by jihadists or Islamists regarding the North Carolina HAZMAT incident; however, past indications are that jihadist observers will likely be taking note of the event in order to formulate their own lessons learned. The widespread nature of the precautions taken around Morehead City Port after the spill may well be seen as confirmation and encouragement of the recent Al-Qaeda choice to use PETN as an explosive component.

Secondly, but perhaps more significantly, jihadists who were thus far unaware of the centrality of Morehead City Port and the presence of HAZMAT there may have been awakened to it. More generally, lone-wolf or small-cell jihadists may be inspired to look for similar ports in their own vicinity as part of the "jihad on the sea" (see PAIB nos. 27 and 28), such as the Delaware River tri-state port complex.

Finally, in view of successful attacks using chlorine tanker trucks in insurgent attacks in Iraq, the Morehead City incident may also alert jihadists to the relative accessibility of legally imported PETN tanker trucks in transit from major North American ports. Such vehicles are easily identifiable and generally vulnerable to hijacking or direct attack at fixed points along their various routes.

Of possible significance in this regard is that Highway 24 ("Freedom Way") connects Morehead City Port and Camp LeJeune, as well as a memorial to US Marines killed in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983. Troops returning from Iraq have also traveled by way of Freedom Way. Parenthetically, in March 2009, Morehead City Port was the scene of a three-day counterterrorism training exercise, including a simulated chemical attack.

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

### Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

#### **2. North American Moderate Muslim Statement Sparks Jihadist Reaction**

ITRR researchers have identified jihadist communications verbally attacking Canadian and American Muslims over a January *fatwa* condemning terrorist attacks on North America issued by the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada (ISCC) and affiliated imams.

Calling the signatories to the *fatwa* "infidels" themselves, the communication said that they would "side with the Crusaders." The jihadist commentator adds that "the *fatwa* will not spare you the wrath of the Muslims nor that of the soldiers of Osama Bin-Laden nor that of the ten million soldiers of Bin-Laden in North America, who ignore your *fatwa* and don't think you count for anything."

Citing "Muslims who suffer by torture by the hands of the Americans in Iraq and the Canadians in Afghanistan," as well as "their ally - Europe," the communication promises that "the jihad will continue until the Day of Judgement. And I tell you that suicide attacks and strikes in the heart of Canada and the United States will continue as long as Canadians and Americans are united against Islam and the Muslims, and are in their countries, and are discriminating against them, and even standing alongside the criminal Zionists."

Dovetailing with this focused jihadist communication regarding Canada and the US were American government statements quoted in the media saying there were "new credible intelligence" indicators regarding Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). According to the reports, British and US agencies warned Canada that terrorists are trying to enter the US from the north. In response, Canadian officials raised the alert level at the nation's airports.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts view the above communications as intended to inflame Canadian and American supporters of the radical international jihad against their ideological opponents within the Muslim world. It appears to be an attempt to incite lone-wolf jihadist activity in North America, as well as to forestall second thoughts by would-be attackers.

### Sector: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

#### **3. Follow-up: Algerian Jihadist and the Threat to Churches**

ITRR researchers have identified an Algerian Muslim new to jihadist websites who is most eager to commit acts of *jihad*. He declared that he "does not want to remain at rest without action, [he] wishes to carry out acts of Jihad."

In communications described in PAIB no. 27 (30 December 2009) and in subsequent communications, the same Algerian youth offered himself to Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) as a suicide bomber, requested to be connected with one of the AQIM agents, and sought guidance on preparing explosives from common items.

On 14 January 2010 he 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". By "foreign workers" ITRR analysts believe that the subject means either Westerners or any Christians not of local origin. He states specifically that a church he has already surveilled is guarded by uniformed policemen.

The decision to strike a church at this time is apparently the outgrowth of a lengthy series of attacks on churches and Christians throughout the Muslim world (see PAIB no. 33, 13 January 2010). As ITRR analysts stated at the time, the focus on easily accessible Christian communities in majority-Muslim countries is due to local Christians serving as "stand-ins" for the "Christian West" as a whole.

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

**T//W Rating: MODERATE**

ITRR analysts note the significance of the specificity of the above subject's inquiries and the replies he has thus far received. He is clearly eager to carry out a terrorist attack and has probably singled out a specific target for pre-operational planning, including a church not far from his home or place of employment.

As stated in PAIB no. 27, the Algerian would-be terrorist may be deployed to attack in a major city in North Africa (especially in Algeria or Morocco), but the threat extends to France as well. While recent communications from this individual focused on a church, previously his preferred target was said to be a nightclub.

In light of the available indicators, Pennsylvania students, faculty and travelers in Muslim-majority states - including North Africa, Turkey, Egypt and Slavic Muslim republics - are advised to increase situational awareness in the vicinity of non-Muslim religious sites. Additionally, ITRR reiterates its call for enhanced accountability, varied travel routines and increased situational awareness in North Africa and adjacent states.

## **Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

### ***4. PA Prison to be Targeted in Phone Campaign***

A self-proclaimed "freedom fighter" named Byron Shane Chubbuck, a.k.a. Oso Blanco and Yona Unaga, is serving 80 years in the United States Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. He was convicted of bank robbery, aggravated assault on federal agents and firearms charges after a CI reported that he was robbing banks to fund Zapatista insurgents in Mexico in 1998-99.

Anarchists, anti-prison ideologues and Indian rights activists are calling for a mass phone call and letter-writing campaign on Chubbuck's behalf today (15 January 2010).

The activists claim that Chubbuck "has been subject to horrendous treatment ... which includes: beatings, waterboarding, mail tampering, false charges, and the forced cutting of his hair, which is a great offense against a Native American! The torture must be stopped!"

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

T/I/W Rating: LOW

USP Lewisburg can expect a barrage of phone calls between the hours of 10:00-12:00 Eastern Standard time, as well as other times throughout the day. Callers are instructed to "ask for the Mr. Ademai, the manager of Z Unit."

The extent of the disruption this effort may cause is unknown; it is highly dependent on the ability of Chubbuck's supporters to publicize the planned action effectively. According to organizers of a similar action on 5 October 2009, supporters brought about what prison officials allegedly termed a "flood of calls, letters, and other correspondence regarding Mr. Chubbuck."

### **Sector: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

#### ***5. Israeli Diplomat Targeted in Jordan***

On Thursday afternoon, 14 January 2010, terrorists in Jordan attempted to assassinate Israel's ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom. The cell in question detonated two roadside bombs as an Israeli diplomatic convoy headed for the Allenby Bridge border crossing from Jordan into Israel. The ambassador was not in his car at the time of the bombing, which just missed seriously damaging the targeted vehicles; no one was injured in the attack. Jordanian and Israeli security personnel are investigating. No group has yet claimed responsibility.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

Israeli diplomatic personnel serving in neighboring Jordan, including Ambassador Danny Nevo, often spend Friday (Muslim Sabbath) and Saturday (Jewish Sabbath) at home in Israel. Thus, the attack is an example of a key terrorist tactic to strike human assets at exploitable opportunities, such as during the commute from and to home. As has occurred in terror incidents worldwide, adversarial elements identify such exploitable opportunities by means of surveilling routine behaviors of designated individuals and groups in and around their target.

In addition, ITRR analysts note that the Jordan bombing underscores the ongoing jihadist and far-left extremist risk to assets identified as Israeli or Jewish throughout North America (PAIB no. 23, 21 December 2009). In Pennsylvania, as previously noted, any adversarial actions will likely focus on the Israeli consulate in Philadelphia. In this regard, ITRR reported in PAIB no. 29 (4 January 2010) that on 30 December 2009 Philadelphia police responding to a loitering call discovered a firebomb, anti-Israeli literature and an Arabic dictionary inside a Center City parking garage not far from the Israeli consulate.

Other potential targets for vandalism or lone-wolf terrorism in the region include any high-profile Jewish institution, synagogue or communal event.

**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  
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING  
DAMS  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
POSTAL AND SHIPPING  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

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](mailto:info@terrorresponse.org)

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