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**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council**  
**NEWSLETTER**



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*Open Source News reporting Summary: This collection of open source information is offered for informational purposes only. It is not, and should not be, construed as official evaluated intelligence.*

## Terror debate rages as suspects go free



A judge has ordered foreign suspects held under discredited terrorism legislation freed while parliament is locked in round-the-clock debate to replace the laws before they expire. The prisoners being released include Abu Qatada, (pictured) a Syrian cleric the government says was a spiritual mentor to Mohammed Atta, leader of the September 11 hijackers. He will be banned from preaching under the bail order.

Full story: [http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-03-11T162041Z\\_01\\_DEN767553\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_SECURITY-BRITAIN-LAWS.xml](http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-03-11T162041Z_01_DEN767553_RTRUKOC_0_SECURITY-BRITAIN-LAWS.xml)

## Spanish clerics issue **fatwa** against bin Laden



Clerics representing the majority of Spain's one million Muslims have issued what they say is the world's first fatwa against Osama bin Laden. The edict by the Islamic Commission of Spain, which represents about 70 per cent of the approximately 300 mosques in the country, **called bin Laden an apostate and asks Muslims to denounce him.**

Full story: <http://www.cbc.ca/storyview/MSN/world/national/2005/03/11/fatwa-050311.html>

### *Related reporting*

**Spain falls silent for five minutes to honor train blast victims**

<http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=news&cat=8&id=330569>

**Marginalised Muslims cause concern**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4340315.stm>

**The Next Salman Rushdie**

<http://slate.msn.com/id/2114755/>

It's not so much *what folks don't know* that's the problem.  
It's that *they know too much... that ain't so ...* that's the problem !

## Proposal to legalize poppy production announced

Senlis Foundation, a Paris-based think tank, proposed a plan March 9 to legalize Afghanistan's poppy production and divert the opium from the underground heroin-market to legitimate medicinal uses. The Afghan Ministry of Counter-Narcotics March 10 welcomed the Senlis Foundation proposal, especially if it would help the global medical community. The non-governmental organization plans to launch a feasibility study on the proposal and will announce the result of its findings at an multi-lateral drug policy conference in Kabul in September 2005.

### COMMENT:



The proposal was made public the same day Afghan anti-narcotics police launched a series of raids in the eastern province of Nangarhar. The Senlis Foundation proposal is an alternative solution that would, in fact, benefit the global medical community, which reportedly faces a shortage of opiate-based medicines, such as morphine and codeine. Only a handful of countries allow a limited government-controlled cultivation of poppy fields for medicinal use, including Australia, Austria, Canada, India and Turkey. Cultivating poppy fields is illegal through most parts of the world, including Afghanistan, which continues to supply almost 90 percent of the world's opium. The Afghan government has failed to adequately control the illegal poppy growth, despite a strong push to promote eradication programs. If the proposal is taken seriously by the counter-narcotics minister, it would benefit the Afghan poppy farmers who rarely get to reap the benefits of their crop as majority of the opium money goes to the drug smugglers. The idea is also a much more rational alternative as

previous plans included turning Afghan poppy farmers into fishermen. As the Afghan constitution now stands, the Senlis plan would be against Afghan laws, which prohibits the "sowing, smuggling and using of" narcotics; consequently a constitutional amendment would be needed for the plan to go into effect. However, the Afghan government would seriously need to review the feasibility study findings before undertaking any drastic steps.

## Bank closes mosque account

### *Donations to charity in terror case cited*

A Palos Hills bank has closed the account of a controversial Bridgeview mosque because the mosque donated \$10,000 to an Islamic charity that is now under federal scrutiny for allegedly helping terrorists. Family Bank and Trust Co. told the Mosque Foundation to take its business elsewhere in a December letter to mosque leaders, said the mosque's imam, Sheikh Jamal Said.

Full story: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/southsouthwest/chi-0503110236mar11.1.3482645.story?coll=chi-newslocalssouthwest-hed>

## Israel's largest bank involved in massive illegal money-laundering schemes

Over twenty employees of Israel's largest bank - Bank Hapoalim - were arrested in Tel Aviv Sunday in what officials called the biggest money-laundering case in the history of Israel, thought to involve hundreds of millions of dollars in the past year. Investigators said that hundreds of millions of dollars were illegally laundered through the bank over the past year. Police sources said they have evidence that senior officials in the bank knew about the laundering and chose not to report it.

Full story: <http://www.menareport.com/en/business/180987>

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## Zarqawi planning U.S. hit?

*Intelligence officials say operatives may infiltrate via Central America to strike at soft targets on American soil*



Two weeks after intelligence officials confirmed that Osama bin Laden had sent a message to Jordanian-born terrorist Abu Mousab al-Zarqawi, urging him to plan attacks on U.S. soil, details are emerging from one of al-Zarqawi's lieutenants about what the man behind many of the terrorist

attacks in Iraq could have in mind. A member of al-Zarqawi's organization, who was taken into U.S. custody last year and has been described as a top aide, indicates that al-Zarqawi has given ample consideration to assaults on the American homeland. According to a restricted bulletin that circulated among U.S. security agencies last week, the interrogated aide said al-Zarqawi has talked about hitting "soft targets" in the U.S., which could include "movie theaters, restaurants and schools."

Full story: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1037626,00.html>

## Imprisoned terrorists still advocating terror

It was 12:18 p.m. on Feb. 26, 1993, lunchtime, when the van exploded. The massive bomb rattled the World Trade Center, leaving a giant crater in the underground garage. At the time, it was the worst act of terrorism ever committed on American soil. Three Islamic extremists were among those convicted, each sentenced to more than 100 years in prison. So the men were sent to America's most secure federal prisons, eventually ending up at Supermax in Colorado, supposedly unable to do further harm. Or so we thought. Letters and articles show that while behind bars, the 1993 bombers continued their terrorist activities. They wrote letters to other suspected terrorists and brazenly praised Osama bin Laden in Arabic newspapers.

Full story: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7046691/>

## Jihad letters from prison went far, wide

Top officials at the Bureau of Prisons acknowledged Wednesday that three men imprisoned for bombing the World Trade Center in 1993 wrote about 90 letters to contacts on the outside, not only to a Spanish terror cell, but also to other Islamic extremists. Some of these letters, written in 2003 and early 2004, went to militants in Morocco, a hotbed of terror recruiting.

Full story: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7140883/>

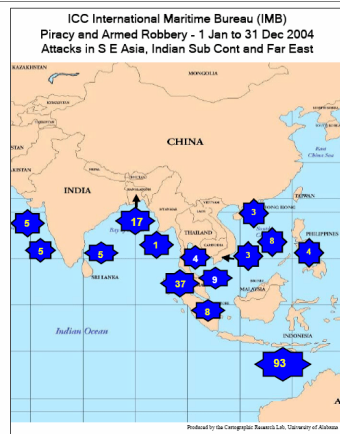
## Bureau of Prisons under fire for jihad letters

From inside America's most secure prisons, 1993 World Trade Center bomber Mohamed Salameh wrote letters to a Spanish terror cell and to Arabic newspapers praising Osama bin Laden and suicide bombers, saying, "Anyone who rises up against American arrogance and tyranny and causes the Americans fear and trembling also are heroes." He openly signed off "ADX penitentiary in Colorado" — known as "Supermax." Ramzi Yousef, mastermind of the first World Trade Center bombing, has not been allowed to communicate with anyone other than his lawyer for 10 years. The "Blind Sheikh" — Omar Abdul Rahman — can communicate only with his wife and his lawyer. A prison letter, purportedly written by Rahman in January, posted on an Islamist Web site. In it, he urges Muslims to rise up against the aggressors — code for Americans.

Full story: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7053165/>

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## Pirates seize tanker and tugboat



On the evening of March 12, a group of about 35 heavily armed pirates boarded the Indonesian-registered *MT Tri Samudra* about 14 nautical miles from Pulau Berhala in the Malacca Strait. The vessel had been en route from Samarinda, East Kalimantan, to Belawan, North Sumatra with a full cargo of methane gas. The gunmen ordered the crew to sail the ship towards Dumai, Riau province, before escaping with the captain and chief engineer as hostages. The assailants carried machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. The ship arrived in Dumai on March 13. The owners of the ship are still negotiating the release of the hostages. At about 1900 on March 14, pirates also attacked the *MV Idaten*, a Japanese tugboat, and abducted three Japanese and Filipino crew members in the Strait. The Malaysian Marine Police and the Royal Malaysian Navy dispatched gunboats and patrol craft to rescue the victims. The incident occurred 39 nautical miles southwest of Penang Island.

### COMMENT:

Unconfirmed reports claim that the pirates involved in the March 12 attack were *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (Free Aceh Movement, GAM) rebels. These latest incidents were only the second and third of their kind in the Malacca Strait since the Dec. 26 tsunami disaster. The attack on the *MT Tri Samudra* occurred a day after the Malaysian government announced its intention to introduce 24-hour radar coverage to improve security in the Malacca Strait by the end of the year. The government is also planning to establish the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) to help curb terrorism and piracy, illegal immigration, environmental damage, and improve search and rescue capabilities. Authorities believe that pirates are becoming bolder by abandoning their normal tactics of attacking ships in coastal waters and instead



targeting vessels in international waters closer to Malaysia. The seizure of a fully laden, shallow-draft gas tanker is an alarming development that reinforces international concerns about the potential use of ships in terrorist attacks at ports or refineries. In 2004, various Western governments expressed concern that terrorists could use ships as floating bombs or as a means to block key channels to disrupt maritime trade in the region. That fear emerged after a group of pirates hijacked a tanker in the Malacca Strait and then abandoned the vessel after learning how to maneuver it.

## Police end prison standoff

Philippine police stormed the Camp Bagong Diwa prison in southeastern Manila March 15, killing more than 20 inmates, in order to end a standoff that began the day before. A group of prisoners, led by members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group, attempted a prison break early on March 14. The prisoners reportedly launched the attack by grabbing weapons from three guards during breakfast. The prisoners shot and killed the guards; two inmates also died in the attack. The prisoners had offered to surrender by later in the day but reneged on the promise. Police finally decided that all peaceful means to end the standoff had been exhausted and decided to storm the prison with 300 heavily armed officers and tear gas

### COMMENT:

The Abu Sayyaf members who led the revolt were Galib Andang (also known as Commander Robot) and Alhamser Limbong (also known as Commander Kosovo). Another Abu Sayyaf prisoner involved was Nadjmi Sabdulla (also known as Commander Global). All three died when police stormed the building. Andang was arrested in 2001 for the kidnapping of 21 Western tourists on the Malaysian island of Sipadan. Limbong was arrested in connection with the 2004 bombing of a ferry in Manila Bay as well as several kidnappings. U.S. and Philippine officials believe Abu Sayyaf is linked to the Al-Qaeda terrorist network.

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## 'Good guys' show just how easy it is to steal ID

*Elite teams of computer gurus hack into Google and find loads of credit card numbers and sensitive information*

Teams of hackers surfed the Web at Seattle University yesterday, harvesting Social Security and credit card numbers like a farmer cutting wheat. In less than an hour, they found millions of names, birth dates and numbers -- cyberburglar tools for the crime of identity theft -- using just one, familiar Internet search engine: Google. It turns out that the powerful search engine, in the hands of a knowledgeable cybertrekker, can ferret out all kinds of sensitive information never meant to be made public. All it takes are sophisticated search terms. The terms go beyond specifying key words to include file types. The right terms can even find information deleted from corporate or government Web sites but temporarily cached in Google's massive warehouse of data. IOActive Chief Executive Officer Joshua Pennell pointed out that the problem is not with Google, but with corporate cultures with the attitude, "Nobody is going to find me, nobody cares what's on my computer." These companies allow Google to enter into the public portion of their networks, sometimes called the DMZ, and index all the information contained there. Companies need to understand that they are leaving themselves exposed" by posting sensitive information in public places. "If they're performing proper security, then their intranet shouldn't be vulnerable to a Google search engine."

Full story: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/214663\\_googlehack05.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/214663_googlehack05.html)

## New weapons to stop identity thieves

The motivation of the folks who write viruses and launch other attacks on computers is murky. But the goal of phishers, people who lure you to phony financial sites on the Web in order to steal passwords and account information, is theft, pure and simple. They pull it off primarily by fooling their unsuspecting victims, rather than by exploiting flaws in software. That may explain why phishing incidents continue to proliferate despite the concerted efforts of software publishers to make it harder. And it is why the time has come to attack the problem at its root: the inadequacy of passwords. The issue is authentication -- proving that you are who you claim to be online. The strongest password can be stolen by phishing. So for real security, passwords should be supplemented with either a biometric, such as a fingerprint, or a code.

Full story:

[http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/05\\_11/b3924033\\_mz006.htm?campaign\\_id=rss\\_magzn](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/05_11/b3924033_mz006.htm?campaign_id=rss_magzn)

## Chertoff: Emergency responders deserve 'blunt' aid talk

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told senators on Wednesday that his department owes the nation's emergency responders "blunt" explanations about the level of funding for states and local communities. Several senators on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee raised the issue of the funding formula for firefighters, police officers and other emergency workers during Chertoff's second appearance before Congress about the department's budget for next year. "We owe ... pretty blunt talk to people," Chertoff said in response to questions about fluctuating funding levels from year to year for states. He added that the department never can eliminate every risk, and that states and local communities have the responsibility to fund "first responder" activities not related to homeland security.

Full story:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0305/030905tdpm1.htm>

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## ***Elsevier Launches New Law Enforcement Magazine***

Elsevier's Jems Communications today announced the launch of Law Officer, a new magazine geared specifically for professional law enforcement officers and middle managers. Law Officer's mission is "to provide the best in tactics, technology and training for the law enforcement professional" to its initial 41,000 readers nationwide. More information on Law Officer can be found at <http://www.lawofficermagazine.com> and at <http://www.PoliceOne.com>.

## **Featured Internet Site**

***Financial Action Task Force (FATF)***



The FATF is an inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

[http://www.fatf-gafi.org/pages/0,2987,en\\_32250379\\_32235720\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.fatf-gafi.org/pages/0,2987,en_32250379_32235720_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

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