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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.

9/11 report in depth: Agencies must share intelligence



In its report, the 9/11 Commission proposed a global strategy to fight terrorism that has three dimensions: *attack terrorists and their organizations, prevent the growth of Islamist terrorism, protect against and prepare for terrorist attacks.* While the commission commended the joint efforts of both the CIA and the FBI in particular terrorism cases, it found that cooperation by the intelligence agencies in the war on terrorism was not the same as joint action. It also found that actual analysis and sharing of the voluminous terrorism intelligence collected was weak, leading to the often repeated criticism that 'we don't know what we know.'

The FBI's Jim Davis knows what the FBI must do. "Intelligence now is probably the director's highest priority," he said. Davis is the acting special agent in charge at the FBI's Indianapolis office. "The key, I think, is intelligence sharing, not so much intelligence collection, because I think we were doing that very well, each of the agencies did that very well. It is intelligence sharing and some central point where things can be put together."

Full story: <http://www.wishtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=2103360&nav=0Ra7PILn>

Update: Terror in the Skies, Again? For additional links on follow-up information regarding Annie Jacobsen's article, *Terror in the Skies, Again?* (Links include the following 2 stories):
http://www.womenswallstreet.com/WWS/article_landing.aspx?articleid=723&Titleid=0

Syrian music star sings praise of suicide bombers

The Syrian singer of a band that was detained by the FBI's Terrorism Task Force for suspicious activity during a recent flight to Los Angeles has written about the "glorification" of suicide bombers to liberate Palestine. Singer Nour Mehana's latest album includes the song "Um El Shaheed," or "Mother of a Martyr." The song tells the story of a woman who mourned her son's death until she realized that "he died for a good cause and he should be glorified for what he did," "The song opens with the depiction of a mother crying over her son. He has said goodbye to his friends and family and is not going to come back. He went with a weapon in one palm and his heart in another palm and he's not going to come back,"

Full story: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20040728-111758-3815r.htm>

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 !

Part III: Terror in the Skies, Again?

It's been two-and-a-half weeks since the first "Terror in the Skies, Again?" article was posted on WomensWallStreet.com and subsequently set off an international debate. From the cockpit to the coffee shop, from the water coolers to the halls of Congress, countless numbers of people have been talking -- and shouting -- about this article. It seems that anyone who reads the article develops a strong opinion, which in turn creates more questions. Flight #327 has opened Pandora's box. Last week, when the name of the band was revealed (Syrian singer Nour Mehana) one side shouted: *See, we told you so!* Then, when we learned that 13 of the 14 Syrian musicians were traveling on expired visas (which no one from the FBI, the TSA, the LAPD, or the JTTF noticed), the other side shouted: *No, we told you so!* I watched the two sides rally back and forth all week until finally, to borrow columnist Michelle Malkin's words, *Flight 327 Landed on Capitol Hill*. And this is exactly where it should be.

Full story: http://www.womenswallstreet.com/WWS/article_landing.aspx?titleid=1&articleid=726

Terrorist attacks called likely



Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) warned further terrorist attacks are likely in Russia following a recorded message aired on Al-Jazeera, the Arabic television network. The message included a public address by Chechen separatist leader Shamil Basayev; FSB officials have said attacks are most likely in Moscow and St. Petersburg. In Moscow, the most probable targets are politicians and members of security organizations. Terrorists are expected to conduct attacks in a military-style operation. Possible targets also include the Supreme Court, Russian Parliament or the offices of the Procurator General, which could be seized by a small group of armed men.

ANALYSIS:

In St. Petersburg, authorities expect a total of 150 to 200 Chechen militants to penetrate the city individually or in small groups. They are likely to use vehicles, including police cars, and to target public places. These public places may include hospitals and maternity wards, which in Russia are stand-alone medical institutions. Basayev has claimed responsibility for past incidents including the Ingushetia raids June 21-22, a number of suicide bombings in the Moscow and southern Russia, seizing the Dubrovka theater in Moscow in October 2002, and the May 9 assassination of Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov. (A powerful blast killed Kadyrov and at least six other people during a Victory Day parade at a stadium in the Chechen capital of Grozny.) New elections to choose Kadyrov's successor are slated for Aug. 29. Terrorist attacks occurred in Moscow and the North Caucasus in the run-up to the last Chechen elections in October 2003. Aside from the attack that killed Kadyrov, most recent terrorist attacks in Russia have involved female suicide bombers, allegedly members of the battalion of the Chechen shaheeds know as "Riyadus - Salihin." Terrorism and sabotage against military and civilian targets in southwest Russia and major urban centers in European Russia, especially Moscow and St. Petersburg, will likely rise before and immediately after the elections.

Kazakhstan faulted in Uzbek terror trial

Uzbekistan is charging that terrorists responsible for a bloody five days of bombings and attacks in the spring were trained at camps in southern Kazakhstan, triggering a denial from Kazakh national-security officials. The accusations surfaced this week as 15 suspected terrorists — 13 men and two women — went on trial in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent. The defendants, ranging in age from 22 to 40 years of age, face accusations of terrorism, the attempted overthrow of Uzbekistan's government, religious extremism and other crimes, according to the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty news service. All of the defendants pleaded guilty to the 17 charges against them at the opening of the trial on Monday, but human rights activists say torture was used to extract the pleas.

Full story: <http://washingtontimes.com/world/20040728-094856-4224r.htm>

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Related reporting:

Three groups take aim at Uzbekistan's secular regime

<http://www.debka.com/article.php?aid=883>

Suspects held in Tashkent bombings

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/458472.html>

Israel sends team to Uzbekistan after Embassy bombing

The attack was carried out by three suicide bombers, apparently on the occasion of the start of the trial against 15 men who carried out an attack on the Uzbek government in February, killing 50. The men are said to be connected with Al-Qaeda.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/news.php3?id=66590>

Terrorist Attacks on U.S. and Israel Embassies: a Warning

Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, was swept by terrorist blasts which were set close to the embassies of the United States and Israel and Prosecutor-General's Office.

<http://nytimes.com/cover/08-02-04/AttacksInUzbekCapital.htm>

Al-Qaida bought South African passports

Al-Qaida members and other terrorists traveling through Europe have obtained South African passports, and authorities believe they got them from crime syndicates operating inside the government agency that issues the documents. The illicit acquisition of the passports, which allow travel through many African countries and Britain without visas, sent shock waves through South Africa after one top police official said "boxes and boxes" of the documents were discovered in London.

Full story:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JPArticle/ShowFull&cid=1090984588712&p=1006688055060>

Related reporting:

al-Qaida suspect arrested in Texas

A South African woman picked up in Texas almost 10 days ago may turn out to be a key, high level al-Qaida operative. Her name is Farida Goolam Mohamed Ahmed. She was stopped at McAllen Miller International Airport on July 19th headed to New York. Ahmed produced a South African passport to the agents with four pages torn out, and with no U.S. entry stamps. Ahmed reportedly later confessed to investigators that she entered the country illegally by crossing the Rio Grande River. Ahmed was carrying travel itineraries showing a July 8 flight from Johannesburg, South Africa to London. Six days later, Ahmed traveled from London to Mexico City before attempting to travel from McAllen to New York.

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=169&sid=124295>

Young Moroccans face choice of terror

Most people in Casablanca can point you in the direction of Sidi Moumen, after all it is the city's most notorious slum area. A dusty wasteland of low crumbling houses, tangled lines of washing and rubbish heaps. It looks like any one of the vast deprived urban zones circling Casablanca but this was home to several of the suicide bombers who killed 45 people in the city centre in May 2003. "We were friends, but he changed completely in just seven months," said Zacharia who went to school with one of the suicide bombers

Full story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3930349.stm>

Europe fears threat from its converts to Islam

A handful of Westerners have already been arrested on terrorism charges. Their experiences, the authorities fear, could foreshadow a deepening problem. "The conversion to Islam of fragile individuals undoubtedly leads to the risk of diversion to terrorism," the intelligence agency's report said, adding that radical groups have recruited converts because they could cross borders easily or serve as front men for renting accommodations or providing other logistical support. The trend is not only happening in Europe. Jack Roche, a British-born Australian taxi driver, converted to Islam, trained in Afghanistan and returned to Australia, where he was recently sentenced to nine years in prison for trying to blow up the Israeli Embassy

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in Canberra. In the United States, Jose Padilla, held by the government on suspicion of plotting terrorist attacks, converted to Islam in 1992 while in a Florida jail. Both David and Jérôme Courtailler, the French brothers, moved freely through Europe without attracting scrutiny, which the authorities often reserve for young men of Arab descent.

Full story: http://www.religionnewsblog.com/7916-Europe_fears_threat_from_its_convert_to_Islam.html

13 suspected terrorists arrested in U.K

Police announced Aug. 3 the arrests of 13 men suspected of involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. The arrests were made in northwest London and in the counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Lancashire. Police continue their operation and searches are ongoing throughout the U.K. All of the 13 suspected terrorists are from Asia. U.K. officials declined to connect these arrests to the recent spate of arrests of terror suspects in Pakistan. Earlier on Aug. 3 reports surfaced that one of the suspected terrorists nabbed in Pakistan visited the U.K. at least six times. Reports earlier mentioned that some of the material found by Pakistan had indicated threats against unspecified targets in the U.K.

COMMENT:

The U.K. Home Office announced on Aug. 2 that it had placed security forces on alert for possible terrorist activity related to the U.S. terror warnings. Unlike the U.S., however, the U.K. does not publicize alert levels, a policy for which the government has been criticized. Legislation aimed at strengthening the government's capability to fight terrorism is under discussion. A similar mass arrest by U.K. officials in December 2003 netted 14 suspects; most were later released.

Related reporting:

Pakistan link to UK swoop

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/08/04/terror.arrests/>

Pakistan hands over 1998 bomber to U.S.

Pakistan is believed to have handed over a key al-Qaida operative, Ahmad Khalfan Ghailani, to U.S. authorities who have taken him to an undisclosed location, U.S. and Pakistani intelligence sources told United Press International Tuesday. Also Tuesday, Pakistan's Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat announced the arrest of two more terror suspects but refused to disclose their identity, saying that authorities were still interrogating them. But senior Pakistani intelligence officers involved with the investigation identified the two as South Africans Abu Bakar and Zubair Ismail. Both were identified as new al-Qaida recruits and were arrested during a raid on Ghailani's hideout. Bakar is a physician while Ismail's profession is not known. Intelligence officials also claimed to have arrested two more al-Qaida suspects Juma Ibrahim, a Syrian, and Mohammed Sultan, a Nigerian. They were arrested at the Lahore airport while trying to leave Pakistan, officials said.

Full story: <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20040803-044656-4460r>

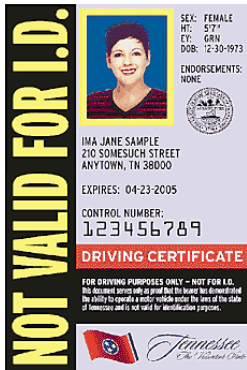
Related reporting:

Pakistan Arrests Two South Africans

Two South African men captured along with a senior al-Qaida terrorist were plotting attacks on tourist sites in their home country, and vowed an unceasing battle against America and President Bush when authorities nabbed them after a 12-hour gunbattle, a senior police official said Wednesday.

http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20040804_752.html

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Driving certificate issue draws national scrutiny

Other states may use law as a model, official says. After a month on the books, Tennessee's new driver's license law continues to draw national attention from immigration and national security policy-makers who wonder how well it's working. In another month, they may get their first clear answer. A judge has set a Sept. 23 hearing date to rule on whether the law will be halted immediately while a lawsuit against it is decided.

Full story:

<http://www.tennessean.com/government/archives/04/07/55301383.shtml?ElementID=55301383>

Featured Internet Site

National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism

We feel we have a special obligation to first responders - police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and all of the others who are first on the scene in the aftermath of terrorist activity. We sponsor research to discover equipment, training and procedures that might assist them in preventing terrorism and responding to it.

<http://www.mipt.org/>

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