

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #23

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

21 DECEMBER 2009

ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

- **25-27 December 2009:** Salafi institution based in Philadelphia that published an article justifying death to those who criticize Islam, hosts its "Deen Intensive" (deen in Arabic means "religion") event featuring a speech by a Damascus-based cleric. (Reported in 13 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **27 December-2 January:** First anniversary of Operation Cast Lead, an Israeli three-week counterterror operation in Gaza. (See "Sector Specific Threats" in this week's PAIB)
- **27/28 December:** Islamic world marks Day of Ashura; key commemoration in Shi'a Islam
- **4-25 January 2010:** Aggressive environmentalists will be attending what they are calling a Winter Action Camp in Rock Creek, West Virginia to learn the skills of "direct action". (Reported in 14 Dec 2009 PAIB)
- **1-18 February 2010:** Animal rights activists worldwide will be noting "Remembrance for Animal Activists". At this time, there are no programs planned. Instead, organizers are seeking decentralized protests.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Jihadists Call for Attacks: Egypt, PA, Israel, US Assets

A communication intercepted by Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center researchers on 20 December 2009, targets Egyptian forces in the Sinai Peninsula for attack with firearms and rockets.

The communication, originating in North Africa, calls for "all the jihadist groups in Palestine to come out against the Egyptian forces on the border with Gaza, because they are trying lately to isolate Gaza from the rest of the world, and especially to build a steel 11-kilometer fence." The jihadist claims that the fence Egypt is allegedly building between Gaza and Egypt is built with Israeli funds and American support.

In a related previous communication, a new recording by Al-Qaeda's Ayman Al-Zawahiri attacks the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas and Mohammad Dahlan for signing a "sinful agreement" regarding crossings into and out of Gaza. That expired agreement, Zawahiri says, "chokes our people in Gaza".

TAM-C analysts reiterate that there is a known Al-Qaeda presence in Gaza, as well as a very strong and significant Al-Qaeda branch in North Africa (Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb; AQIM).

*******ANALYSIS******* TAM-C analysts believe that there will be some international jihadist or local Gaza attacks on Egyptian military forces, as well as possible targeting of civilians as well. Initial attacks will likely focus on shooting, according to TAM-C analysts, but these may quickly escalate into large-scale attacks on Sinai resorts and other civilian targets, as was seen in the past. Gaza and Egyptian jihadists could well strike Israeli and American assets in the region, as well.

The threat of a political kidnapping is significant. In PAIB-20 (16 Dec 009), TAM-C reported an attack on a car carrying three members of a Western NGO and their driver, in which gunmen attempted to "control" the car, failed, and then opened fire on the vehicle. TAM-C analysts noted that the attack may well have been a joint effort of criminals and jihadist terror cells to carry out a kidnapping. Subsequently, TAM-C researchers identified jihadist communications in which a terror group claimed to have been behind the operation, which they admitted was a failure.

As stated in PAIB-18 (9 Dec 09), TAM-C analysis indicates the potential for terror activity in Egypt - especially against high-visibility government offices, tourist sites and in the Sinai – is increased at this time. Pennsylvania students attending the American University in Cairo, Egypt (BEG) should be advised of the current increased danger of terrorist activity. Also vulnerable as targets for abduction or attack are those who travel in vehicles with markings indicating Western companies or organizations.

Anti-Israel Protests Expected on Gaza War Anniversary

The first anniversary of Israel's Operation Cast Lead counterterror incursions into Gaza will be from 27 December 2009 through 18 January 2010. To mark the occasion, international pro-Palestinian groups are set to hold "Gaza Freedom Marches" in North America, Europe and Israel through the end of December.

*******ANALYSIS******* ITRR analysts expect protests and marches by anti-Israel, Islamist and far-left activist groups in various population centers worldwide. Additionally, adversarial elements from petty vandals through armed, lone-wolf terrorists may be inspired during this period to target Jewish institutions or Israeli assets. The highest threat of such illegal actions will be in support of the "Gaza Freedom March" scheduled to take place in Israel (near the Gaza border) on 31 December 2009.

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.

As of 21 Dec 09, the only activities that have been definitely identified in Pennsylvania are:

1. **27 Dec 09, Philadelphia:** The showing of movies at a private residence on (101 Alter St.) from 6-8:30 PM.
2. **27 Dec 09, Doylestown:** "Gathering for Gaza" from 3:00-4:00 PM at Main Street and East Court Streets. It is unknown if a permit has been obtained for this activity.

Kurdish Terrorists Warn of New Attacks

The Freedom Hawks of Kurdistan (FHK) have issued a threat against Turkish cities in the wake of what they see as predictable and failed negotiations between Kurdish leaders and the Turkish government.

If the current process fails to achieve what the FHK believe it should, then "Turkish cities can be turned into balls of fire at any possible moment." The communiqué praised recent attacks on Turkish forces and called for "revenge" for the death of a Kurdish gunman. "We call on everyone to take action," the group said.

*******ANALYSIS******* Faculty and students from the University of Pennsylvania at the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) facilities in Ankara and Istanbul, as well as at other regional institutions, are advised to increase situational awareness at this time. Travel to southeastern Turkey is not recommended by the ITRR analysts, as previous attacks and counter-attacks launched by the Turkish military and Kurdish terror cells have thus far been centered in this region, as well as over the border in Iraq.

AQIM Threat Level Still High in North Africa

Jihadist communications are discussing a recent abduction of two Italian tourists in Mauritania. Security sources quoted in reports shared among jihadists indicated that the attackers shot at the tour bus, forced it to halt and took a man and his wife captive.

This incident follows on the heels of the kidnapping of three Spanish men last month also in North Africa, ITRR analysts noted.

*******ANALYSIS******* While it is not clear that terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) are the perpetrators, ITRR analysts believe that the Italian hostages will ultimately be transferred to AQIM and will join the other Western hostages held in Algeria. There has recently been a great number of abductions or attempted abductions by AQIM targeting Westerners across North Africa.

The most recent abductions strengthen ITRR's previous analysis regarding Westerners travelling in North Africa. Pennsylvanian students, faculty, researchers and volunteers in North Africa are advised to enhance communications for accountability and to make efforts to vary travel routines.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Heightened Threat Level in India

Asia Desk researchers of the ITRR have identified information providing guidance on the probability of terror attack in India. Areas of India have been put on high alert for suicide bombing attacks that may occur in Mumbai or Kolkata. It is believed that the subjects of the alert are Taliban-trained suicide bombers.

Areas of specific concern include: the India social service organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Nagpur; the US Consulate and the port area in Kolkata; the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre; and the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai. Additionally, targeted areas are believed to be civilian targets in Gujarat near the Pakistani border.

ITRR note the significance of the current Hindu Sabarimala pilgrimage period in Kerala (southern India). The events draw large crowds to areas of multiple soft targets through mid-January.

*******ANALYSIS******* Students, researchers and business travelers from Pennsylvania should be advised of the current increased danger of terrorist activity. Large public gatherings, high-profile tourist sites and public transportation have been primary targets for previous terrorist attacks in India.

Sector: DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES

Evening Protest Scheduled for Lockheed-Martin

22 Dec 09: Anti-war groups will be holding a special evening protest at the Lockheed Martin facility, Mall & Goddard Boulevards at 7 PM. This candle-light protest will likely be conducted in a peaceful manner with bell tolling and the singing of Christmas Carols. ITRR analysts do not know if a permit has been obtained for this activity.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
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

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

***Working with organizations that refuse to surrender their
domestic or international operations to terrorism***

Ensure that you always receive the latest information from The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response. Add the e-mail address, "tamc@terrorresponse.org" to your personal address book.

This Intelligence report includes information from open and closed intelligence sources. Not all information is able to be verified; however, the TAM-C is actively evaluating the reporting to establish its accuracy and to determine if it represents a possible link to terrorism. If recipients have any additional or clarifying information, please contact the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) at +1.215.922.1080.

Actionable Intelligence Weekly Briefing® A general overview of actionable intelligence (upcoming events) used by directors of security and law enforcement managers to pre-plan their future operations. The Briefing is dispatched on Monday of each week by 1100 GMT to enable early planning of the upcoming weeks.

Threat and Hazard Monitoring (THM) A custom service meeting the needs for each client. With the assistance of our international analysts, this service identifies specific threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and assets our team of native language speakers researchers and ground resources, are to monitor and forward on to the client.

For additional information regarding the Center's services or specialized customized research and analysis programs, feel free to contact us at: tamc@terrorresponse.org