

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #64

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. **More Signs of a Growing 'Pan-African' Jihad**

As noted by ITRR analysts in PAIB no. 43, released in early February, the linkage between jihadist elements in the African continent has shown signs of increasing. In the last two months that linkage has grown further, with jihadists throughout Africa and across the strait in Yemen collaborating and encouraging one another.

Most recently, as noted in PAIB no. 63, this took a very clear form in jihadist communications in Arabic focusing on Kenya and Nigeria. In one intercepted communication, the writer notes the supposed efforts of Kenya to pursue Kenyan jihadists "so they won't think to join their brothers in Somalia ..."

The jihadist continues with a call for Kenyan Muslims to assist Somalia's *Shabab Al-Mujahideen* "any way you can." To Muslims in Nigeria, he writes, "Reach out your hand and help your brothers." This is followed by a promise that the Kenyan, Nigerian and Somali jihadists will be assisted by the North Africa-based Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). "Cooperate with them and you will succeed," the communication implores.

In August 2009 AQIM, which already expressed its call for jihad in Nigeria, issued a communication explicitly supporting *Boko Haram* (BH; a.k.a. Nigerian Taliban), an Islamist group that has formally placed itself at the service of Al-Qaeda. All Muslims must be "as one hand" the AQIM statement said, to "burn the cross-worshippers, and to water the tree of Islam in Nigeria." Later, AQIM reiterated (see PAIB no. 42) that it will assist the Muslims in Nigeria against their

Christian neighbors. In practice, thus far, outside of its primary theater of Algeria, AQIM has become extremely active in Mali and Mauritania.

Another communication, this one from early January (see PAIB no. 35), claims that the *Shabab Al-Mujahideen* has been "exchanging fighters with armed groups in Yemen." The *Shabab* and other Somali jihadist groups also later (see PAIB no. 43) openly pledged to contribute cadres to the global jihad led by Al-Qaeda, rather than just focusing on Somalia (and perhaps Yemen). In addition, they said they would assist Al-Qaeda to increase its presence in Africa.

As noted in several previous PAIB editions, ITRR recommends that **Pennsylvanian students**, faculty, researchers and other volunteers in North Africa, Mali and Mauritania enhance accountability, vary travel routines and increase situational awareness. Pennsylvanian organizations with African links - such as **Pennsylvania State University**, **University of Pennsylvania** or the **Pennsylvania Credit Union Association** - should be aware of the increased risk of attack or abduction in Kenya, Nigeria and the Horn of Africa.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

2. *Targeting Tel Aviv and Beyond*

ITRR researchers have identified a new jihadist communication indicating an imminent terrorist attack targeting Tel Aviv.

"Tel Aviv will witness a severe and painful strike very soon," the laconic statement says.

Earlier this month, the head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan called for jihad against Jewish assets and Israeli embassies in Arab and Muslim countries. He said that the war already started and that jihad is therefore an obligation for all the Islamic nation.

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

Regarding the brief communication regarding Tel Aviv, ITRR analysts note that naming a targeted city in Israel is very unusual and may be an indication of an attack in its late stages.

Furthermore, it is significant that the threat comes as the Passover holiday period is getting underway in Israel (29 March-6 April 2010), with many public gatherings and tourism (both internal and foreign) at one of its yearly highs. Also at this time, there is an increase in vitriolic rhetoric in the Arab media targeting Israel over its decision to maintain several Jewish heritage sites. ITRR analysts tracing the above communication believe that it comes from a jihadist located in one of the Arab states ringing Israel, which includes Jordan.

In that respect, the earlier Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood statement may be indicative of an effort by regional jihadists to take a more active role in targeting Israel at this time. However, ITRR analysts note that the Muslim Brotherhood call for jihad against Jewish assets specifically in the Islamic world was shared among jihadists under a more inclusive title: "The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan calls for jihad against Jewish interests throughout the world."

Pennsylvania students, researchers and faculty at the many overseas programs in Israel (such as those of Temple University, Drexel University, and various Jewish and Christian religious seminaries), as well as business travelers in the country, should be advised of the apparent increase in jihadist targeting of the country at this time. Visitors are advised to avoid trips to eastern Jerusalem and other regional flashpoints and to adhere to guidance provided by local security forces.

In light of the broadening of the jihadist rhetoric to include Jews everywhere, there is also a risk of attacks targeting Israeli-identified facilities outside the country, primarily in Muslim states. In Pennsylvania, however, this may include the Israeli consulate in Philadelphia, high-profile Jewish institutions, synagogue or communal event.

Sectors: EMERGENCY SERVICES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. *Possible Militia, Gun Rights Extremists 'Civil Disobedience' Planned*

Militia and gun rights extremists may be planning to take advantage of an above-board national firearms ownership advocacy rally in Washington DC for illegal and potentially deadly nationwide "civil disobedience."

The Second Amendment March, which will actually be a rally, in the capital is slated for 19 April 2010. It is backed by the National Rifle Association and organizers insist that marchers leave their weapons at home. Related Second Amendment marches, attended by local politicians and lobbyists, are planned to take place in various locations across the nation in the month of April.

There are as-yet unconfirmed indications that a parallel 19 April event in Oklahoma City, at the state capitol building, will draw armed militia members and gun rights extremists. Some of the activists intend to purposefully brandish their weapons in a manner that would violate state and local gun laws.

In another effort to piggyback on the legal political rallies in DC and elsewhere, the Georgia-based host of an online radio program called Freedom Fighter Radio has called for members of the nationwide American Resistance Movement (ARM) to discharge their firearms at midnight on 19 April. Calling the idea "civil disobedience," Jim Stachowiak hopes to clog police and first response switchboards.

***** ANALYSIS*****

T//W Rating: MODERATE

Pennsylvania's Fifth Annual Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA) Rally, this year to be associated with the nationwide Second Amendment March, is to take place at the **capitol building in Harrisburg** on 27 April 2010. It is to be attended by state and federal legislators, journalists, activists, representatives of many Pennsylvania firearms ownership associations and the vice-president of the NRA. As the Second Amendment March and RKBA Rally organizers have been careful to never advocate violence or civil disobedience, ITRR analysts expect that law enforcement personnel will primarily be called upon to provide crowd control.

In contrast to the foregoing, ARM is billed as a "non-hierarchical, distributed (leaderless) movement" that is preparing militias for armed conflict with the federal government and agents of what it sees as the "New World Order." For example, in September 2009 a masked and armed Stachowiak issued a YouTube call to action against the G20 members gathering in Pittsburgh.

ITRR analysts have identified a series of events that indicate an increased risk of militia and associated extremist actions in April, including:

- the aforementioned firearms ownership advocacy events,
- the recent passage of universal healthcare legislation, and
- the 19 April anniversary of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, perpetrated by militia supporter Timothy McVeigh.

Pennsylvania is home to anti-government militias such as the **91st Warrior Militia** and the **Brookville Tiger Militia**, which had members jailed in 2008 for illegal sale of explosives. Others include the **Sons of Liberty Militia**, the broad-based **Pennsylvania Citizens Militia** and the **Pennsylvania Constitutional Militia**, as well as regional members of the **Rogue Nation Eternal Militia** movement.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. *Increased Risk of AQ Abductions*

Al-Qaeda has issued a new recording of its leader, Osama Bin-Laden in recent days. In the audio-only communiqué, Bin-Laden warns that American hostages will be executed if imprisoned Al-Qaeda operative Khalid Sheikh Mohammad is ultimately executed by a US court for his crimes.

If Mohammad is sentenced to death, Bin-Laden threatened, America "will also have decided to put to death those we take captive."

***** ANALYSIS*****

T//W Rating: MODERATE

In order for Bin-Laden's threat to be effective, global Al-Qaeda branches will need to abduct Americans to use as hostages. Therefore, ITRR analysts believe there is an immediate heightened risk of abduction by jihadists or those working with them in those areas where Al-Qaeda is most active.

Currently, ITRR identifies Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb as the most active cell - outside the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan - involved in kidnapping Westerners, primarily in Algeria, Mauritania and Mali. There is additional heightened risk of hostage-taking on behalf of Al-Qaeda in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia by *Abu Sayyaf* or *Jemaah Islamiyah*, in Somalia and Kenya by *Shabab Al-Mujahideen*, and in the Gulf states and Yemen by Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula. Also, as noted by ITRR PAIB no. 37, jihadist terror movements from states in Africa to Southeast Asia are displaying strategic flexibility and tactical mobility in seeking out Westerners outside their primary region of operations. In many cases, there is direct collaboration between criminal elements and jihadists in abduction and ransom demands.

Travelers and students from Pennsylvania should be made aware of the high risk of kidnapping - both criminal and jihadist - in the regions cited above, as well as in Russia and the Caucasus. As ITRR analysts noted, the danger is far from limited to, and in some cases is higher just outside of, those areas with the highest jihadist presence and activity.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

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@itrrintel.org

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