

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #37

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

22 JANUARY 2010

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## STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

### 1. Meet (and Abduct) the Neighbors

Jihadist terror movements from states in Africa to Southeast Asia are displaying strategic flexibility and tactical mobility in seeking out Westerners from outside their primary region of operations for purposes of abduction and extortion. Several recent security alerts highlighted this phenomenon, along with ongoing similar behavior by related jihadist groups.

\* This week, the US State Department issued an advisory that terrorists from the Somalia-based Shabab Al-Mujahideen (Shabab) organization are planning to abduct Westerners from the Dadaab refugee camp in neighboring Kenya. The would-be kidnappers are expected to attempt to gain access under the pretense of being relatives of Somali refugees in the camp.

Westerners in the Somalia-Kenya border region are advised to "exercise extreme caution". Earlier this year, Kenya committed its forces to tightening the border following several abductions by Somali infiltrators.

ITRR analysts note that the Shabab group has warned Kenya not to get involved in their war with the Western-backed central Somali government. Kenya replied by saying their armed forces will be involved as long as Shabab attacks across the border continue.

\* Also this week, the State Department issued an advisory saying that the Philippines-based jihadist group Abu Sayyaf is planning to abduct or attack Westerners in neighboring Malaysia. At particular risk are travelers in the isolated islands of the eastern Sabah region. The American

warning notes that criminal groups may also be involved in attempts to strike at foreigners in the region.

\* As noted in PAIB no. 35 (18 January 2010), a Shabab communication explicitly stated that the jihadist group is sharing manpower with the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

\* In North Africa, Al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has perpetrated kidnappings or obtained hostages captured in states bordering the regions where AQIM has significant bases of operation. Mali and Mauritania, for example, have become high-risk regions for Westerners (PAIB nos. 23, 30 and 31), even as AQIM is based primarily in Algeria.

According to ITRR analysts, the high mobility of hostage-taking operations perpetrated by jihadist groups from one state in a neighboring state requires cross-border assistance and collaboration. In many cases, this collaboration comes from criminal elements in the target state. In Africa, the actual physical kidnapping operations themselves have been carried out in some cases by criminal gangs who then "sell" the captured foreigners to AQIM. In other instances, the jihadist group carries out revenue-generating criminal activity itself in tandem with non-ideological gangs, including kidnapping-for-ransom.

ITRR analysts believe that, at the present time, Somalia-area pirates see a greater income stream from ransoming hijacked ships and crews back to their countries of origin than from selling the victims to Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups. However, that is expected to change, with Somali piracy and jihadist terror finding common cause if the opportunities for capturing hostages decrease on the mainland as regional security forces are more successful or Westerners more cautious about travel in targeted areas.

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 other Third World destinations, 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.

## SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

### Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

#### **2. High-Profile Attack in Israel 'Within the Month'**

ITRR researchers have identified internal jihadist communications indicating that a suicide attack aimed at Israel is planned for sometime within the current month.

The communication states, "We have already planned the next suicide attack in the heart of the Zionist entity. You will see a high-quality attack [within] the month." Using terminology identified by ITRR analysts as indicating an attack of significant size ("the wind of victory is close"), the jihadist adds that their operations security demands withholding further discussion of the intended attack ("silence about it is necessary").

\*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS\*\*\*\*\*

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

According to ITRR analysts, the phrase "in the heart of the Zionist entity" used in the above communication may also designate targeting of Israeli or Jewish assets outside of Israel. Currently, ITRR is investigating a possible Turkish connection.

Pennsylvania students and business interests in Israel and Turkey are advised of the increased risk of jihadist attack on Israeli or Jewish targets in the short term. Such an attack will likely take the form of a suicide operation utilizing an explosive device.

Recent jihadist targeting of Israel and regional Jewish-identified assets has included explicit threats stemming from Gaza (PAIB no. 14), Lebanon (PAIB no. 17) and Egypt (PAIB nos. 25 and 31). Last month, ITRR analysts identified an increased threat of kidnap-type terror operations in areas of Israel and Egypt in close proximity to Gaza and the Palestinian Authority areas. In Jordan, terrorists attempted to assassinate Israel's ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom (PAIB no. 34).

The worldwide risk facing Jewish and Israeli interests comes from organized jihadist cells, as noted above, but also from lone-wolf attackers and far-left extremist groups (as cited in PAIB nos. 23 and 29, among others). In Pennsylvania, as previously noted, any adversarial actions will likely focus on the Israeli consulate in Philadelphia. Other potential targets in the Pennsylvania region include high-profile Jewish institutions, synagogues or communal events.

### Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; BANKING AND FINANCE

#### **3. Anarchists See Success in Foreclosure 'Resistance'**

Anarchists and other activists on behalf of the Miwok tribe in California claim to have successfully halted eviction proceedings against a foreclosed property in Stockton. Anarchist communications insistently and proudly credit their illegal occupation of the property with forestalling the eviction (although essentially the bank has granted the property owners 30 days to find the necessary funds to pay their mortgage bills).

An anarchist announcement of the "success" explains what they see as its much wider significance: "Thus, large scale public resistance to the eviction of a foreclosed home in the center of the foreclosure crisis has been a success. The struggle is not yet over." A previous communication on the Stockton 'direct action' said simply: "One house at a time..."

According to the anarchists, supporters came to Stockton from "the Bay, Central Valley, Santa Cruz and Canada" for "one of the first eviction resistances attempted in the U.S. since the housing market crashed."

The congratulatory anarchist communications end with calls for solidarity with the Miwok tribe and "FREE THE LAND! OCCUPY EVERYTHING!"

\*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS\*\*\*\*\*

T//W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts have observed the "squatting" and occupation of foreclosed and abandoned buildings in Western Europe. It would appear that American anarchist groups are learning from the more aggressive groups across the Atlantic. As stated in an "open letter to US activists",

As the worldwide economic meltdown continues, it's becoming clear that the fight against foreclosures is not simply an American issue; it is a global issue. And as US activists come to terms with the human consequences of the crisis, there is much to be learned from activists elsewhere who have been grappling with these issues for years.

Pennsylvania communities with strong anarchist organizations, including **Pittsburgh** and Philadelphia, may see similar activity as a "poster child" foreclosure property is identified and local activists decide to take direct action. ITRR analysts recommend that local authorities become aware of street-level (posters, free newspapers) communications encouraging similar "occupations."

## **Sectors: ENERGY; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

### ***4. Environmentalists Apply 'Direct Action' Training***

On 21 January 2010 three protesters from Climate Ground Zero and Mountain Justice successfully halted work at the Bee Tree Mine, Coal River Mountain, in West Virginia. The environmental activists climbed up three trees near the scene of blasting underway to build an access road to the mine.

The tree-sitters insist they will remain where they are until blasting is ended on Coal River Mountain. However, their organizations are calling more broadly for an end to all mountaintop removal and encouragement of clean energy production.

The Climate Ground Zero press release on the "tree-sitting" quoted a member of the "support team" as saying, "I knew that until I took an active role in the struggle to end MTR, I was passively condoning the poisoning and displacement of countless communities and in the obliteration of one of the oldest and most diverse ecosystems on this continent."

Climate Ground Zero's 'direct action' campaign against Coal River Mountain energy development started eleven months ago. In PAIB no. 13 (27 November 2009) ITRR researchers detailed an action in which two environmental activists locked themselves onto machinery at the Bee Tree mine until they were forcibly removed by law enforcement personnel. While that interference successfully slowed work at the mine, a professional-level public relations cadre provided well-written copy to the press.

\*\*\*\*\*ANALYSIS\*\*\*\*\*

**T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

The Coal River Mountain action comes as aggressive environmentalists are meeting in Rock Creek, West Virginia (4-25 January 2010) to learn tactics for: "direct action" (which can include vandalism, obstruction of public and private venues, arson, threats of violence, assault, etc.); handling the media; legal support; action planning; and "other skills relevant for... future actions." (See PAIB no. 20)

As noted by ITRR analysts in PAIB no. 13, the tactics used in November 2009 at Coal River Mountain were taught at similar training camps the previous summer throughout West Virginia.

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) commentary on the Coal River Mountain tree-sit confirmed the linkage with the Rock Creek "winter action camp" as well. RAN noted that the training currently underway was being conducted by Climate Ground Zero and added that "more actions are expected throughout 2010. It's going to be a kick ass year." (For more on RAN's recent activity, see PAIB no. 36)

The immediate target of the Winter Action Camp training is the West Virginia coal mining industry. However, ITRR analysts point out that attendees at the camp and others who learn from them in the field will likely apply the skills and lessons learned in "actions" targeting coal operations in Pennsylvania, as well.

Additionally, sophisticated variations of the aforementioned tactics were taught at the Ruckus Society training in New York in December 2009. This training was aimed at preparing to use 'direct action' tactics to call attention to the planned drilling in **Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale area** (as reported in PAIB no. 2).

## **Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

### **5. Jihadists Focus on Finland**

ITRR researchers intercepted an "urgent" jihadist communication calling for attacks on Finnish assets in Afghanistan in order to deter the Finns from increasing their force commitment in the war-torn country. A government decision on the increased troop deployment (from 120 to about 200) is slated for today, 22 January 2010.

The communication, directed at "our brothers in the Taliban", says: "We ask you to put the forces of Finland in Afghanistan in your targeting sights.... Please attack them as soon as possible so they will understand the message."

\*\*\*\*\*ANALYSIS\*\*\*\*\*

**T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

While the primary and immediate risk of attack upon Finnish assets is faced by that country's soldiers in Afghanistan, according to ITRR analysts, inspired lone-wolf attacks elsewhere cannot be ruled out at this time. In the event that Finland decides to increase its limited troop placement in the Afghan theater, as well as its ongoing training of allied armies inside Finland, continuing jihadist focus on the country can be expected.

In Pennsylvania, the most notable target in this regard is Finland's Honorary Consul in Philadelphia, Kristina Mattila. Her office is listed as 1528 Walnut Street, suite 510.

**No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:**

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD  
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES  
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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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@terrorresponse.org](mailto:info@terrorresponse.org)

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