

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #53

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

1 MARCH 2010

The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produces this document specifically for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in support of public and private sector, critical infrastructure protection initiatives and strategies. The ITRR, a commercial research and analysis organization, uses open-source, human, and closed-source intelligence resources to derive products. ITRR used only native-tongue researchers (English, Hebrew, French, Arabic, and Spanish) in the collection, interpretation, translation, analysis and production of this product. The analysis is performed by former law enforcement officials, counter-terrorism experts, and military intelligence personnel. Consider in context with other known information.

ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

- **1-14 March 2010:** Anti-Israel activists have declared an International Israeli Apartheid 'Week' to include protests, lectures and "actions." In Pennsylvania, any vigorous protests - possibly including some "direct action"-type illegality - will likely focus on the Israeli consulate in **Philadelphia**. Potential targets for vandalism or lone-wolf terrorism in the region include any high-profile Jewish institution, synagogue or communal event. In addition, pro-Israeli gatherings or counter-demonstrations may be seen as population targets for attacks by extremist activists or actual terrorist cells. (PAIB no. 50)
- **1 March 2010:** Environmental activists will be holding a protest at the regional EPA office in **Philadelphia**, hoping to influence decisions regarding 23 mountaintop removal mining permits currently under review. Protesters hope to put an end to such open pit mining operations altogether. (PAIB no. 50)
- **4 March 2010:** Activists will be conducting a Strike and Day of Action To Defend Public Education. The decision to hold rallies and marches originated in California, however, it has spread across the US as the March 4th National Call for a Day of Action. Communities with active Anarchist groups may also see protests in other areas of the US.
- **15 March 2010:** Animal rights activists will be holding an International Day of Action Against Seal Hunting. ITRR analysts expect protests at Canadian embassies and

consulates. Previous years' protests also targeted Red Lobster sea food restaurants that serve Canadian-caught fish.

- **17 March 2010:** Progressive Democrats of America will be holding Brown Bag Lunch Vigils, to protest US involvement in the ongoing wars in Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan, at the offices of: Cong. Charlie Dent (701 W. Broad St.) in Bethlehem; Cong. Chaka Fattah (4104 Walnut St.) in Philadelphia; and Cong. Joe Sestak (600 N. Jackson St.) in Media.
- **1 April 2010:** *Rising Tide North America* (RTNA) announced a nationwide campaign called "Fossil Fool's Day." Tactics advocated for the April RTNA campaign include, according their promotional materials, "the simply subversive to the downright disruptive." Activists are encouraged to take action in their own regions. Energy firms in Pennsylvania, particularly coal-based energy producers and nuclear waste transportation companies, face the possibility of eco-activists targeting their facilities. Additional targeting may include the EPA regional office in Philadelphia. (PAIB no. 43)

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: POSTAL AND SHIPPING; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

1. Discussing Explosive Paper Products

Recent jihadist communications identified by ITRR researchers provides detailed guidance for preparing and using explosives-soaked paper products.

The text explains how to create an explosive solution using PETN (the explosive used by the Christmas Day 2009 would-be bomber), acetone and mineral oil. It further suggests that, when soaked in the solution, almost any paper product "will retain its original texture and appearance along with a microcrystalline high explosive incorporated into the fiber content of the paper."

The terror guidance continues: "This produces a disguised explosive that can be carried into a target area without arousing suspicion, which is the major advantage of the explosive." It is said that the explosive can be incorporated into a newspaper, a book or the walls of a cardboard box.

Furthermore, it is noted, "If a rolled newspaper is used, the detonator and fusing mechanism can be concealed in the center of the roll and easily carried into the target area and left where destruction is desired. An average size newspaper has the explosive equivalent of several sticks of dynamite."

While this precise text has been posted in non-jihadist online forums several times since at least 2006, ITRR analysts see significance in its resurfacing now in jihadist communications so soon after concealed PETN explosives featured in a (failed) terrorist attack in American airspace.

On the other hand, ITRR explosives experts point out that the method described would not be able to efficiently produce the explosive power claimed. In fact, the product described in the jihadist communication is more consistent with flash paper - similar to an easily available magic shop prop.

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

T/I/W Rating: LOW

Tactically, according to ITRR analysis, the primary importance of the "explosive paper" discussion is simply the discussion itself. Jihadists are sharing information - sometimes accurate, sometimes not - in an ongoing effort to produce improvised explosive devices (IED) that can defeat current security measures.

The continuing jihadist search for methods to foil technology-based security measures should focus attention on the need to heighten awareness of behavioral and situational clues indicating hostile intent. Personnel responsible for **Pennsylvania mass transit**, specifically **air terminals in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh**, or other public venues should note the possibility of explosive devices concealed as otherwise innocuous items. This can include cardboard boxes posted for delivery, with inexperienced terrorists attempting the above inefficient method of creating "explosive paper," or more familiar and effective means.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

2. Stepped-up Threats Against British Nationals, Assets

ITRR has identified an Islamic online forum with a post discussing the possible involvement of the British MI6 in "allowing," or at least turning a blind eye toward, the suspected Israeli Mossad's use of British passports in the Al-Mabhuh assassination in Dubai last month. The forum posters use unconfirmed reports of meetings and handshakes implicating the British government. Some communications go as far to say that the UK was involved in the assassination.

In a reply to a YouTube video CCTV footage from the Dubai hotel in which Mabhuh was killed, a user called WEWILLFINDYOU100, wrote (grammatical errors in the original): "Jews must not come to the gulf you will be executed as soon as we find out."

The WEWILLFINDYOU100 username, claiming to hail from UAE, was created on 22 February 2010 and has on his YouTube page a number of different clips of the Dubai plot CCTV video.

The posting further states, "These Jews who have committed murder in Dubai have nationalities of Ireland, UK, France, USA, India, Germany directly indirectly involved must be extradited to Europe and then to Dubai for public execution. There is no stolen identity - there is stolen Palestinians' land in which these Jews are hiding now in their mothers p--sies."

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

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

According to ITRR analysts, such agitation to carry out a terror action against UK assets will continue as long as the Dubai assassination stays in the news. Ultimately, isolated attacks targeting British nationals or British interests abroad may be carried out by small, unorganized groups. ITRR analysts believe that, as this discussion gains momentum in Islamic chat rooms, the possible threat to British citizens abroad may rise, as will the threat to Jewish citizens or those with Jewish-sounding names.

Students and researchers from Pennsylvania taking part in the many exchange programs in the United Kingdom are advised to increase situational awareness at the current time. In Pennsylvania, the British-American Business Council (BABC) has offices in the Chambers of Commerce of the Greater **Philadelphia** area and of **Pittsburgh**, which may be targeted for protest or more destructive action. As noted last month as well, potential civilian jihadist targets include any high-profile Jewish institution, synagogue or communal event.

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. An Unusual Call for Jihad Against Switzerland

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi called for *jihad* against Switzerland over their decision, passed in a 29 November 2009 referendum (see PAIB no.14), to ban new mosque minaret construction.

Qaddafi reportedly said, "Those who destroy God's mosques deserve to be attacked through *jihad*, and if Switzerland was on our borders, we would fight it."

Apparently hoping to harm Switzerland economically, he said, "Any Muslim in any part of the world who works with Switzerland is an apostate, is against Muhammad, God and the Qur'an."

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

The referendum results have generated some jihadist chatter focusing on Switzerland as a priority target for attack. In PAIB no. 14, ITRR expressed the view that jihadists will almost certainly exploit the vote as fodder for inspiring attacks on Swiss interests.

That said, ITRR analysts believe that the aforementioned call for jihad by Qaddafi will play little to no role in triggering such attacks *per se*. The Libyan leader's declaration is understood by Islamists to be a cynical manipulation as part of an 18-month diplomatic "temper tantrum" over the Qaddafi family's personal honor (which began after Swiss police arrested Qaddafi's youngest son Hannibal and his wife in July 2008).

In light of this analysis, the Qaddafi call for *jihad* does not indicate a need for stepped up security measures. However, previous ITRR guidance remains in effect: there is an increased risk of *jihad*-inspired terrorism within Switzerland, including lone-wolf attacks; and Swiss interests and assets elsewhere will be under greater scrutiny by jihadists and their supporters.

Pennsylvanian students and faculty taking part in Swiss programs (such as University of Pennsylvania Dental School exchange students at the University of Geneva, Pennsylvania State University School of Hospitality Management exchange students in Bluche, Indiana University of Pennsylvania students taking part in Swiss-affiliated International Student Exchange Programs, and Carnegie Mellon University engineering students in Lausanne) should be made aware of the heightened risk level at this time.

In addition to the likely increased threat of terrorism within Switzerland, including lone-wolf attacks, ITRR analysts believe that Swiss interests abroad will now be under greater scrutiny by jihadists.

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. Philadelphia-Area Puerto Rican Independence Activity

On 3 March 2010, Ricardo Jimenez, a former terrorist who spent 20 years in jail for his activities with a Puerto Rican independence movement, will be in Philadelphia for 3 lectures sponsored by the National Boricua Human Rights Network (NBHRN).

The lecture is part of an East Coast speaking tour to build support for the campaign to free two other Puerto Rican terrorist prisoners.

*****ANALYSIS*****

T/I/W Rating: LOW

ITRR analysts noted the above campaign, with its Philadelphia event, as an indication of a potential increase in Puerto Rico independence movement activity. Such activity has not included a terrorist element since the 1980s; however, situational awareness demands attention for the possibility of unauthorized protest actions.

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

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

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