

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #17

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

DECEMBER 7, 2009

ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

- **7 December 2009:** Rallies worldwide in support of Iranian student protests within Iran. (Reported in 2 Dec 2009 PAIB)
- **7-18 December 2009:** The 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Climate activists are gearing up to stage protests across the globe. (Reported in 18 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **12 December 2009:** Pennsylvania's Keystone Environmental Youth (KEY) Coalition will hold its first "coordinated direct action", as they called it. (Reported in 4 Dec 2009 PAIB)
- **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)

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES; ENERGY

Potentially Imminent Threat from Yemen

Fresh Al-Qaeda-affiliated jihadist communications from Yemen intercepted by analysts of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) suggest a serious threat of imminent escalation, with a clear intention to take the Arabian Peninsula jihad to the West.

The intercepted communication suggests that drawing America into a war in Yemen would ultimately bring the U.S. to its knees economically and end its superpower status.

One section of the lengthy communication states: "If and when the U.S. does what it did in Pakistan, the Arabian Peninsula will be soaked with martyrs who will spread to all corners of the globe and 'block its veins.' And the governments of Saudi Arabia and Yemen will find themselves between the hammer of Al-Qaeda and the anvil of American stupidity."

More explicitly: "What will be America's situation if it enters into a war with all the Muslims, including within its homeland and inside its protected citadel, [such as?] the Ft. Hood military base?"

In a separate jihadist communication, similarly analyzing the growing influence of Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), there is reference to "Anwar al-Awlaki's detailed report of the [Marib] conflict [in which AQAP fighters clashed with government forces]." Awlaki is the religious leader in Yemen with whom accused Ft. Hood terrorist gunman Nidal Hasan was allegedly in contact before his massacre of fellow soldiers.

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

TAM-C analysts note that, generally, when Al-Qaeda hints it will do something, it is reasonable to assume that it will carry it out. Therefore, the above-noted threat must be taken at face value. While the primary, highest alert level is currently centered on the entire Arabian Peninsula, increased American involvement in Yemen may push AQ to act abroad.

In the short term, likely targets in the Arabian Peninsula are tourist venues, government and military facilities, and commercial establishments. Organizations that receive petroleum products from this area may suffer from disruptions to supplies.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Lebanese AQ Jihadists Targeting UN, Christians, Jews and Israel

A Lebanese jihadist group affiliated with Al-Qaeda has declared in recent communications that it "will destroy everything that stands in our way ... that tries to stand in the way of our desires for jihad, holy war." Specifically, the jihad against the Jews (i.e., Israel) is cited as a key goal that is blocked by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Christians and the Jews themselves.

The threat to UN forces is explicit: "We will not stand for the presence of UNIFIL on our land, protecting the Jews. They must leave immediately or they will face a bitter [end], along with all the infidels, traitors and informants. God willing, it will happen soon."

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

TAM-C analysts warn that, while the UNIFIL troops and Israel are the stated targets, all Western or Western-identified organizations and assets in Lebanon should be considered at risk. Past attacks aimed at pushing Western involvement out of Lebanon have targeted various civilian and military assets in the country.

Pennsylvania students at institutions such as the American University of Beirut and business interests in the region are advised that Beirut, the south of Lebanon, and the north of Israel are potential theaters of attack by the Lebanese Al-Qaeda-affiliated organization.

Sectors: BANKING AND FINANCE

Eco-Activists Targeting Banking Institutions

On 18 December 2009 environmental activists will be holding protests at financial institutions that provide funding to corporations involved in the use of coal for power production. The demonstrations are to take place in Washington, DC.

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

Similar subsequent protests can be expected in other major cities, such as **Philadelphia**, much as the DC protest was inspired by previous events elsewhere in the country. Most recently, in November, 23 people were arrested in San Francisco for blocking the entrances to Bank of America over climate change issues. Of note is that Bank of America - which has been the target of disruptive protests throughout the US since 2007 - has over 300 locations in **Pennsylvania**.

While specific targets have not yet been named in the Washington DC protest calls, TAM-C analysts expect Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, CitiBank and PNC to be among the targets of "direct action" by environmental activists.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Calls to Disrupt Catholic Church Services

The signature of dozens of American Catholic leaders on a declaration regarding the sanctity of "traditional marriage" sponsored by the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) has led to discussion among Gay rights activists as to how best to respond. Some are anxious to make their "enemies" feel "uncomfortable" in their churches.

In discussing the NOM declaration, Californians Against Hate have called it a "declaration of war." Activist reaction has also included calls for "direct action" to disrupt Catholic church services. While comments on the issue of disruptions were divided pro and con, they did include:

- "The time has come for militant disruptive demonstrations and disobedience outside our enemies (sic) places of worship!"
- "[P]eaceful vigils have never advanced the cause. The bishop is happy to shred the Constitution by blurring the lines of the separation of church and state and happy to deny us our rights. I believe we have to make him feel a bit more uncomfortable."

Gay activists included in their exchange of information the names and positions of all the high-profile signatories of the NOM statement. Included among them are Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and Bishop David A. Zubik, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

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

While very rare, church service disruptions have occurred in reaction to previous media reports regarding particular Christian stances on Gay rights issues of the day. More common are vigorous protests outside churches following local and state votes and decisions that impact Gay rights.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

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