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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA**

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**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council  
NEWSLETTER**



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## Indiana Alert Network (IAN)

Homeland security is no longer solely law enforcement's responsibility, but necessitates a collaborative effort among citizens, corporations and the government. If you wish to report suspicious information that you believe relates to terrorism or that may result in the prevention of terrorism, please submit that information via the Tips Report. Your report will be immediately received and reviewed by DHS and the FBI: <https://www.ian.in.gov/public/fbitips.php>

The Indiana Alert Network (IAN) is locally administered and governed and is in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security. IAN is part of DHS's Homeland Security Information Network Critical Infrastructure (HSIN-CI). IAN information is voluntary and reliance on it should only be undertaken after an independent review of its accuracy, completeness, and timeliness.  
<https://www.ian.in.gov/>

## Expanding in an age of terror, Western Union faces scrutiny



In January 2002, the owner of a small shop in Burbank, Ill., just outside of Chicago contacted Western Union about becoming an agent in the firm's burgeoning money-transfer empire. Within two weeks, Khaled Raffai was in business, equipped with a Western Union wire-transfer machine and 800 blank money orders. Trouble began less than a week later when the storekeeper and associates started zapping around thousands of dollars without taking in any cash to back up the transfers as company policy and federal laws require, according to records in Indiana federal court. In Mr. Raffai's case, the transfers turned out to be part of a series of related frauds by the men. They used bogus wire transfers and forged Western Union money orders to make bulk

cigarette purchases, among other deceptions, federal prosecutors say, eventually swindling more than \$400,000 from businesses in Indiana and Illinois.

Full story: <http://kwsnet.com/weblog/2004/10/21.html> (scroll to find story)

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 !

## Terror-proofing America's transit lines

At the direction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, agencies are setting up "transit watch" programs by urging passengers to keep an eye out for suspicious activity. In New York, the tagline is, "If you see something, say something." The program is patterned on the "neighborhood watch" effort that successfully combated drug dealers and burglars in many cities. "In general, we've been looking at hardening areas we deem vulnerable." In general, transit systems are adopting layered security systems that include a mix of fencing, closed-circuit TV, bomb-sniffing dogs and patrols by uniformed officers. The strategy is that each layer provides backup for the next and the breach of a single layer won't defeat the entire system.

Full story: [http://www.forbes.com/business/2004/10/21/cx\\_sr\\_1021transit.html](http://www.forbes.com/business/2004/10/21/cx_sr_1021transit.html)

## Attempts to buy vehicles raise suspicions

Four men described as Middle Eastern tried to buy a surplus ambulance, two former police cruisers and an old truck from St. Petersburg College this summer, prompting college employees to alert authorities,

Full story: [http://www.sptimes.com/2004/10/22/Tampabay/Attempts\\_to\\_buy\\_vehic.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2004/10/22/Tampabay/Attempts_to_buy_vehic.shtml)

## Honduran official says al-Qaida recruiting

It's a U.S. Homeland Security Department nightmare, and Honduras' most outspoken Cabinet member says it's happening: Al-Qaida operatives recruiting Central American gang members to carry out regional attacks and slip terrorists into the United States. Yet U.S. and Central American officials say they have found no evidence supporting Honduran Security Minister Oscar Alvarez's allegations. And human rights groups accuse Alvarez of trumping terrorism reports to justify his crackdown on gangs, who in response have adopted terror-style tactics such as beheadings - 20 so far - and threatened the government. The U.S. government has long worried terrorists would tap into smuggling networks that move migrants and narcotics across Mexico's porous northern border and into the United States. Alvarez, a former private security consultant educated at Texas A&M, acknowledges he sometimes releases information that isn't confirmed, saying the reports keep Honduras' population alert to potential threats. "I prefer that people live with the fear of possible danger than feel safe and have something happen," he told The Associated Press. "Look at what happened in Spain. The people there felt safe, and they weren't," he added, referring to the al-Qaida-linked March 11 train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 peop

Full story:

[http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/aplatin\\_story.asp?category=1102&slug=Latin%20Gangs%20Terror](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/aplatin_story.asp?category=1102&slug=Latin%20Gangs%20Terror)



## Number of Muslims in Chiapas increasing

Religious researcher Gaspar Morquecho reported that Islam is spreading in Chiapas, especially among the indigenous communities of Altos de Chiapas. He gives credit for the spread of Islam to the foundation "Da'Wa Mission in Mexico" (*Misión para el Da'Wa en México*), which was established in 1994. Felipe Aizmendi Esquivel, Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, expressed concern that expelled Chamula Indians have integrated into the Islamic community. After the 1994 EZLN uprising, Spaniards Aureliano Pérez Yruela and Esteban López Moreno convinced many Indians to become Muslims. The community split along Sunni/Shia lines in 1998.

Source: <http://www.milenio.com/nota.asp?id=166077>

**Related reporting:**

**The introduction of Islam to the Chiapas community**

<http://www.muslim-hands.org.uk/location/samerica/mexico/mex1.php>

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## Officials fear Iraq's lure for Muslims in Europe

France's antiterrorist police on Friday identified a young Frenchman killed fighting the United States in Iraq, the first confirmed case of what is believed to be a growing stream of Muslims heading from Europe to fight what they regard as a new holy war. Redouane el-Hakim, 19, the son of Tunisian immigrants, died during an American bombardment of insurgents in Falluja on July 17, according to an intelligence official close to the case. Intelligence officials fear that for a new generation of disaffected European Muslims, Iraq could become what Afghanistan, Bosnia and Chechnya were for European Islamic militants in past decades: a galvanizing cause that sends idealistic young men abroad, trains them and puts them in touch with a more radical global network of terrorists. In the past, many young Europeans who fought in those wars came back to Europe to plot terrorist attacks at home.

Full story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/23/international/europe/23france.html>

## Officials consider Afghanistan veterans a serious terrorist threat

According to counterterrorism observers and officials, 70,000 of the 100,000 suspected terrorists on U.S. lists were "alumni" of Afghanistan -- radicals who trained in the Central Asian country between 1989 and 2001. Daniel Benjamin, former director of transnational threats under President Bill Clinton, said that most of them received paramilitary training to fight alongside the Taliban but that a small percentage got specialized terrorist training. Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, said many of the 70,000 had returned to train others. Gunaratna added that, while the number of trainees at al Qaeda-linked camps in Asia, Africa, and the Caucasus may be higher, quality would be lower. He also noted that the retention rate of terrorism trainees was low, about 20 percent. Most either deserted or lost interest, he said. From the U.S. list, Gunaratna believes that about 30,000 to 40,000 are "hard-core terrorists" of concern for security officials worldwide and that Iraq had replaced the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as the locus for anti-Westernism. Reuven Paz, who leads the Project for the Research of Islamist Movements at the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Israel, said Iraq was a driving force for terrorist operations around the world. He cited Spain's 3-11 attacks and the Australian Embassy bombing in Jakarta as examples. In Southeast Asia, he finds that the Mindanao-based Moro Islamic Liberation Front of the Philippines makes up 12,000 of the 20,000 suspected terrorists, while Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), heavily concentrated in Indonesia, is estimated to have about 300-400 members. Muchyar Yara, a former Indonesian intelligence official, believes the inclusion of supporters, new recruits, and affiliates could push that figure up to 6000, warning that JI was growing daily.

### **COMMENT:**

Accurately quantifying the number of terrorists is a challenging proposition, since there are likely to be varying degrees of membership and dependence on ever-changing global developments. But these figures provide some reference point with which to estimate potential sizes and strengths of key terrorist groups. These reports also suggest that Afghanistan, despite its relative calm, may again be a breeding ground for more sophisticated transnational terrorists. With the U.S. primarily focused on the hunt for al Qaeda's past leaders and NATO forces hunkered down around Kabul, much of the country potentially remains fertile for terrorism's future leaders. Return of the country's poppy trade can only make this likelier. Pakistani officials recently claimed that they had arrested a Yemeni-born al Qaeda leader with experience in Afghanistan trying to leave Lahore for another, unspecified country (*Islam*).

## Airfield on alert for terror threat

Detectives from Special Branch have been scouring the region's private airfields on the lookout for potential post-September 11 terrorists. Officers from the crack team of detectives responsible for monitoring terrorist activity have been touring flying and gliding clubs quizzing instructors about any suspicious behaviour. Among the standard questions they have been asking was whether anyone had displayed interest in learning to take off but not about wanting to land,

Full story:

<http://www.eadt.co.uk/content/news/story.asp?datetime=25+Oct+2004+08%3A00&tbrand=EADOnline&Category=NEWS&category=News&brand=EADOnline&itemid=IPED24+Oct+2004+23%3A22%3A55%3A657>

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## Indonesia Muslim group plans more nightclub attacks

A militant Indonesian Muslim group plans more raids on clubs selling alcohol this week after trashing a nightspot frequented by foreigners over the weekend, a spokesman for the organisation said on Monday. The protesters have demanded bars stop serving alcohol during Ramadan, which began in mid-October and runs for one month. The U.S. embassy in Jakarta has warned Americans in the world's most populous Muslim nation to take precautions against attacks on nightspots during Ramadan.

Full story: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK185441.htm>

### COMMENT:

The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta warned U.S. citizens in Indonesia to take precautions against attacks on nightspots during Ramadan. During the Oct. 23 raid, some of the cafe's guards reportedly did not intervene and police did not arrive on the scene until after the attack. In previous years, police have often stood by while Muslim militants raid venues to impose Islamic rules. Many establishments that are popular with foreign residents and visitors will likely remain open, but will reduce hours and will not serve alcohol.

## 3 held in plot to bomb US Embassy



Three Muslim Filipinos acting on orders of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network have confessed to plotting a bomb attack on the US Embassy in Manila, the military said on Thursday. The three suspects, Abdul Manap Mentang, his girlfriend, Monawara Usop, and Mursid Mubpon, were arrested in Santa Ana, Manila, on October 6-7 and confessed under interrogation, the Armed Forces spokesman, Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, said. They were presented to the media at Camp Aguinaldo. They told investigators they were ordered to scout the US Embassy in Manila last month in preparation for another bombing, Adan said in a statement. "On September 23

Mentang, his live-in partner, Monawara Usop, and Mubpon cased the US Embassy," Adan said. "Mubpon was tasked to design a bomb-triggering mechanism using a cellular phone according to their plan to bomb the embassy."

Full story: [http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2004/oct/22/yehey/top\\_stories/20041022top6.html](http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2004/oct/22/yehey/top_stories/20041022top6.html)

## Indonesian court convicts Hambali's brother of terrorism



An Indonesian court on Tuesday sentenced the younger brother of alleged Southeast Asian terror leader Hambali to four years in jail on charges of helping finance last year's bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta. Rusman Gunawan, one of four Indonesian students deported from Pakistan in December, was found guilty by a three-judge panel at Central Jakarta District Court of violating the country's anti-terror law. Gunawan's older brother is Riduan Isamuddin, also known as Hambali, who was arrested in Thailand last year and is now in U.S. custody at an undisclosed location.

Full story: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20041026-0238-indonesia-terrortrial.html>

## Hi-tech explosives worry security forces

Security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast are increasingly encountering technological innovations in explosives planted by militants. In the last few months, they have stumbled upon improvised explosive devices rigged to go off even if the electrical relay igniting the fuse has been disconnected, a security expert says. Militants install a second relay in the IEDs so that they explode in the face of the bomb disposal squad personnel, without whom anti-militancy operations are seriously affected. While security personnel have now found a way to counter the 'double relay' system, IEDs that can be triggered merely by light, sound, smoke, temperature, humidity or even a radio frequency have cropped up.

Full story: <http://us.rediff.com/news/2004/oct/25ied.htm>

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## Mass. to issue high-security licenses



Beginning next month, Massachusetts motorists will get the most technologically sophisticated driver's license in North America, a newly designed card that uses every security feature currently available to prevent counterfeiting and tampering. Governor Mitt Romney and the state's top police and transportation officials, who unveiled the license at the State House yesterday, said it may help thwart terrorists but will be particularly effective in countering the growing problem of identity theft.

Full story:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2004/10/21/mass\\_to\\_issue\\_high\\_security\\_licenses/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2004/10/21/mass_to_issue_high_security_licenses/)

## A tale of romance for terror suspect



For the young men in what would later come to be called the Hamburg cell, Ramzi Binalshibh was a leader. Binalshibh connected the group to the broader jihadist movements then coalescing across the Arab world. He brought new members into the group and eased tensions when they arose. And Binalshibh, a native of the same region of Yemen as Osama bin Laden's family, later formed a close bond with bin Laden as the Sept. 11 plot against America progressed. But as the other men left Hamburg for the United States or Afghanistan in summer 2000, and Binalshibh was frustrated in his failure to obtain a US visa, he seemed to at least one woman as little more than a lost, lonely man desperate for companionship.

Within 36 hours of a chance meeting in Berlin that July, according to transcripts of investigators' interviews, Binalshibh proposed marriage to the woman.

Full story:

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2004/10/19/a\\_tale\\_of\\_romance\\_for\\_terror\\_suspect/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2004/10/19/a_tale_of_romance_for_terror_suspect/)

## Featured Internet Site



### The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) Stay Safe On Line

A public-private partnership focused on promoting cyber security and safe behavior online. We drive awareness and response to pressing cyber security issues; providing tools and resources to empower home users, small businesses, as well as schools and universities to stay safe online.

<http://www.staysafeonline.info/index.html>

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