

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #86

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

17 MAY 2010

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ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

- **17 May 2010 (Harrisburg):** A prisoners' rights organization, the Human Rights Coalition (HRC), is planning to hold a rally in support of Ravanna Spencer at the Harrisburg courthouse. ITRR analysts believe the 17 May HRC protest in Harrisburg may include an attempt to obstruct access to courthouse or to jam the courtroom, disrupting proceedings or physically occupying part of the court premises.
- **20 May 2010:** Started online, "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" on this date may devolve into physical acts of violence or vandalism at mosques or Islamist targeting of identifiable online cartoonists of Muhammad.
- **22 May-30 May 2010 (State-wide):** Potential high-profile targets for anti-gun protest activity include Pennsylvania gun shows this month; among the more noteworthy are:
 - **22-23 May 2010** in **Philadelphia**, at the National Guard grounds
 - **29-30 May 2010** in **Bristol**, at Kings Caterers (4010 New Falls Rd.)
 - **29-30 May 2010** in **Wind Gap**, at the Plainfield Township Fire Company Social Hall (6480 Sullivan Trail)

- **23 May 2010 (Philadelphia):** The annual Israel Independence Day celebration, attracting thousands, will be held at Penn's Landing on the Delaware River Waterfront. Recent chatter among jihadists, anarchists and radical anti-war elements discuss targeting for attacks on Jewish and Israeli assets worldwide, which include the Israeli consulate in Philadelphia, high-profile Jewish institutions, synagogues, communal events and pro-Israel gatherings.
- **5 June-13 June 2010 (Pittsburgh):** Pittsburgh Gay Pride 2010 events include:
 - **5 June** - Dyke and Trans March starting in Morrow Triangle
 - **12 June** - Pride in the Street outdoor party
 - **13 June** - Pride Awareness March and concluding festival

These annual events take on significance as actionable dates due to recent anti-gay chatter among right-wing militia supporters.

- **11 June-11 July 2010 (General):** The FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa has generated intense and serious jihadist communications regarding the execution of attacks during and at the games. Students, faculty and researchers attending South African educational institutions should be made aware of the specific risks associated with attending World Cup games this year. More broadly, recent jihadist communications have focused on tactics and strategies for attacks on sporting events; these take on added urgency due to ongoing high-profile professional and collegiate sporting events in Pennsylvania.
- **13 June 2010 (Philadelphia):** Philadelphia hosts the well-attended and popular Philly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people (LGBT) Pride Parade and Festival. These annual events take on significance as actionable dates due to recent anti-gay chatter among right-wing militia supporters.
- **25 June 2010 (Clarion & Clearfield Counties):** Sentencing date for convicted Pennsylvania militia member Marvin Hall. One of five members of two militia groups operating in Clarion and Clearfield counties who were charged with weapons violations, he pleaded guilty in January 2010.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, ENERGY AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

1. *New Pennsylvania-Based Earth First! Network Forming*

Supporters of the radical environmentalist and anti-capitalist organization **Earth First!** are forming a new network in the upstate **New York-Pennsylvania region**.

According to the activists, "much of the eco-destruction of our bioregion is being carried out across Upstate New York/PA," which demands "a coordinated response to our regional crisis." Specifically and immediately, the new Earth First! network is called upon "to coordinate a response ... in the face of the imminent, catastrophic effects that the natural gas hydrofrack [*sic*] drilling of the Marcellus Shale would bring."

The "first Marcellus regional gathering of Earth First!" is slated for 28-30 May 2010 in Ithaca, New York. Supporters of the movement will "network, share skills and strategize." Earth First! hopes the gathering will be "the first in a series of gatherings that would rotate around to other bioregions around the Marcellus Shale in Upstate New York and Pennsylvania."

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

As noted in PAIB No. 68, the Earth First! movement has taken a turn to advocating more aggressive civil disobedience and sabotage. As stated in a recent Earth First! Journal, "Our greatest strategic assessment should be whether our actions are effecting the financial bottom-line of the destroyers of Earth." The writer declared, "So let's [*sic*] live wild and be fierce as fuck. Ante Up!" The new Earth First! rhetoric, ITRR analysts believe, may also be seen as related to extremist rhetoric in European eco-extremist and anti-capitalist communications from January 2010 and thereafter (cited in PAIB No. 32 and subsequent "Ongoing Research" entries) advocating arson, sabotage of major facilities and murder.

In the wake of the apparently expanding circles of environmentalists willing to embrace eco-terror of one form or another, ITRR analysts recommend that security personnel responsible for **mass transit, telecommunications, ports, fuel stations, coal plants** and other facilities that have been targeted by environmentalist protests in the past take immediate action to heighten situational awareness.

As previously noted, ITRR analysts identified several specific assets and industries that may be targets for eco-activist "direct action," or worse, 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 include coal companies involved in open pit or "mountain top removal" coal operations, power companies that burn this coal, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Furthermore, as highlighted in the recent **Earth First!** networking communications, a high-priority target for environmental activists in the New York-Pennsylvania region is the **Marcellus Shale area gas drilling project**.

Sector: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

2. *'Save the Elephants' Protest at Philadelphia Zoo*

Worldwide animal rights groups will be marking the International Day of Action for Elephants in Zoos on 19 June 2010. In Pennsylvania, activists are planning to protest at the main entrance of the **Philadelphia Zoo** for several hours, starting at 11:00 am.

Local elephant welfare activists claim that the Philadelphia Zoo "has lied to the public" about two elephants previously housed at the zoo. Protest organizers are calling on supporters to "join us to raise awareness of the facts ... and of the lives of elephants in zoos in general."

***** ANALYSIS *****

T//W Rating: LOW

ITRR analysts expect protests at many of the world's zoos on or around the International Day of Action for Elephants in Zoos. Last year, protests and leafleting took place at both the Philadelphia Zoo and the Pittsburgh Zoo; however, as of this writing activists have only named Philadelphia as a protest site. ITRR analysts are unaware of police permits, if any, obtained for the gathering.

Considering past events and the actions of moderate groups involved in the events, ITRR analysts do not foresee serious disruptions at area zoos. Law enforcement entities and zoo security officers will primarily be required to assure unobstructed access to the zoological parks, while enforcing relevant public gathering regulations.

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. *Significant 'Third Friday' Protest at Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia*

Under the banner of "Viva Palestina!" and "Free Gaza!" several anti-Israel and anti-war activist groups are set to hold their next "Third Friday" protest at the Israeli consulate in **Philadelphia** on 21 May 2010.

As the name suggests, the sponsoring groups (End Oppression Now, Philly International Action Center, Philly Against War and Temple Students for Justice in Palestine) hold a similar protest at the consulate on the third Friday of every month.

In the promotional material for the May event, activists write: "Last month marked 62 years since Al-Nakba ['the Catastrophe' - ITRR] ensued with the founding of Israel. ...Thousands of people marched in Palestine on April 21 commemorating the tragedy. ... The day passed without notice in the US."

In addition, they note, a ship convoy intending to violate Israeli territorial waters "is set to leave Ireland for Greece mid-May. It will join cargo ships and passenger boats in Turkey and then Cypress [*sic*] before the convoy lifts anchor for Gaza. We wish them safety and success!"

***** ANALYSIS *****

T//W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE

ITRR analysts note that the current protest date falls just before the annual Israel Independence Day celebration in Philadelphia on 23 May. As noted in previous PAIB, the Israel Independence Day event, held this year at Penn's Landing, regularly draws thousands of people.

While on previous occasions this monthly protest would not achieve a significant **Threat/Indicator/Warning** rating, the proximity to the large pro-Israel event may motivate more anti-Israel activists to attend, as well as drawing out more radical individuals or groups. Furthermore, pro-Israel activists attending the Independence Day event may display increased motivation to stage an aggressive counter-protest at the same location.

As of this writing, the "Third Friday" protest is not expected to involve illegal activity, although it may turn relatively more vigorous than previous events of this nature. Law enforcement personnel will primarily be called upon to provide crowd control and keep potentially clashing protesters apart. More radical activists may attempt to perpetrate vandalism or break through security barriers on an individual or small group basis.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. *Greek Anarchists Perpetuate Escalation in a Series of Bombings*

Two improvised explosive devices (IED), apparently set by anarchist terrorists, were detonated in two separate Greek cities within a single twelve-hour period this past weekend.

* Dozens of homes and shops were damaged in a bombing outside a major prison in Athens on 13 May 2010. Several convicted far-left terrorists are currently imprisoned in the facility. An anonymous caller warned of the impending explosion, which assured that only two people suffered light injuries. "Police described it as the biggest bomb they had seen in years," according to the Euronews.net website.

* Twelve hours after the prison bombing in Athens, Thessaloniki was shaken when a bomb exploded in the basement bathroom of a city courthouse. Again, an anonymous caller warned that there was a bomb in the building, prompting police to initiate an evacuation. Police said that the device used contained more than 10 kgs. of explosives.

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

In PAIB Nos. 59 and 62, ITRR analysts identified the likelihood of escalating action by anarchist elements in Greece in the wake of a police shooting of anarchist terror suspect Lambros Fountas and other indicators. In the past several months, attacks by what appears to be anarchist and anti-authoritarian elements have increased and escalated to include arson and bombings.

This calculated escalation eventually overlapped with the financial crisis in Greece and the subsequent mass demonstrations by frustrated Greek citizens. Anarchists and other far-left elements took advantage of the unrest to perpetrate violent attacks and widespread vandalism, which led to the death of at least three people, thus far.

As noted in previous PAIB, widespread Greek anarchist rioting and attacks have gained admiration among anarchists worldwide. The **Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement**, for example (see PAIB No. 73), held events this month in support of what has become known as "the Greek Insurrection."

Furthermore, recent arrests of radical terrorists involved in past bombings, according to ITRR analysts, have increased the motivation among the remaining Greek anarchist terrorists to carry out attacks both as "revenge" and in order to demonstrate that their operational capabilities have not been damaged by the arrests.

ITRR analysts reiterate that the indicators identified above point to a continuing risk of increasingly violent anarchist activity in Greece. While Greek anarchist violence has focused primarily, although not exclusively, on law enforcement and multinational business interests, bystander civilians have also been killed in past attacks. Tactics used by the anti-authoritarian terrorists have included instigated rioting, shooting, firebombs, arson and other sabotage.

Affinity group violence in the US and Europe in reaction to overseas events is also a clear possibility, as previously mentioned by ITRR analysts. The "Greek Insurrection" may inspire significant vigorous protest marches, or even disorders, in areas with significant anarchist populations during May (dubbed the "Month of Anarchy" in 2010 anarchist communications). ITRR analysts further believe that the **Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN)**, which demonstrated its strength at the G20 talks in Pittsburgh, will be stepping up its activities (legal and illegal) in the northeastern US following its latest planning activities and through May 2010.

ITRR researchers are currently monitoring the anarchist networks for more localized targeting indicators related to the events in Greece.

5. *Tactic: A Deadly 'Bait-and-Switch'*

In the ongoing Muslim separatist and jihadist insurgency in the Caucasus region of Russia, eight people were killed in an ambush on 12 May 2010 in Dagestan.

Initially, according to communications from the jihadists themselves, the attackers disabled a cellphone tower. Some reports indicate it was disabled with explosives, while jihadist sources said by gunfire.

As a repair crew, escorted by police, approached the area the next day in response to the disruption of service, jihadist terrorists detonated a roadside IED. According to Russian sources, the explosion killed eight people in the targeted convoy and injured four law enforcement personnel. Jihadist sources claimed 12 people were killed in an "ambush" using "several bombs" and in the "fierce fight" that ensued.

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

The above-mentioned tactic - using an initial, relatively minor attack, perhaps just damaging property, to draw first response, repair or security forces into an ambush - has been used successfully by insurgents and jihadists in several global theaters.

Law enforcement officers and private security personnel are advised to maintain awareness of the above tactic, which can also easily be applied outside a situation of active insurgency. It is a variation on the secondary IED tactic (placed in order to detonate as first responders arrive on the scene of an initial bombing) and the false alarm "crying wolf" tactic discussed in PAIB No. 85. As noted at the time, even as security forces are trying to figure out what novel terror methods may be used, the terrorists want to simplify tactics.

6. AQAP: 9/11 Attacks are 'the Prime Example'

ITRR researchers have identified a new recording from a leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)**, Abu Basir Al-Wahishi, which indicates the continuing intent to go after targets within the United States.

Al-Wahishi boasts that the war will continue for a long time: "The war doesn't end with the elimination of this leader or the elimination of another. This is happening for years in Iraq and Afghanistan, but our war against you goes on"

Regarding attacks by AQAP and affiliated jihadists, Al-Wahishi claims: "We have gotten as far as the entrance to the White House." For jihadists, he says, "The 9/11 operation is the prime example for us. According to it we measure the failure and success in our actions against you."

Indicating that American intelligence has knowledge of future attacks, Al-Wahishi says, "Obama, tell your people what danger stands on the threshold. Tell them about the groups and the inquiries, and the plans that the jihad fighters are working on."

In addition, Al-Wahishi refers to expatriate American jihadist spiritual leader Anwar Al-Awlaki, who is currently in Yemen. AQAP promises to keep him safe in its area of operations and calls on other American Muslims to join them. Awaliki, targeted by American security agencies, has been instrumental in the radicalization of Muslims within America.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts note that recent jihadist attacks, ranging from New York City to Yemen, conducted by *Al-Qaeda* branches and sympathetic jihadists, have provided strong indications of the "reach" of these terrorist groups. Furthermore, ITRR analysts have recently repeatedly noted that such events are a clear indication that terror attacks are likely to occur in any country having a significant jihadist presence.

In the view of jihadists worldwide, including AQAP and its affiliates, the recent failure of the Times Square attempted bombing has provided motivation for additional attacks within the US. The objective, as the AQAP leader noted, is to emulate the effects of the 9/11 attacks insofar as possible. Likely targets would include those deemed most likely to:

- negatively impact the American economy
- cause the maximum amount of public panic

Attacks on mass transit, air travel, major public venues (sports, parks, shopping, entertainment) and infrastructure facilities would serve both these purposes.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

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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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