

USD(P) \_\_\_\_\_

I-04/009650

As of November 26, 2008 3:30 pm

**READ AHEAD FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

**Meeting with HUMAN RIGHTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS WORKING GROUP**

July 21, 2004, 1:30-2:00 pm, SecDef Conference Room

From: Thomas W. O'Connell, Assistant Secretary of Defense (SO/LIC), (b)(2)

**Attendees (all DoD):**

- PDUSD(P) Ryan Henry
- DASD for African Affairs Theresa Whelan
- Acting DASD for Stability Operations Caryn Hollis
- Acting DASD for Detainee Affairs Matt Waxman
- OGC representative, TBD
- COL (b)(6) J-5 Detainee Policy

**Visitors:**

- Dr. William Schulz, Amnesty International
- Ken Roth, Human Rights Watch
- Michael Posner, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
- Holly Burkhalter, Physicians for Human Rights
- Ashley Barr, The Carter Center
- John Bradshaw, Coordinator, Human Rights Executive Directors Working Group
- Patrick McGreevy, Assistant to Coordinator

**Issues:** The Human Rights Working Group requested this meeting with you to discuss:

- detainees
- DoD's role in the Darfur humanitarian crisis
- expanding the mandate for U.S. troops in Afghanistan
- DoD's policy on cluster munitions.

You last met with them in December 2002.

**Desired Outcome:** A constructive exchange of ideas. Improved understanding by human rights directors of DoD's approach to the issues raised.

**Recommendations:** None.

USD(P) AMNESTY/CCR 1

## **Talking Points: Issue 1 -- Darfur/ Sudan**

The U.S. Government is working with international partners to identify additional funding, planners, and logistics assets, such as airlift, needed for the Darfur humanitarian crisis.

State is working with its contractors to line up the necessary airlift (fixed and rotary wing) to deploy African Union troops and deliver humanitarian aid.

Background: Concerned about the mounting Sudanese humanitarian crisis, the group will explore the possibility of DoD providing direct support (such as airlift capacity) to AU forces and assisting humanitarian groups in Darfur. DoD has deployed three soldiers as part of the AU ceasefire monitoring mission and sent an operations planner to assist the AU in planning for future deployments to Darfur.

## **Talking Points: Issue 2 -- Detainees**

### **Treatment of Prisoners in Iraq, Guantanamo, and Afghanistan**

- It has always been the policy and practice of the Defense Department and the U.S. government to treat detainees humanely, and to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the Geneva Conventions.

### **Existing Standards for Interrogations**

- On July 19, 2004, DoD released documents relating to the development of interrogation procedures in use prior to April 2003, and those currently in use at Guantanamo.
- The base document is Army Field Manual 34-52, which establishes basic principles of interrogation doctrine in accordance with U.S. and international law.
- Development and approval of interrogation techniques is done in a deliberate manner with strict legal and policy reviews.
- The guidelines issued ensure the protection of the detainees and our forces.
- No procedures ordered, authorized, permitted, or tolerated torture.

### **"Ghost" Detainees (Iraq)**

- In June 2004, the Secretary briefed the press about a detainee in Iraq who had not been acknowledged to the ICRC.

- This case was an anomaly inconsistent with DoD policy regarding notification to ICRC.
- DoD has since corrected the problem and has allowed the ICRC access to the detainee.
- DoD has instituted additional measures to ensure that this situation does not happen again. To my knowledge, this was the only case of a “ghost” detainee.

### **Unacknowledged Prisoners at Guantanamo**

- The ICRC receives notification on every DoD detainee at Guantanamo.
- The ICRC pays frequent visits to the detainees at Guantanamo.

### **Provision of Lawyers to Detainees at Guantanamo**

- We are working with the Justice Department to determine how to resolve the question on access to lawyers for the habeas process.
- For the Combatant Status Review Tribunal and Administrative Review, the detainees will be assigned a personal representative to explain the process and assist the detainee in preparing his case.

### **Nature and Procedures of Military Tribunals (Combatant Status Review Tribunal)**

- The Combatant Status Review, which you may know as Military Tribunals, an Article 5, or a Army Regulation 190-8 Hearing, is designed to examine the information surrounding each detainee’s capture to ensure that he is, in fact, an enemy combatant.
- The Combatant Status Review is an administrative procedure that looks at whether the U.S. is holding the detainee under the proper authorities. The detainees are not charged with specific crimes or violations.
- Military commissions are a separate process that will try a detainee charged with violations of the law of war. Nine detainees have been declared eligible for commissions under the President’s Order, and four have had charges referred.

- The Secretary of the Navy is the official responsible for overseeing the Combatant Status Review and the yearly administrative review procedures, which examines the threat posed by individual detainees.

### **Renditions of Detainees**

- DoD has transferred some of the detainees held at Guantanamo to the control of their country of citizenship.
- The U.S. requires that the receiving country provide assurances that the detainee will be treated humanely.
- DoD does not turn over detainees for the purpose of torture.

**Background:** The group will ask about DoD treatment of prisoners, existing standards for interrogations, ICRC access to prisoners, and so-called ghost detainees. They will also raise issues specific to Guantanamo, including provision of lawyers, nature of military tribunals, and Article V hearings for enemy combatants. The group will also inquire about DoD's role in turning over prisoners to other countries.

**If time permits:**

### **Talking Points: Issue 3 -- Afghanistan**

- U.S. continues to work with Coalition partners, Afghan authorities, and the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan to ensure smooth transition to democratic governance and full implementation of the December 2001 Bonn Agreement.
- LTG Barno, Commander of Combined Forces Command -- Afghanistan, has pledged Coalition support to safeguard upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections from attacks by extremists and anti-government forces.

**Background:** The group will inquire about prospects of DoD expanding the mandate of U.S. forces in Afghanistan to provide support for the electoral process.

### **Talking Points: Issue 4 -- Cluster Munitions**

- Submunitions are lawful weapons under the law of armed conflict. They have been widely used, and can be accurately directed to reduce the risk of incidental injury.
- The United States gives careful consideration when deciding whether to use submunitions in order to minimize the risk to civilians.

- Information about submunition failure rates has been inconsistent, but we are working to reduce failure rates so these weapons function against the enemy, and not against civilians or friendly forces.

*[If asked about use of cluster munitions in populated areas in Iraq]*

- Iraq violated the obligation of states not to place military targets among civilian populations.
- The U.S. military followed strict rules of engagement whether and when to use submunitions. Using other munitions would not necessarily decrease the risk to civilians. In many cases, other munitions would increase the risk of injury where an enemy has illegally placed military targets among a civilian population.

**Background:** The Human Rights Executive Directors Working Group will outline its concern about the humanitarian dangers arising from use of cluster munitions by U.S. forces.

Coordination: Tab A

Prepared by: (b)(6) SO/LIC Stability Operations, (b)(2) and (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Detainees Activities Office, (b)(2)  
Approved by: Caryn Hollis, Acting DASD Stability Operations, (b)(2)

INFO MEMO

DepSecDef \_\_\_\_\_

USD(P) \_\_\_\_\_

I-04/010339-DA

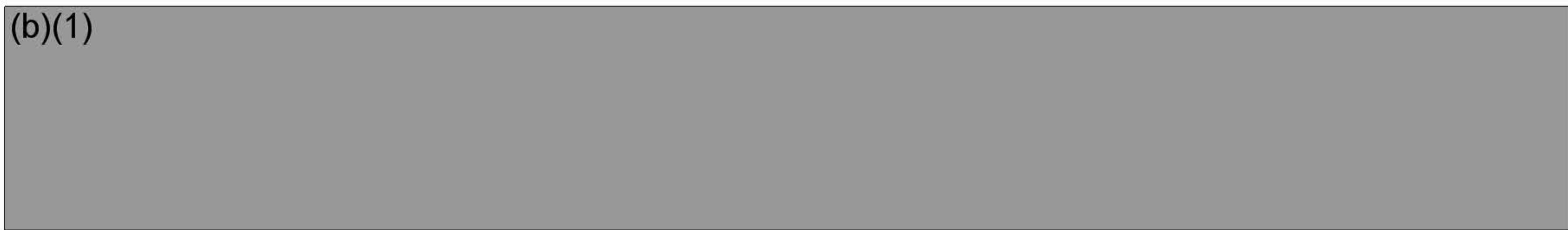
FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Ryan Henry, PD Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

SUBJECT: Defining "Ghost" Detainees

- (U) Members of Congress, the press, and some NGOs have raised questions and made allegations about "ghost" detainees. It is important to clarify the differences among detainees who are being categorized under this term and to set the record straight.


- (b)(1)



- (U) The media and Congress have since used the term "ghost" detainees to refer to three other categories of detainees:

- ~~(S)~~ Detainees recently captured: DoD policy is that detainees must have an ISN within 96 hours unless the security situation prohibits moving a detainee to a processing point in that time.

- (b)(1)



- (U) The attached talking points should be used in response to queries on the subject of "ghost" detainees to clarify the definition (Tab A).

Derived from: Multiple Sources  
Reason or Reasons: 1.4 (a)  
Declassify On: 3 August 2024

Coordination: Tab B

Attachment: As stated.

Prepared by: (b)(6) OUSD(P) Detainee Affairs, (b)(2)

**Talking Points on “Ghost” Detainees**

- There have been several recent media reports alleging that DoD holds “ghost” or “hidden” detainees. I would like to clarify this issue.
- DoD does not hold “ghost” detainees.
- All DoD detainees have internment numbers, and the Red Cross is notified that they are under DoD control.
  - DoD policy is to issue an internment number to each detainee captured within 96 hours.
- On occasion, for reasons of military necessity, DoD may restrict access to a detainee. However, the detainee is not “hidden” from the ICRC, and the ICRC knows that the person remains in DoD control.
- As I discussed in a press conference on June 17, there was one detainee in Iraq whom we did not register with the ICRC for about seven months in response to a request by the (b)(1)
- This situation was an anomaly, and DoD has taken steps to correct the situation. That situation does not reflect our policy on ICRC access to detainees.



COORDINATION

Office of the General Counsel  
Of the Department of Defense

Copy provided August 2, 2004

USD (Intelligence)

Copy provided August 2, 2004

Joint Staff

Copy provided August 2, 2004

ASD (Public Affairs)

Copy provided August 3, 2004

~~SECRET~~

In response refer to:  
I-04/010339-DA

FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INTELLIGENCE)  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)  
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: (b)(5) 

(b)(5) 

Please verify the veracity of the attached information memorandum and talking points and provide your coordination by August 9, 2004.

Ryan Henry

~~SECRET~~

Unclassified when separate from attachment

USD(P) AMNESTY/CCR 10







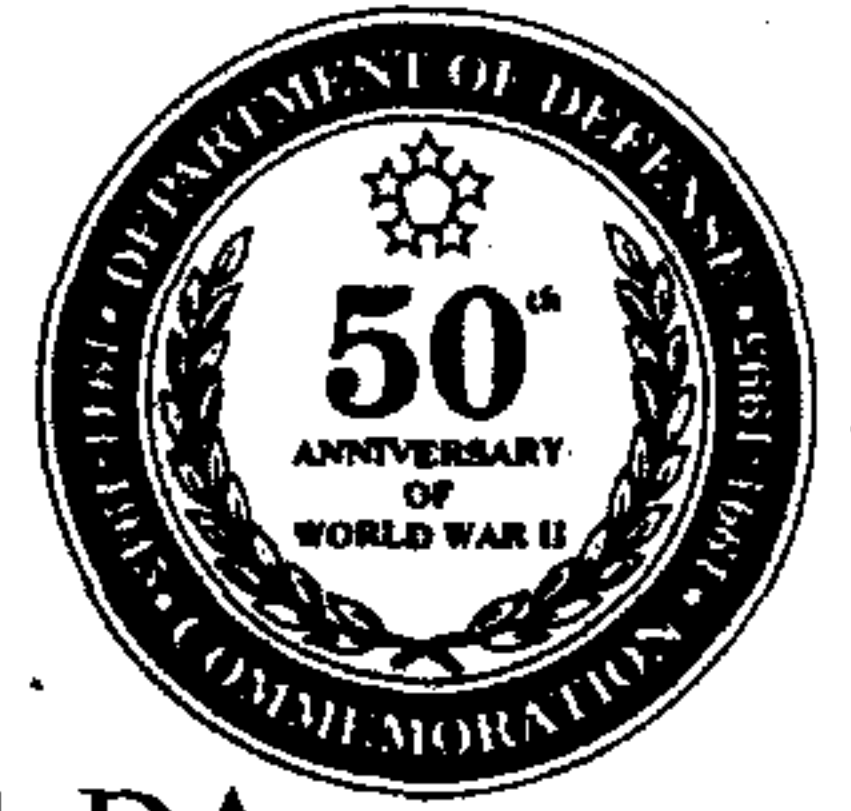






POLICY

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000



05/000431-DA

INFO MEMO

FOR PD UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

FROM: Matthew Waxman, DASD for Detainee Affairs *MW*  
*1/2*

SUBJECT: Alberto Gonzales Confirmation Hearing Testimony on Detainee Issues

- (U//~~FOUO~~) Judge Gonzales' testimony in his confirmation hearing unequivocally stated USG policy opposing torture.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) In the opening statements, Senator Leahy stated that the Justice (OLC) memo served as justification for "harsh treatment that is tantamount to torture." Further, he stated that the Department had agreed to detain "ghost detainees" in violation of international law for the purposes of hiding them from the ICRC. Senator Kennedy characterized U.S. interrogation techniques as committing acts of torture, and said we "tortured people" at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) In general, Democrat members of the committee vigorously pursued a line of questioning to imply that the Administration, the Department, and Judge Gonzales, supported, or intended to commit, acts of torture, and that the OLC "torture memos" gave legal force to that intent.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) Gonzales took the following positions in his testimony:
  - (U//~~FOUO~~) An unequivocal condemnation of the use of torture.
  - (U//~~FOUO~~) At the time of its issuance, he did not agree with the legal reasoning of the OLC memorandum interpreting the U.S. anti-torture statute (the "Torture Memo"), but it was not his position as White House Counsel to direct the analysis conducted by Justice.
  - (U//~~FOUO~~) It would be inappropriate to have expanded the protections of the Geneva Conventions to al Qaida and the Taliban because those combatants did not abide by the laws of war, and because the U.S. was not engaged in an international armed conflict in fighting them.





- (U//~~FOUO~~) It is correct to treat all detainees, regardless of status, humanely, and in the case of al Qaida and Taliban detainees, consistent with the Geneva Convention and military necessity as dictated in the President's November 11, 2001 military order.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) The Geneva Conventions applied in a limited manner in Afghanistan and applied in full in Iraq.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) The events of Abu Ghraib, based upon his understanding of the findings of the investigations conducted, were the result of failures of discipline and a "policy migration" problem.
- Key issues that have import to the Department:
  - As DoJ withdrew the "Torture Memo," and has subsequently issued a new memorandum interpreting the Federal Torture Statute in a different manner, questions may arise asking why the Department did not also withdraw its documents / policies based upon the original OLC interpretation of the federal torture statute.
  - In replying to such criticism, it would be important to state:
    - The Secretary revoked authorization for interrogation techniques beyond standard Army interrogation techniques long before the OLC withdrew its position.
    - In light of the new OLC opinion, we are preparing for the Secretary's signature a directive that DoD components review the new opinion and ensure that DoD policies and guidelines are in compliance.
  - Judge Gonzales offered an analysis on the findings of the independent investigative panels. In his testimony, Gonzales stated that policy migration was to blame. Critics may charge the Department with not doing enough to rectify this "problem."
    - The Office of Detainee Affairs, the Joint Staff and the Combatant Commands are analyzing this issue and implementing changes.
    - We are in the process of publicizing our efforts to address the recommendations put forth in the investigative reports.

Document 4

**From:** O'Connell, Thomas, HON, OSD-POLICY  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2004 8:00 AM  
**To:** Henry, Ryan, HON, OSD-POLICY; Haynes, WJ, Hon, DoD-OGC; Liotta, Alan, CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) OSD-POLICY; Butler, Paul, CIV, OSD; Di Rita, Larry, CIV, OSD; Waxman, Matthew, CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) OSD-LA  
**Cc:** Feith, Douglas, HON, OSD-POLICY; Boykin, William G, LTG, OSD-NII  
**Subject:** Comment from SEN Reed (D) RI (FOUO)

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Had a chance meeting w/ Sen Reed of Rhode Island on Saturday. He was friendly but cautioned that SASC would be soon looking into specific reasons why there were "ghost detainees" at AG prison. Said whole incident- to include military agreements w/ CIA should be explored.

Thomas W. O'Connell  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict

This may contain information exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Marshall Center PTSS Daily 29 October 2007

From: VanBuren, Donald CPL. [vanburend@marshallcenter.org]

Sent: Monday, October 29, 2007 11:01 AM

To: Graduate Support Office

Subject: Marshall Center PTSS Daily - 29 October 2007

Attachments: image012.gif; image013.gif; image014.gif; image015.jpg;  
image016.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image020.jpg;  
image021.jpg

PTSS Daily

29 October 2007

The PTSS Daily is a special service provided to graduates of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. You may forward this e-mail provided that you forward it in its entirety.

This newsletter is produced by Ms. Leigh Ann Truly, the Marshall Center Research Library staff, and the faculty of the Program on Terrorism and Security Studies, under the direction of Professor Nick Pratt, Colonel USMC Retired. Please send comments to: [mcalumni@marshallcenter.org](mailto:mcalumni@marshallcenter.org)

NOTE: If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please send a message to the link below.

"I do not wish to receive future versions of the PTSS Daily."  
<<mailto:mcalumni@marshallcenter.org>>

Editor's Note: Due to the large size of the secondary documents, the PTSS DAILY for today, 29 October 2007 will come in two broadcasts.

Thought for the Day:

"Europe today is witnessing the growth of a disturbing new subculture that mixes violent urban behaviors, nihilism and Islamic fundamentalism. Many young, often European-born Muslims feel a disturbingly intense sense of detachment from, if not sheer hatred for, their host societies and embrace various antagonistic messages."  
-- Lorenzo Vidino

[See lead article in General Counterterrorism News, "Current Trends in Jihadi Networks in Europe."]

Flash Points:

AFGHANISTAN: A suicide bomber killed four Afghan soldiers outside a US base in Paktika province on 27 October (Reuters).

INDIA: Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M) cadres killed 23 people in two separate incidents on 27 October in Jharkhand state (Hindustan Times).

Page 1

USD(P) AMNESTY/CCR 19

IRAN: On 28 October Iran's minister of foreign affairs accused the US and Israel of supporting Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq, accusing them of being "behind some terrorist activities" (AP).

IRAQ: Gunmen kidnapped ten members of a tribal group fighting Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) on 28 October as they returned to their homes in Diyala from a meeting in Baghdad (Reuters).

: A suicide car bomber killed at least six people and wounded nearly 30 in an attack in Kirkuk on 28 October (Al Jazeera).

SUDAN: Abdul wahid al-Nur, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), said on 27 October that the peace talks in Libya would fail, and called on his followers not to attend (Guardian).

THAILAND: A Thai-Buddhist civilian was killed and twelve wounded by a 7 kg bomb in the Rangae district of Narathiwat on 27 October (Bangkok Post).

TURKEY: Three people were injured by an explosion on 28 October at a demonstration protesting against the actions of the Workers Party of Kurdistan (Partiya Karkaren Kurdistan: PKK) in Izmit (Reuters)

: Turkish troops killed 20 Workers Party of Kurdistan (Partiya Karkaren Kurdistan: PKK) cadres in the east of the country on 28 October (Reuters).

UNITED KINGDOM: Ahead of a state visit to the UK, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah on 29 October accused the UK of not doing enough to fight international terrorism, which he said could take 20 to 30 years to beat (BBC).

#### Top Headlines:

Coalition: 80 Taliban Killed

Source:

Story Highlights;

- \* Battle near Musa Qala is at least the fifth major fight there since September
- \* Four bombs dropped on a trench line filled with Taliban, coalition says
- \* Musa Qala, surrounding region is front line of fighting this year

\* Four Afghan soldiers, civilian killed in suicide bomber attack on base

U.S.-led coalition forces killed about 80 Taliban fighters during a six-hour battle outside a Taliban-controlled town in southern Afghanistan Saturday, the latest in a series of increasingly bloody engagements in the region, officials said.

The battle near Musa Qala in Helmand province -- the world's largest poppy growing region -- is at least the fifth major fight in the area since September 1. The five battles have killed more than 250 Taliban fighters, a possible sign that U.S. or British forces could be trying to wrest the area back from Taliban militants.

The latest fight began when Taliban fighters attacked a combined U.S. coalition and Afghan patrol with rockets and gunfire, prompting the combined force to call in attack aircraft, which resulted in "almost seven dozen Taliban fighters killed," the U.S.-led coalition said in a statement early Sunday.

The coalition said that four bombs were dropped on a trench line filled with Taliban <[http://topics.cnn.com/topics/The\\_Taliban](http://topics.cnn.com/topics/The_Taliban)> fighters, resulting in most of the deaths.

Taliban militants overran Musa Qala in February, four months after British troops left the town following a contentious peace agreement that handed over security responsibilities to Afghan elders. Musa Qala has been in control of Taliban fighters ever since.

Situated in the north of Helmand, Musa Qala and the region around it have been the front line of the bloodiest fighting this year. It is also the heartland of Afghanistan's illicit opium poppy farms.

Violence in Afghanistan <<http://topics.cnn.com/topics/Afghanistan>> this year has been the deadliest since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. More than 5,200 people have died this year due to the insurgency, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and western officials

Also Saturday, suicide bomber wearing an Afghan security uniform detonated his explosives at the entrance to a combined U.S.-Afghan base in the east of the country, killing four Afghan soldiers and a civilian, officials said. The suicide bomber walked up to a security gate for Afghan soldiers outside Forward Operating Base Bermel in the eastern province of Paktika, near the border with Pakistan, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said.

Four Afghan soldiers and a civilian were killed and six Afghans were wounded, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said. No Americans were hurt.

It was not immediately clear if the bomber had been trying to gain entry to the base.

Taliban insurgents have set off more than 100 suicide blasts this year, a record pace.

Elsewhere, Taliban militants killed three Afghan police who had been trying to prevent them from carrying out a kidnapping, said Helmand provincial police Chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwai. The militants successfully kidnapped an Afghan man during the gun battle, he said.

Australia's prime minister, meanwhile, said more NATO powers must directly engage the Taliban to help ease the burden on Australia, the United States, Britain, Canada and the Netherlands, which all have troops in the dangerous southern and central parts of Afghanistan.

Germany, Italy, France and Spain have troops in the relatively safer northern

sections, a fact that is causing a rift within NATO. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said those countries need to help ease the burden on countries operating in the south. "Some of the other countries have lots of troops in Afghanistan, but they're not in some of the areas that are experiencing the heaviest fighting," he said.

The governments of the Netherlands and Canada, in particular, are coming under domestic pressure to pull out troops because of heavy casualties. I think the Dutch government has been very courageous to date," Howard said. "It's not for me to comment on Dutch politics, but I do observe that the Dutch are making a great contribution and as are of course the Canadians."

#### Justice Department 'Dismayed' Over Release Of USS Cole Bombing Leader

Source: Terry Frieden and Kelli Arena CNN, updated 8:56 p.m. EDT, Fri October 26, 2007

#### Story Highlights:

- \* Jamal al-Badawi, a leader in the USS Cole bombing, has been released
- \* Al-Badawi is one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists
- \* Rudy Giuliani calls on U.S. government to cancel \$20 million in aid to Yemen
- \* U.S. officials close to the case express outrage over the release

U.S. law enforcement officials Friday blasted Yemen's release of one of the leaders of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, which killed 17 U.S. soldiers.

"We are dismayed and deeply disappointed in the government of Yemen's decision not to imprison [Jamal al-Badawi]," said a Justice Department statement issued by the Department's National Security Division. We have communicated our displeasure to Yemeni officials," the statement said.

The statement pointedly referred to al-Badawi <[http://topics.cnn.com/topics/jamal\\_al\\_badawi](http://topics.cnn.com/topics/jamal_al_badawi)> as one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists and noted prosecutors in New York City want to get their hands on him. "He was convicted in Yemeni courts and has been indicted in the Southern District of New York," the Justice Department said. Officials said the decision is not consistent with cooperation between counterterrorism officials of the United States and Yemen <<http://topics.cnn.com/topics/yemen>> . Al-Badawi -- who had escaped prison last year -- was freed after turning himself in two weeks ago, renouncing terrorism and pledging allegiance to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, according to news reports. Witnesses said al-Badawi was "receiving well-wishers at his home" in Aden, Yemen, according to The Associated Press in Sana, Yemen.

Former New York City Mayor and presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani promptly called for the U.S. government to cancel \$20 million in aid to Yemen for releasing al-Badawi. The retired former commander of the Cole <[http://topics.cnn.com/topics/uss\\_cole/](http://topics.cnn.com/topics/uss_cole/)> called the release "disappointing." "In the war on terrorism, actions speak stronger than words, and this act by the Yemeni government is a clear demonstration that they are neither a reliable nor trustworthy partner in the war on terrorism," said Cmdr. Kirk Lippold.

U.S. law enforcement officials close to the case privately expressed outrage over the release of al-Badawi. "He's got American blood on his hands. He confessed to what he did ... and they let him go," said one official who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak publicly. "This will not be the

last we hear of him," another federal official under the same restriction told CNN's Kelli Arena.

The Justice Department said U.S. officials will try to work with the Yemeni government "to ensure al-Badawi is held accountable for his past actions." Suicide bombers on a boat attacked the guided missile destroyer USS Cole on October 12, 2000, in the harbor at Aden. Seventeen U.S. sailors were killed and 39 injured. Al-Badawi, convicted in 2004 and sentenced to death, previously escaped from prison in 2003, before his trial, and was recaptured in 2004. In 2006, he escaped again with 22 others, and had been at large since then.

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(One of the main organizers of Al Qaeda's recruiting operation was arrested by Yemeni security forces along with 6 others in the city of Aden. The port city is a major hub for the exporting of suicide bombers for service in Iraq. The name of the individual arrested was not given.)

Turkey Intensifies Ops in SE But No Border Crossing Yet

PM Erdogan promised no Iraq incursion before DC visit; Ankara talks failed.

Synopsis: Turkish counter-insurgency operations along its side of the Turkey-Iraq border have intensified in recent weeks, reportedly killing at least 65 PKK rebels over the last week. Over 8,000 troops backed by helicopter gun ships and artillery assaulted PKK positions in the border region within Turkey. Meanwhile, speaking after crisis talks with Iraqi officials ended unsatisfactorily, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey will launch a military strike against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq when necessary, regardless of the international community's attitude. He had assured Washington early in the week that no border incursion would take place before he completed next week's DC visit and talks with President Bush. His DC talks are one component of the extensive diplomatic activity underway on the issue. Iran's President Ahmadinejad has also weighed in, calling Iraq's Prime Minister Maliki and agreeing to cooperate against PKK separatists and he received a call from Turkey's President Gul on the same subject. Also, Turkey's Foreign Minister Ali Babacan is visiting Iran this week and the PKK problem will figure prominently in those discussions. Iran is also fighting Kurdish militants sneaking from bases in Iraq. The Iraqi delegation, which left Ankara Saturday, had proposed reinforcing Iraqi military outposts at the Turkish border to prevent infiltration and reviving a tripartite panel of Turkish, Iraqi and US officers to coordinate efforts against the separatists. Turkey rejected the idea of the U.S. stationing forces along the border.

Analysis/Road Ahead: Facing intense domestic political pressure, but recognizing the potentially negative impact an incursion may have on regional stability, Prime Minister Erdogan has embarked on a two-prong strategy; 1) intensify military operations against the PKK within Turkey while building up forces to attack their bases in Iraq, and 2) build a regional consensus for action against the PKK that

Marshall Center PTSS Daily 29 October 2007

will pressure the U.S. and Baghdad into suppressing PKK activities and forces within Northern Iraq. He has two hopes in engaging Iran – using Tehran's influence in and on Iraq, and using U.S. concerns about Iranian influence to give further impetus for American officials to pressure Iraq's Kurds into taking action against the PKK. Prime Minister Erdogan doesn't want to jeopardize U.S. relations or any planned agreements, but unless he sees concrete efforts emerging against the PKK, he will launch a border incursion, although it will be limited in scope, depth and duration.

Sources: AFP, AP, BBC, Turkish Press Review, 27-29 Oct 07. Earlier media reporting

#### Fighting Escalates in Pakistan's NW Tribal Area

Pakistani troops attacked militants in Swat.

Synopsis: Pakistani troops and helicopter gunships have attacked militants in the north-western district of Swat, reportedly killing 10 of them. Violence flared in the area a few days ago, after about 2,500 soldiers were deployed to the area to combat rising Islamist militancy. At least 17 troops died in an apparent bomb attack on a paramilitary vehicle on Thursday, and clashes followed. Hundreds of local people have been fleeing the violence. Pakistan is moving to confront pro-Taliban militant Maulana Fazlullah, who wants to impose Sharia law and has reportedly used radio broadcasts to call for jihad, or holy war, against the Pakistani authorities. After clashes erupted, militants captured and beheaded six security officials and killed seven civilians. Sunday's fighting took place near the town of Mingora, after militants fired at paramilitaries, the Pakistani army said. "People are leaving their homes. All shops and markets are closed," a scared resident told Reuters. Swat is one of a number of areas near the Afghan border where militants have been stepping up attacks in recent months. In a possibly related development, tribal elders in the border area of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) ordered all militants to leave the area by 04 November or face attack, following the militants' mistreatment of local villagers.

Analysis/Road Ahead: The government has taken action against Qazi Fazlullah because of his attacks on government officials, local tourist sites, and pro-government tribal elders. Although Qazi denies any connection to the Taliban, he shares their political ideology and goals and his madrassas has been used as a training facility for Talibanists and other militants. Qazi remains on the run within the district but continues his radio broadcasts from a mobile transmitter, calling on his followers to strike at all blasphemers (video stores, movie houses, westerners and Pakistani government officials). The government is using Frontier Corps personnel because of their better familiarity with the terrain backed by Army artillery and, if required helicopter gunships and motorized forces. The insurgents will continue to employ IEDs, car bombs and classic guerrilla tactics, but the extent of villager support or acquiescence will shape the government campaign's duration. However, success lies in establishing government services and sustaining its authority

Sources: AFP, BBC, Dawn, 28 Oct 07. Earlier media reporting.

#### Niger Delta Militants Kidnap Six Oil Workers, Shut Down Oil Facility

The 26 October attack forced Italy's ENI to halt production.

Synopsis: Gunmen kidnapped six workers from an Italian oil production facility off the coast of Nigeria, forcing Italy's ENI to halt production of 50,000 barrels per



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day. It was the second kidnapping from an offshore oilfield in Nigeria in one week, undermining a five-month ceasefire by armed groups which had raised hopes for peace talks with the government. The gunmen overpowered an oil industry vessel shortly before dawn and used it to board the nearby Mystras oil production facility, operated by Saipem and SBM Offshore. "Attackers managed to climb aboard the FPSO Mystras and seized six workers, whose nationalities are Polish, Filipino and Nigerian." Another Nigerian worker reportedly was injured. The Mystras floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel pumps oil from the Okono Okpoho field. The Nigerian Navy dispatched a vessel to the area. Nigeria's oil production has dropped 20% since a surge in militant attacks and kidnappings in February 2006. Armed groups fighting for regional control over the oil resources of the Niger Delta had observed a ceasefire since the inauguration of President Umaru Yar'Adua in May, who promised to address the underlying causes of the conflict. However, a prominent rebel leader, Henry Okah of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), was arrested in Angola last month and Nigeria is trying to bring him home to face charges. MEND threatened to resume attacks, and claimed responsibility for last Saturday's attack on Shell's EA field, in which seven workers were taken hostage for two days. No group has yet claimed responsibility for this latest attack.

Analysis/Road Ahead: This latest attack confirms that the militants have ended their ceasefire and the seizure of a supply vessel to facilitate entry to the oil facility marks a new and potential more dangerous tactic in the Niger Delta insurgency. It will complicate oil company security efforts by forcing them to choose between placing security detachments on each vessel or forcing them to lie off the platform until a boarding party can search them. Neither is an inexpensive prospect nor a guarantee of oil platform security. The militants will resume a pace of weekly attacks by October's end and double that by early next year unless the government demonstrates progress on the region's concerns. The resumed violence contributed to the concerns that spiked oil prices above \$90 a barrel.

Sources: AP, BBC Radio, Oil and Gas News, 26 Oct 07. Earlier media reporting.

Counterterrorism News by Nation:

Afghanistan

NATO Afghan Force Is Insufficient, US General Says

Source: Reuters, Jon Hemming, 27 Oct 07

NATO is taking a risk by not sending enough troops to Afghanistan. Afghanistan has seen an increase in violence this year, with more clashes with Taliban insurgents and more suicide bombings, killing as many as 5,000 people since January. While the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) claims significant battlefield successes against the Taliban, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has led calls for NATO nations to send more soldiers and allow them to do more. ISAF commander General Dan McNeill said NATO countries had not even sent troops already promised. "NATO agreed last year to a force level here ... it prescribed a minimum force ... that force has not been filled yet. On that basis alone, I think, no, I don't have enough force here," he told Reuters in an interview. "We are taking a certain amount of risk by having an unfilled force," he said. Many of the 37 nations contributing troops impose tight restrictions, known as caveats, barring them from offensive operations or from deployment in the more dangerous south. German troops in the relatively safe north, for example, are not allowed to patrol at night, officials say. "The caveats impinge on my ability to use all those principles of war in both planning and prosecuting operations," McNeill said. "When countries say their forces can only operate in certain ways and in a certain geographic space that certainly impinges on my ability to mass forces."

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The government was aware of this possibility because the relevant plans were drafted during the EU's German Presidency. Nevertheless, it still decided not to object and to refrain from raising any reservations. On the contrary, it gave assurances that it was in favor of every European initiative leading to the exchange of intelligence, data, etc. Taking the opportunity presented, it raised the issue of the accelerating rate of illegal immigration and asked for financial assistance in order to fortify the Greek frontiers, since our country forms the South-Eastern corner of Europe and a major gateway for entry to the continent.

The report of the AAPD

The creation and maintenance of DNA records for use in criminal investigations will inevitably lead to dangers..

In its annual report the AAPD's chairman, Dh. Gourgourakis, stresses that the use of any records should be on a limited basis. Moreover, as he points out, there could be grave repercussions to our criminal law system if the use of the DNA data base extends to include all criminal cases and not merely extremely grave ones. The probable dangers increase due to the fact that the data base will be used not just for the investigation of criminal activities but also for their prevention. The AAPD has also expressed reservations about the intention to use biometric data for the identification of individual persons, believing that this system is prone to mistakes.

Therefore, it is possible that even though biometric data are taken from two different persons, these could be claimed to originate only from one, and vice versa. In other words, biometric data taken from the same person at different times could appear to come from different persons. This could lead to false conclusions, even if this happens in a small number of cases. From comparisons among one million sets of fingerprints, it is believed that an average of 10 false conclusions is made.

SOS for human rights

The AAPD warned a long time ago of all the unpredictable consequences and lurking dangers facing human rights because of various European agreements that allow the monitoring of persons as a deterrent measure. It has also identified a number of "grey areas" included in such agreements, such as the PRUM Convention, because they leave open the possibility of using the data base and to exchange information not only for persons already convicted but also for mere suspects or witnesses. They could also be aimed against "undesirable" troublemaking soccer fans or "troublesome" demonstrators. Furthermore, it underlines that the new proposals are a reversal of the current system governing the exchange of personal data, which is strictly regulated, within the framework of the existing cooperation between judicial and police authorities regarding criminal cases.

On the contrary, it sets up as a rule for the collection of numerous personal data, some of which could be of a sensitive nature, in order to act as a deterrent measure and allow them to be used by the authorities of other European states. This, according to the AAPD, could jeopardize constitutionally-protected human rights.

India

Maoist Rebels Kill 18 in Attack on Indian Village

Source: Ranjana Shukla Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 27 Oct 07

At least 18 people, including a former minister's son, were killed overnight when Maoist rebels opened fire on a group of football spectators in eastern India, a

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But the four-star U.S. general said there was no purely military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and ISAF was simply buying time for Afghan forces to take on the Taliban. "A military dimension is part of the solution, it is not the whole solution. We have to build robust and fully capable Afghan national security forces," he said. While the Afghan army is becoming more capable of independently engaging Taliban rebels in the field, McNeill said there was still a long way to go to build up the Afghan police which is key to combating the threat of suicide attacks. More than 200 people have been killed in around 130 suicide attacks this year -- more than all of 2006 -- as Taliban insurgents switch to what the military calls asymmetrical warfare after suffering heavy defeats in pitched battles. Security has improved since a year ago though, McNeill said, when many feared the rebels would seize their former stronghold city of Kandahar and follow it with a large spring offensive. "The rhetoric from last fall has been 'we're coming, we've got an offensive coming'. Well maybe they did, but none of us has seen it," he said. Military success against the Taliban has been marred by a number of incidents in which civilians have been killed. Afghan President Hamid Karzai demanded foreign forces use fewer air strikes as they kill too many civilians, he said in an interview to be broadcast on U.S. television on Sunday. McNeill said he had issued a directive in June slightly modifying the rules of engagement for launching air strikes. "I think President Karzai's statement to me about seven or eight days ago was that, yes, he thought that that had had the desired effect," he said. "We take every precaution to minimize risk to non-combatants as well as to the property of Afghans." The general said the Taliban used civilians as human shields and attacked from houses, inviting civilian casualties, and had harmed their own cause with indiscriminate suicide attacks. Similarly, the accidental killing of civilians hurt ISAF's efforts in Afghanistan.

#### Battles Near Taliban-Held Town Intensify

Source: AP, 29 October

Days after Taliban fighters overran Musa Qala, a U.S. commander pledged that western troops would take it back. Nine months later, the town is still Taliban territory, a symbol of the west's struggles to control the poppy-growing south. But a string of recent battles around Musa Qala, won overwhelmingly by American Special Forces, signal a renewed U.S. focus on the symbolic Taliban stronghold. An Afghan army commander said Sunday that U.S. and Afghan forces have taken over the area around the town and that Afghan commanders are holding talks with Musa Qala's tribal leaders to persuade them to expel the Arab, Chechen and Uzbek foreign fighters who roam its streets alongside the Taliban militants. U.S. Special Forces soldiers accompanied by Afghan troops killed about 80 fighters during a six-hour battle outside Musa Qala on Saturday, the latest in a series of increasingly deadly engagements in Helmand province -- the world's largest poppy-growing region and the front line of Afghanistan's bloodiest fighting this year. There have been at least five major battles in the area since Sept. 1, including Saturday's fighting, and Special Forces troops have killed more than 250 militants, according to coalition statements.

"Musa Qala is part of the overall concept here, denying the Taliban the ability to control northern Helmand," said Maj. Chris Belcher, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition. "Our goal is to stop them from accomplishing that ... We're in Musa Qala and we're going to stay there." The vast majority of western forces in Helmand are British, though U.S. Special Forces troops are also active in the province. Taliban militants overran Musa Qala on Feb. 1, four months after British troops left the town following a contentious peace agreement that handed over security responsibilities to Afghan elders. Days after the Taliban takeover a U.S. military spokesman, Col. Tom Collins, said NATO and Afghan forces would take back the town "at a time and place that is most advantageous." Lt. Col. Richard Eaton, a spokesman for British troops in Helmand, said that "nothing in Afghanistan is ever

straightforward." "You can't do everything simultaneously. That is not how a counterinsurgency works," Eaton said. "As (the commander of NATO's forces in Afghanistan) has said, we will deal with Musa Qala at a time of our choosing." Eaton also did not rule out the possibility of future peace talks in the town, saying that the solutions to insurgencies are political.

Brig. Gen. Ghulam Muhiddin Ghorl, a top Afghan army commander in Helmand, said the foreign fighters are running training camps near Musa Qala to teach militants how to carry out suicide and roadside bomb attacks. But he said no big military operations are being launched to overtake the town itself because of a fear of civilian casualties. "Afghan and coalition forces have surrounded the Musa Qala district center. We have started negotiations with tribal leaders there to take over Musa Qala from the Taliban," Ghorl told The Associated Press. "The tribal leaders are also worried about these Taliban because the foreign fighters - Arabs, Chechens, Baluchs and Uzbeks - they are in Musa Qala." Violence in Afghanistan this year has been the deadliest since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. More than 5,200 people have died this year due to the insurgency, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and western officials. The latest Musa Qala battle began Saturday when Taliban insurgents attacked a combined U.S. coalition and Afghan patrol with rockets and gunfire, prompting the combined force to call in attack aircraft, resulting in "almost seven dozen Taliban fighters killed," the U.S.-led coalition said. The coalition said four bombs were dropped on a trench line filled with fighters, resulting in most of the deaths. It said there were no immediate reports of civilian casualties.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez, declined to talk about Musa Qala at a news conference in Kabul on Sunday. Speaking on a separate topic, he said it could take between 18 months and two years for Afghan units to be able to conduct major operations on their own. Rodriguez said Afghan forces excel at small-unit tactics and coordinating with the Afghan people but still need to improve their command structure, the use of air power, their logistics support and medical capabilities. NATO's International Security Assistance Force, meanwhile, said an investigation into allegations of civilian casualties in Wardak province on Oct. 22 found that no civilians had been killed. A provincial council member at the time said 12 civilians had been killed, but ISAF said the investigation found that the allegations were "without merit." Separately, a suicide bomber blew himself up next to a taxi-stand in Lashkar Gah, Helmand's capital, killing one civilian and wounding six others, said provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwai. The bomber was also killed in the blast. Andiwai could not say who was the target of the attack or whether the explosives on the body of the bomber went off prematurely.

#### Australia Urges Europe To Do More In Afghanistan

Source: FOCUS News Agency, 26 Oct 07

Sydney. Europe should deploy more troops to the dangerous southern regions of Afghanistan, Australia's foreign minister said Friday as the country mourned its second soldier killed there in three weeks.

Alexander Downer said Australia would welcome forces from NATO's European members joining them in southern Afghanistan, the former stronghold of the extremist Taliban regime and now the focus of insurgent attacks. "Many of the European NATO countries have their troops in the north, which is not free of Taliban activity, but it is a good deal quieter and a less threatening environment," Downer told reporters. "We would like to see some of the restrictions that European parliaments have placed on their troops lifted." His comments echo those made earlier this week by US Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who said restrictions on where European troops could be deployed and what they could do were putting NATO

soldiers at a serious disadvantage. Downer was speaking following the death of an elite Australian soldier in southern Uruzgan province who was killed by small arms fire while on patrol. (AFP)

## Algeria

### Algerian Forces Kill 15 Islamic Militants-Papers

Source: Reuters, 27 Oct 07

Algerian government forces stepping up attacks on al Qaeda-aligned armed groups.

Algerian government forces, stepping up attacks on al Qaeda-aligned armed groups, killed 15 militants and captured seven in the past two days near the Tunisian border, newspapers reported on Saturday. They also seized large quantities of ammunition and destroyed several hideouts in the operation in Tebessa province, 630 km (400 miles) east of the capital Algiers, the government-owned El Moudjahid said, citing a security source. One army officer was killed in the offensive, which was launched by a combined force of the army, police and municipal guards, based on information provided by a rebel who had surrendered, the independent newspaper Liberte said. The rebel group may have had links to a failed assassination attempt on President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in Batna town in September, said the independent daily El watan. The Al Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb claimed the attempt in Batna by a suicide bomber, in which 22 people were killed, as well as three other suicide bombings this year. The armed movement, previously known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), has switched to high-profile urban bombings. Seventy-five people were killed in political violence last month including 60 in suicide blasts, according to a Reuters account based on newspaper reports. Algeria is emerging from more than a decade of conflict that began when the military-backed government scrapped 1992 legislative elections a radical Islamic party was poised to win. Authorities had feared an Iranian-style revolution. Up to 200,000 people have been killed during the ensuing violence. The bloodshed has subsided in recent years and last year the government freed more than 2,000 former Islamist guerrillas under an amnesty designed to put an end to the conflict.

### 17 Islamists Killed In Algerian Army Raids

[The Jijel ambush is a different operation.]

Source: IOL, 27 Oct 07

The Algerian army killed 17 Islamist rebels during security operations in the east of the country over three days this week, security sources said Saturday.

One army officer was also killed in the raids, the sources added. Fifteen Islamists died in a major attack on their base at Djebel Al-Anoual, near Tebessa on the Tunisian frontier. The officer was killed in the attack which was backed up by helicopters, the sources said. The operation was launched after an Islamist gave himself up and offered information about an attempted attack on President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's convoy on September 6 in the south-east of the country in which 15 people died. The sources said two more Islamists were killed in an army ambush at Jijel, about 300 kilometers (180 miles) northeast of Algiers.

## Recasting Jihad in the Maghreb

Source: Andrew Black, Terrorism Monitor, Volume 5, Issue 20 (October 25, 2007)

It has been a little over one year since Ayman al-Zawahiri announced the official merger between al-Qaeda and the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC), and since that time the jihad in the Maghreb has passed through a tumultuous and dynamic period. On the one hand, it has been characterized by an increase in bombings—particularly in public settings—the use of suicide attackers, and the targeting of foreign nationals and assets. Yet, on the other hand, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the successor to the GSPC, has more recently exhibited signs of internal fissures, largely resulting from recruitment issues and the actions of its amir, Abu Musab Abd al-wadoud (Liberte, September 18; Terrorism Monitor, September 13). Recent reports allege that al-wadoud has been replaced by Ahmad Haroun, a claim refuted on the AQIM website (<http://qmagreb.org>, October 6; El-Khabar, October 3). Despite the operational successes of the past year and al-wadoud's apparent ability to recast the regional jihad, the divisiveness within the organization has made its future somewhat precarious.

## The Changing Landscape

In late July, AQIM released a statement noting that it had succeeded in restructuring and reforming the agenda of the Algerian jihad (MEMRI, July 25). The extent of these adjustments encompasses matters from strategy, such as targeting foreigners, to tactics, such as the use of suicide operatives. At the broadest level, this reform has led the Algerian jihad to shift from a nationalist to a regionalist movement, as exhibited in January 2007 when al-wadoud announced that the GSPC would be changing its name to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, a name more reflective of the organization's expanding purview (Terrorism Monitor, February 1).

Operationally, AQIM has recently been linked with numerous activities outside of Algeria. Although the GSPC had been known to conduct operations throughout the Maghreb and into sub-Saharan Africa—notably exhibited in a June 2005 attack on the Lemgheity military barracks in northeastern Mauritania—since the merger there are signs that AQIM has placed greater emphasis on recruiting and perpetrating attacks in each of the states in the Maghreb. A prime example of this is a disrupted plot in Tunisia, which would have initially targeted the U.S. and UK embassies in Tunis around the New Year, followed by smaller attacks on tourist sites throughout the country. Significant information came to the attention of Algerian and Tunisian security officials that the plot was closely linked with the GSPC and included a Mauritanian member of the Algerian group. His involvement in the plot and more recent reports of non-Algerians operating under the AQIM banner are a testament to al-wadoud's ability to not only recruit foreigners, but also to deploy them throughout the region (Liberte, August 7; El-Khabar, August 21). Other recent examples of AQIM's regional operations include the group's links with a disrupted plot in Morocco, as well as a September report that Egyptian authorities were investigating AQIM's attempts to procure forged passports for its members traveling to Iraq (MAP, October 20; Elaph, September 4).

Beyond this, efforts in the public relations arena have grown dramatically under al-wadoud's leadership. Stretching back to the summer of 2004 when he became amir of the GSPC, al-wadoud has placed great emphasis on the organization's information operations (Terrorism Focus, May 15). In an attempt to eliminate the near information blackout his predecessors had cast on the organization—and no doubt heeding al-Zawahiri's advisement that the jihadi movement must not become isolated from the populace—al-wadoud began to engage the Algerian people and the outside world through an enhanced information campaign [1]. Though clumsily executed at first, the GSPC/AQIM media apparatus has become comparable to those found in other jihadi venues. AQIM now disseminates regular videos of attacks, such as the "Under the Shadow of the Swords" series, as well as statements from al-wadoud through a variety of affiliated forums, which is largely due to the

inconsistency of the group's website [2].

### Style of Attack

Militarily, al-wadoud has gone beyond the minimalist strategies of his predecessors and enacted a multifaceted campaign blending guerrilla attacks in eastern Algeria with publicity grabbing bombings in urban areas. Whereas the GSPC had previously relegated itself to engaging the government in rural, mainly northeastern Algeria, al-wadoud has chosen to expand the campaign to include increasing urban attacks like the April 11 dual bombings in Algiers.

Fundamental to AQIM's campaign is target selection, often an important indicator of an organization's ideological leanings and grand strategy. In the GSPC/AQIM case, this target set is diverse but has remained largely unchanged since 2004, although priorities within this set have clearly been altered. The key themes include a virulent hatred of foreigners alleged to be supporting the "apostate regimes" and pillaging North African resources. France, in particular, has featured prominently in the organization's rhetoric—famously highlighted in al-Zawahiri's quote from his September 11, 2006 speech that the GSPC be a "a bone in the throat of the American and French crusaders" (Le Monde, September 18; Libération, September 19; Terrorism Focus, August 7). Specifically, AQIM's leadership has identified France's cultural influence, which is palpable throughout Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, as being a source of corruption within the region. The previous day, AQIM injured two Frenchmen and an Italian in a bombing near Lakhdaria (Echorouk Online, September 21). Al-Zawahiri addressed the issue in a September 20 speech calling for AQIM to purge "the Islamic Maghreb of the French and the Spanish who have returned there" (MEMRI, September 20). Consistent with the jihadi narrative, AQIM has named both the United States and United Kingdom as legitimate targets, whose embassies were targets in the aforementioned Tunis plot. Finally, there are indications that AQIM is looking to target the region's tourist and energy sectors, arguably the backbone of the Maghrebi economies [3]. Although terrorism has not had a significant impact on regional economies in recent history, there is concern among regional governments that a revived terrorist threat could be a drain on their economies, particularly given the reliance on revenue from these sectors (Dar al-Hayat, April 27).

Al-wadoud's efforts to alter both the ideology and strategy of the organization have also manifested in the use of suicide bombers in Algeria, such as the April 11 attacks and the September bombings in Dellys and Batna. Although suicide attacks have previously been committed in the region and Algerians have even perpetrated martyrdom operations in other jihadi venues, this tactic has not been featured in the Algerian context despite the country's long and brutal civil war. In addition to the obvious tactical benefits that martyrdom operations bring—which are a critical component of the narrative of the Global Salafi-Jihad—they are powerful symbols of the vitality of an organization's struggle and are also an important legitimizing mechanism for its cause. As seen in the aftermath of the April 11 bombing, each suicide operative is lionized as a hero, his symbolic death effectively declaring the organization's cause to be worth giving oneself up for. In the case of AQIM—an organization attempting to congeal support while mobilizing and recruiting additional members—martyrdom is a potent addition to the attack repertoire. Although al-wadoud's decision to employ suicide operations has brought criticism from within and without his organization, the AQIM amir has received support for his decision from key figures in the global jihadi movement, most notably from Abu Yahya al-Libi (Echorouk Online, August 12; MEMRI, August 17). However, insofar as AQIM can encourage Iraqi veterans to return to the Maghreb and fight or recruit under its banner—and there are signs that this has occurred—the employment of suicide operations will likely increase (El-watan, September 12).

### The Threat to the West

Well before the merger between the GSPC and al-Qaeda, North Africans had weighed heavily on Western European security, as noted by French Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie (Agence France-Presse, September 23), while perpetrating

attacks on the continent was arguably not a core objective of the Maghrebi groups, it is now a part of AQIM's objectives. With this in mind, much of the rhetoric surrounding the merger specifically identified attacking Western countries, particularly France, as central to AQIM's strategy (Terrorism Focus, September 26, 2006; Terrorism Focus, August 7).

One must also not overlook the implications this may potentially have for North America. Although it must be plainly stated that the perceived threat from AQIM to the United States is low, there are indications that North African groups continue to maintain networks in North America and that there is a potential, albeit remote, for these networks to become operational. This gains credence remembering the case of Ahmed Ressay, an Algerian national and the so called "Millennium Bomber," who was based in Montreal and who had plans to bomb Los Angeles International Airport on New Year's Eve in 1999 [4]. To make this network operational, al-wadoud and his organization must find a narrative that sufficiently resonates within this network, an onerous task and one potentially made more difficult with the recent leadership troubles (Terrorism Monitor, September 13).

### Conclusion

In sum, while AQIM's ascent has raised the specter of a revitalized and expansive jihad in North Africa—one which may include coordinated operations throughout the region and the West—the unsteadiness in the group's leadership among other factors have cast doubt on AQIM's future prospects. Regardless of his fate as the leader of AQIM, it appears the reformation process al-wadoud enacted has fundamentally recast the Maghrebi jihad by altering both the character of his Algerian movement and the structure of the regional jihad at large. As evident from the high number of attacks and casualties in September, AQIM is becoming increasingly active and lethal, and the group has demonstrated a willingness to perpetrate large-scale, suicide bombings in urban environments. These attacks and the proliferation of media material over the past year have bolstered AQIM's relevancy in the regional counter-terrorism discourse and reinserted the North African arena into the conscience of the Global Salafi-Jihad.

### Notes

1. See Ayman al-Zawahiri, *Knights Under the Prophets Banner*.
2. The group's recent website, <http://www.qmagreb.org>, has been shut down multiple times, but usually reappears a few days later.
3. For an assessment of Morocco's tourist industry and its capacity to overcome a terrorist attack, see *Terrorism Monitor*, June 7. Separately, energy targets are a popular theme in the jihadi narrative, and have featured strongly in the writings of Abu Musab al-Suri, Ayman al-Zawahiri and several other strategists linked to the North African arena.
4. For an examination of this network, see Marc Sageman, *Understanding Terror Networks*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2004.

### Austria

Infiltrating the Muslim Elite? Controversy Over the Muslim Brotherhood

Source: OSC Analysis, 10/25/2007 20:24

A polemic has broken out during the last year over allegations that leading Austrian Muslims harbor ties to the Muslim Brotherhood or sympathize with its "ideology." Although Austria until recently has been considered successful in integrating its



Muslim population, many Austrians have now grown concerned about whether their approach to integration is working. Some have charged Austria's leading Muslim organizations, such as the Islamic Faith Community, of sympathy or even support for the Muslim Brotherhood. Although open sources cannot confirm ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, they do suggest that allegations of sympathy for the Brotherhood represent code language for the charge that prominent Austrian Muslims are hostile to integration. The allegations thus serve as rhetorical weapons against these Muslim organizations.

## Background

Whether the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) exists in Austria, and, if so, to what extent, has recently become the subject of an intense debate. In a series of articles and essays, Wiener Zeitung journalist Stefan Beig and political scientist Thomas Schmidiger, have accused some Muslim organizations of supporting the MB. Beig bases his accusations on the "expertise" of Schmidiger, who is a doctoral candidate at the University of Vienna. They have alleged, for example, that the official umbrella organization representing Muslims in Austria, the Islamische Glaubensgemeinschaft in Oesterreich (IGGIOe, Islamic Faith Community in Austria), has inculcated MB "ideology" in schools. They have also alleged that leading figures in such organizations as the Islamische Liga der Kultur, the Vienna-based Schura Mosque, and the Muslim Youth Organization in Austria have expressed sympathy for, and even extended financial support to, Iraqi insurgents, HAMAS, and the Egyptian MB.

## The Muslim Brotherhood and Muslim Brother "Ideology"

The Muslim Brotherhood (MB), founded in Egypt by Hasan al-Banna in 1928, has offered an Islamic alternative to the middle-eastern secular nationalist response to colonialism and its legacies. Whether the MB approach is compatible with democracy, or whether it implies an Islamist theocracy, has been at the heart of much of the controversy surrounding the MB since its inception. Then-Egyptian President Nasser banned the organization in 1954, viewing it as a threat to his version of secular Arab nationalism (Al-Banna's son-in-law, Saïd Ramadan, father of the well-known European-Muslim theologian Tariq Ramadan, fled to Geneva at this time). Some argue that HAMAS claims direct lineage from the MB and that Muslim Brother organizations provide financial support for HAMAS. In the 1980's, the MB officially renounced violence. In Egypt, several members now serve as "independents" in the Egyptian parliament, arguing, in effect, that the MB is a fundamentally democratic organization.

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Currently, in Austria, the charge that a Muslim organization is an "adherent" of the MB, or supports MB "ideology," is intended to be understood as a charge that that particular Muslim organization is hostile to integration and committed to establishing an Islamist polity in Europe. Open sources cannot confirm MB membership on the part of the main Austrian Muslim organizations, or leading Austrian Muslims, partly because the MB remains a clandestine organization (it is still banned in Egypt). Many European Muslim organizations are presumed to be a part of, or close to, the MB, including the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE), the French Union Organisation Islamique Francaise (UOIF), and the German Islamische Gemeinschaft Deutschlands. In the case of Austria, the accusation, valid or not, that an organization has ties to the MB, serves as code language for an organization hostile to European democracy and civilization. Specific public policy positions of organizations such as the IGGIOe, on issues regarding Islamic religious instruction in public schools, or the building of mosques, are interpreted against the backdrop of an alleged "hidden agenda" of instituting an Islamist society.

## Integration and Radicalization in Austria

Until recently, scholars and government experts considered Austria a positive model for the integration of first and second generation Muslims.1 Unlike in Germany, for

example, Islam received official recognition as early as 1912.<sup>2</sup> In 1979, the government recognized the IGGIOe as the official representative of Austrian Muslims and the government's negotiating partner on all policy matters concerning Islam.

Gradually, however, the Austrian model and many leading Austrian Muslim figures have come under attack. A number of recent official reports have cast doubt on the success of integration. In the resulting debate, some have accused the IGGIOe of being insufficiently representative of the Austrian Muslim community. Some have also accused the IGGIOe of harboring an MB agenda, meaning a wish to introduce an Islamist system by stealth.

- A 2006 government study on the state of integration in Austria by the German legal scholar Mathias Rohe, analyzed Muslim and non-Muslim attitudes toward the many issues -- such as the wearing of headscarves, religious education, and the problem of "parallel societies" -- that have defined integration debates across Europe. The results highlighted the continuing challenges facing Austrians as they attempt to realize a truly integrated society (Rohe, 2006). A group of the leading Muslim organizations in Austria issued a statement warning against what it considered a negative misunderstanding of the study and the growing criticism of the IGGIOe (derIslam.at, 27 May 2006).

- The 2005 report of the Austrian Office for the Protection of the Constitution stated, "in Austria, like in Europe as a whole, the Muslim Brotherhood is widely represented. Though it does not have any official presence in Austria, it has many representatives in many mosques, Islamic associations and organizations" (www.bmi.gv.at).<sup>3</sup> This OSC product is based exclusively on the content and behavior of selected media and has not been coordinated with other US Government components. 2 25 October 2007

As a debate on the Austrian model of integration developed over the course of 2006, the IGGIOe came under increasing attack for its supposedly failed policy of "integration through participation."

- During the spring of 2006, Guenther Ahmed Rusznak, an ethnic German convert to Islam, founded the Islamic Information and Documentation Center (Islamische Informations - und Dokumentationszentrum, or IIDZ) as a more secular and pro-European Islamic organization (Salzburger Nachrichten, www.salzburg.com, 5 April 2006). The IIDZ has led a concerted attack on the IGGIOe in the Austrian media, accusing it of a lack of "representativeness" as an organization and of inhibiting successful integration ("Von Unwahrheiten, Halbwahrheiten und anderen Luegen," www.iidz.at).

- According to the online Muslim magazine Kismet, Rusznak accused the IGGIOe of serving as a "center of fundamentalism" (kismetonline.at, nd). Speaking to the Austrian daily Die Presse, he called for the reform or abolition of the IGGIOe because of its "undemocratic structures" (www.diepresse.at, 7 February 2007).

#### IGGIOe

The IGGIOe has been recognized by the state as the official umbrella organization for Muslims in Austria since 1979, serving as the official representative for Muslims vis-a-vis the Austrian Government, much as the Catholic Church does for Austrian Catholics.<sup>4</sup> Similar to the corresponding Catholic, Protestant and Jewish organizations, the IGGIOe takes a leading role in shaping religious education for Austrian Muslim children at the primary and secondary levels. Owing to the IGGIOe's official status, many experts have considered Austria an integration success story.<sup>5</sup>

IGGIOe Inculcating MB "Ideology"? This year, some journalists and other "experts" have accused the IGGIOe of using its privileged position to inculcate MB "ideology" in Austria.

- Wiener Zeitung journalist Stefan Beig has written a series of articles in the last

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year alleging IGGIOe support for HAMAS, concluding that this proves that the IGGIOe secretly supports the MB (see the July 2007 OSC Report, Islamic Bulletin for Austria 19-25 July 07). In a 25 July interview with University of Vienna Political Scientist Thomas Schmidiger, Beig mentions that the IGGIOe had for eight years ensured that Muslim secondary students in Austria read Yusuf al-Qaradawi's book, The Permitted and the Forbidden in Islam, thus supposedly proving again the IGGIOe's determination to inculcate Brotherhood views ([www.wienerzeitung.at](http://www.wienerzeitung.at)).<sup>6</sup>

- The IGGIOe admits that the purpose of its educational policy is to inculcate a sense of Muslim identity, particularly among second generation Muslims. It nevertheless claims that its religious education policy is aimed at demonstrating to This OSC product is based exclusively on the content and behavior of selected media and has not been coordinated with other US Government components. 3 25 October 2007

Muslim students the compatibility of Islam with Austrian and European culture ([www.derislam.at](http://www.derislam.at), 26 May 2007).

The IGGIOe's approach to Islam and integration give rise to different interpretations.

The accusations concerning the IGGIOe's, and many of its affiliated organizations', approach to militancy and the MB coincide with doubts about the IGGIOe's approach to Islam and integration. At the Austrian Imam Conference in Vienna on 24 April 2005, the Austrian Muslim elite, of which the IGGIOe is the head, issued a statement on the relationship between Islamic identity and the need for integration into Austrian society. The final resolution states that the IGGIOe considers the survival of a distinctly Muslim culture and identity in Europe critical. Yet its definition of a Muslim identity focuses on religious practice and the rigorous interpretation of the earliest Islamic sources, rather than a more "modernized" Muslim identity. On the one hand, the rigorous recourse to the three earliest sources, the Koran, the Sunna, and the Hadith, is directed against militant Islamists who claim justification from such sources. On the other hand, leading figures of the Austrian Muslim community have voiced skepticism toward a new, "Euro-Islam."<sup>7</sup>

- An earlier analysis of Islamic education in Germany and Austria argues that the IGGIOe emphasizes religious practice, rather than membership in a worldwide Muslim community, or Ummah.<sup>8</sup> The IGGIOe would thus appear to work against the basic trend noticed by experts of a more universalistic "Euro-Islam."<sup>9</sup>

#### The Islamic Cultural League

Many commentators believe that the Vienna-based Islamic Cultural League (Islamische Liga der Kultur) has ties to the MB. The League, whose website ([www.ligakultur.net](http://www.ligakultur.net)), is currently under construction is known to be affiliated with the transnational FIOE, presumed to be an MB organization with other alleged affiliates, the French UOIF, and the German Islamische Gemeinschaft Deutschlands.

- Thomas Schmidinger alleges that Aiman Morad, a member of the League's executive board, finance director of the Islamic Religious Pedagogical Academy, and chief of the IGGIOe's religious education department, is a Syrian MB member. Furthermore, to Schmidinger, Morad and the League demonstrated its closeness to the MB by inviting Egyptian member of parliament and Muslim Brother, Mohammad Sa'd al-Katatni, to Vienna to speak at the League ([support.wzonline.at](http://support.wzonline.at), 3 July 2007).

- Karl Pfeifer, a columnist for the news portal [www.judentum.net](http://www.judentum.net), writes that on 17 October 2006 he witnessed Morad deliver an anti-Israeli and anti-American tirade that blamed the West for all of the Muslim world's problems. To Pfeifer, this undermines the "liberal Muslim" claims of the Austrian Muslim elite, of which Morad is a member ([www.judentum.net](http://www.judentum.net)). This OSC

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Omar al-Rawi

Schmidinger and others have also accused Omar al-Rawi, the IGGIOe's chief of integration and member of the Austrian Social Democrats, of ties to the MB. Al-Rawi is one of the most prominent politically active Muslims in the country. As one of the leading members of the IGGIOe, cofounder of the Austrian Muslim Initiative (Initiative oesterreichische Muslime), and Sozialistische Partei Oesterreichs (SPOe) deputy on the Vienna city council, Al-Rawi portrays his work as dedicated to the task of integrating immigrant Muslims into Austrian society.

Toward Integration?

In his many public comments about the problems of integration, Al-Rawi has made two basic points. First, he argues that Muslim immigrants should make their integration into Austrian society a priority. Following a cardinal principle of the IGGIOe, Austrian Muslims are just that, Austrian Muslims. Secondly, he often claims that discrimination is responsible for the difficulties of integrating Muslims into Austrian society.

- Al-Rawi has warned against sympathizing with terrorism. After the July 2005 bombings in London, for example, he argued in Vienna's Die Presse, that "we need a clear, unconfused concept of Islam in this respect [i.e. against religious justifications for violence]. . . . Those who secretly delight in, or sympathize with, assassinations must know that they are accomplices to such crimes" (EUP20050728086014, 28 July 2005).

- Al-Rawi advocates a concept of integration that stresses assimilation reconcilable with a Muslim identity. In an interview with Islamonline.net, the internet paper associated with Al-Qaradawi, in January 2005, Al-Rawi urged mosques to do more to facilitate the Muslim integration. Praising Adnan Ibrahim's Al-Shura mosque as a model, the article quoted him indirectly as saying that this mosque had helped "Muslims to amalgamate with society" (16 January 2005).

- Speaking on ORF Television in May 2007, he said that too few Muslims had advanced to the middle class because of a lack of education and German-speaking ability.<sup>10</sup> Al-Rawi has highlighted his own position as a social democratic politician to stress his commitment to Austrian social democracy, rather than to Islam, as the organizing principle of his political views.<sup>11</sup> This OSC product is based exclusively on the content and behavior of selected media and has not been coordinated with other US Government components. 5 25 October 2007

Yet when commenting on the problems of Muslim integration in Austria, Al-Rawi will often exclusively emphasize social and cultural impediments placed by native Austrians and Austrian institutions. He thereby demonstrates one of the problems noted by Rohe's 2006 study on the state of integration, a "nurturing of an attitude of victim hood" (Rohe, 2006).

- In his commentary in Die Presse following the 2005 London attacks, he coupled his condemnation of terrorism with a reminder that one should focus on the "causes" rather than the "symptoms" of terror. That is, "sustainable results are achievable when we offer something better at the end of the day, paving the way for better ideas and more convincing objectives" (EUP200507286014, 28 July 2005).

- In a forum on integration in the Austrian journal Falter, in 2004, Al-Rawi responded to a comment from Buelent Oeztoplu, who blamed political Islam for the "alienation" of Austrian Muslim youth. Al-Rawi stated that "one cannot blame Islam for this sense of alienation. Rather, for that, society is responsible. We must ask ourselves, why is there this feeling of exclusion. Islam offers the

youth an identity and a second home" ([www.falter.at](http://www.falter.at), 7 April 2004). Schmidinger accuses Al-Rawi of closeness to the MB. His argument rests primarily on guilt by association.

- Schmidinger argues that Al-Rawi's concept of "integration through participation" is identical to that of Tariq Ramadan's, the prominent Muslim intellectual based in Geneva. Ramadan, grandson of MB founder Hassan al-Banna, has long been the subject of controversy over whether his vision of an integrated "Euro-Islam" represents MB "ideology" in disguise. Assuming Ramadan's affiliation with the Brotherhood, Schmidinger accuses Al-Rawi of, at the least, advancing the interests of MB "ideology." "The concept of integration of the official IGGIOe is identical with that of Tariq Ramadan's." In fact, Schmidinger accuses Al-Rawi of using the Initiative of Austrian Muslims (IMOE or Initiative Muslimischer OesterreicherInnen) as a vehicle to advance supposed Brotherhood concepts.<sup>12</sup>

- A polemic between Schmidinger and Al-Rawi began in January 2007, when Schmidinger accused the respected Vienna Imam, Adnan Ibrahim, of doublespeak, in a commentary in Die Presse (9 January 2007). Al-Rawi responded with accusations that Schmidinger was a member of a small group of disaffected German intellectuals, the "anti-Germans," who had left Germany for Austria to indulge in "pro-Zionist self-hatred" and "anti-Islamic conspiracy theories."<sup>13</sup> Al-Rawi has also accused Schmidinger of affiliation with US "neoconservatives" ([www.kurier.at](http://www.kurier.at), 7 July 2007). Schmidinger rejects accusations of membership in the "anti-Germans" as vigorously as Al-Rawi rejects accusations of membership in the MB.<sup>14</sup>

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Thomas Schmidinger

Thomas Schmidinger Source: [homepage.univie.ac.at/thomas.schmidinger](http://homepage.univie.ac.at/thomas.schmidinger)

Thomas Schmidinger has played the role of academic authority in many articles in the Austrian press, accusing leading Austrian Muslims of harboring MB sympathies. His essays, depicting an anti-democratic MB, have frequently been cited to buttress allegations of radicalism against the IGGIOe and other organizations. He is often interviewed about the alleged MB influence in Austria and has contributed several commentaries on the subject himself.

Schmidinger claims the title of Lehrbeauftragter (lecturer or adjunct professor). More precisely, he is a Doktorand (doctoral student), currently enrolled in the University of Vienna's political science department. Schmidinger's allegations against leading Austrian Muslims follow a consistent three-step pattern: (1) he levies an accusation against a leading Austrian Muslim, (2) he refers to a controversial issue concerning political Islam outside of Austria and misrepresents the issue as settled (for example, whether Tariq Ramadan is a radical Islamist or a modernizing liberal), and (3) associates the Austrian Muslim in question with the referenced, supposedly damning, controversy.

Doublespeak?

Suspicion has lately devolved on Adnan Ibrahim, a prominent Imam of the Vienna Shura Mosque. Lionized by Omar al-Rawi as a "star preacher" and an example of how an Imam should champion integration, critics have claimed that Ibrahim says one thing to a German-speaking audience and another to Arabic speakers.

- According to the website Sicherheit-Heute.de, which is critical of the IGGIOe and has given prominence to the accusations of Schmidinger and Rusznak, Ibrahim delivered a sermon entitled "Jihad Philosophy and Martyrdom," in which he called for Muslims to be prepared to give their lives as martyrs for "Palestine and Iraq" (20 January 2007).

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• Guenther Ahmed Rusznak has drawn attention to previous Ibrahim sermons and judgments, which Ibrahim now claims to disown, condemning Muslim-Christian intermarriage and excusing female genital mutilation.<sup>15</sup>

• In response to some anonymous accusations, the Vienna Prosecutors Office investigated charges that Ibrahim had instigated his followers to Jihad. According to a 27 July statement by Minister of Justice Maria Berger, the recordings made of this OSC product is based exclusively on the content and behavior of selected media and has not been coordinated with other US Government components.  
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Ibrahim's sermons had been edited, with comments taken out of context and some comments not clearly attributable to Ibrahim, casting doubt on the accusations against him ([www.parlinkomgiv.at](http://www.parlinkomgiv.at), 30 July 2007).

#### Implications

Monitored open sources cannot confirm alleged sympathy or outright connections between the Austrian Muslim elite and the militant MB. The Austrian Government has not released detailed information about an MB presence in its annual reports on threats to the constitution. The public claims of the critics of the IGGIOe, the legitimacy of which rests on the academic credentials of those making the claims, are dubious. In the one case, that of Adnan Ibrahim, in which the Austrian Government commented on the charges, it suggested that the accusations rested on weak evidence.

#### End Notes:

1 See, for example, Sieglinda Katharina Rosenberger, "Governing Religious Diversity in Austria - Framework for Europe?" 2006, [www.ces.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.ces.fas.harvard.edu). Hayrettin Ayden, Dirk Halm, Faruk Sen, "'Euro-Islam' Das neue Islamverstaendnis der Muslime in der Migration," 2003, study conducted by the Stiftung Zentrum fuer Tuerkeistudien for the Renner Institut and posted at [www.renner-institut.at](http://www.renner-institut.at).

2 For an historical overview of Austria's internal regulation of Islam, see Martina Schmied, "Islam in Oesterreich," at [www.bmlv.gv.at](http://www.bmlv.gv.at).

3 The 2006 and 2007 reports contain no entries on the Muslim Brotherhood.

4 This contrasts with the situation in Germany, where there is no analogous Muslim institution like the Protestant (EKD) or Catholic churches with which the state can confer on issues -- such as education -- that touch religious interests.

5 Thus University of Vienna Political Scientist Sieglinda Katharina Rosenberger argues that the Austrian state-church system, as applied to the Muslim community through the IGGIOe, "strengthen's integration rather than separation." See Rosenberger's "Governing Religious Diversity in Austria - A Framework for Europe?" paper presented at the Center for European Studies at Harvard, 7 April 2006, [www.ces.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.ces.fas.harvard.edu).

6 Whether one should classify Qaradawi as a Muslim Brother has been hotly debated among scholars and analysts for some time.

7 See the final statement of the "Austrian Imam Conference," 24 April 2005, posted on the IGGIOe website, [www.derislam.at](http://www.derislam.at)

8 Irka-Christin Mohr, "Islamic Instruction in Germany and Austria: A comparison of Principles Derived from Religious Thought," Cahiers d'etudes sur la Mediterranee orientale et le monde turco-iranien, No. 33, 2002.

9 See, for example, Peter Mandaville, "Critical Islam & Muslim Identity: Interpretation, Belonging, and Citizenship Among Muslims in Europe & North America," paper delivered at a conference on "Migration, Religion and Secularism - Comparative

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Approach (Europe and North America)," Paris, June 17-18, 2005, at  
www.histoire-sociale.univ-paris1.fr).

10 Markus Mueller, "Der Islam in Oesterreich", ORF-Oe1 16 May 2007, as posted on  
www.antifa.co.at. This OSC product is based exclusively on the content and behavior  
of selected media and has not been coordinated with other US Government components.  
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11 "Wir sind keine Aktiengesellschaft," interview with Al-Rawi, www.kurier.at, 7  
July 2007.

12 Schmidinger, "Tariq Ramadan und die Muslim Brueder in Europa," no date,  
homepage.univie.ac.at/thomas.schmidinger.

13 Al-Rawi, "Woelfe im Schafspelz? Replik auf Thomas Schmidinger, der versucht, eine  
Weltverschwörungstheorie von bedrohlicher muslimischer Unterwanderung in  
Oesterreich zu verbreiten," Die Presse, 16 January 2007.

14 Ibid.

15 Karl Pfeifer, "Islam in Oesterreich: - so waren wir alle getaeuscht: Bericht von  
einer wiener Pressekonferenz," posted on hagalil.com, 9 February 2007.

#### Azerbaijan

One 'Wahhabi' Killed, Two Arrested In Azerbaijan - Agency

Source: Baku Turan in Russian 0733 GMT 27 Oct 07

The National Security Ministry carried out a special operation against a group of  
armed people in country house No 104 in the settlement of Mastaga [near Baku] this  
morning. Two men were arrested and one was killed while putting up armed resistance,  
Turan has learnt from informed sources.

When proposed to give himself up, one of those inside the house threw a grenade at  
special squad soldiers and then was gunned down. Three assault rifles, several  
grenades and other ammunition were discovered at the country house during the  
search.

According to preliminary information, the criminals were wahhabis and were not  
residents of the settlement. It is noteworthy that one of the impounded assault  
rifles was the one which had been stolen from a military unit by fugitive officer  
Kamran Asadov, who is also a wahhabi. The prosecutor's office has started an  
investigation into the case.

#### Bangladesh

Two Bangladesh Militants Jailed For 20 Years - Paper

Source: Dhaka New Age in English 0000 GMT 26 Oct 07

Sylhet divisional speedy trial tribunal on Thursday, 25 October, sentenced two  
members of Jamiat-ul-Mojahedin Bangladesh (JMB) to 20 years' imprisonment in two  
cases filed in connection with the 17 August bomb explosion in Sunamganj town.  
Dipraman Sarker, judge of the tribunal, handed down the verdict in the presence of

Abdul Aziz alias Hanif, body guard of the executed chief of the banned outfit Shaikh Abdul Rahman, and Salah Uddin alias Saleheen.

The tribunal also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default to suffer two more years, court sources said. According to the prosecution, JMB men carried out bomb attacks on the Shahi Eidgah premises in Sunamganj town and the district bar building as a part of its countrywide near simultaneous bomb attacks on 17 August 2005.

Jasim Uddin Faruq, ward commissioner of the Sunamganj municipality, lodged a case in connection with a bomb attack at Eidgah while Sazzadur Rahman, office assistant of the district bar association, filed another case in connection with a bomb blast at the district bar building. The police on June 30, 2006 submitted charge sheets against Hanif and Salehin who were also sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment in other four cases.

Columbia

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(In the Colombian town of Cali, police disarmed a powerful home-made bomb. Alerted by local citizens, the suspicious device turned out to have the equivalent power of 25 Kg of TNT and a fairly sophisticated detonation system which was designed to be detonated by a cell phone signal. According to Cali Chief of Police, General Jesus Antonio Gomez, the device was meant for security personnel, and was likely the work of the "Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia". Two other smaller devices were found in the same area, according to Gomez.)

France



## French Court Convicts Algerian Of Paris Bombings

Source: Reuters, 26 Oct 07

A French court jailed Algerian Rachid Ramda for life on Friday for his role in financing a spate of bomb attacks on the Paris underground rail network that killed eight people and wounded 200 others in 1995.

Paris Assizes Court ordered that Ramda should serve a minimum 22 years behind bars for his role in the attacks, the worst bombings on mainland France since world war Two. Court president Didier Wacogne, sitting with six professional assessors, said Ramda was "guilty of complicity to murder and attempted murder" as well as an array of explosives and other offences. Around 70 relatives and friends of victims of the attacks were present for the verdict which was met in silence. Ramda, 38, who denied the charges, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2006 for terrorist conspiracy linked to the same bombing campaign.

His lawyer Sebastien Bonot protested during the case that Ramda was being tried a second time for the same crime, and said after Friday's verdict that his client would appeal. "This decision is certainly not a surprise but we feel that justice and the law have not been done," he told reporters. The prosecution said Ramda was a key figure in Algeria's radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA), and added that phone taps showed he was in regular contact with Ali Touchent and Boualem Bensaid, the GIA's coordinators in France. A police search of Ramda's London address produced a western Union payment slip bearing his fingerprints which showed he had sent 5,000 pounds (\$10,250) to the Paris bombers. The GIA claimed responsibility for bombings that were part of a campaign to punish French support for Algerian authorities that scrapped multi-party elections in 1992 that an Islamic party had been poised to win.

### "Londonistan"

During his month-long trial Ramda denied involvement in the attacks and caused uproar among victims' families present in public gallery when he said those responsible for the carnage deserved the death penalty. Bensaid and another man, Smain Ali Belkacem, are currently serving long prison terms for planting the gas cylinder bombs that investigators said were packed with nails and bolts to cause maximum injury. Friday's conviction marked the culmination of a long battle by the French authorities to try Ramda, who spent 10 years in detention in Britain fighting extradition to France. Ramda was arrested on a French warrant in 1995 but Britain refused to send him back to France on the grounds he might face mistreatment by anti-terrorism police. French authorities accused the British of underestimating the threat posed by Islamic militants based in the British capital -- which was dubbed "Londonistan" by some critics of British policy. However, following the deaths of 52 people in the July 2005 suicide bomb attacks on London's transport system, the mood changed in Britain and Ramda was extradited in December 2005. [As Dr. Boaz Ganor frequently reminds PTSS audiences, "The free world must understand that "cultural relativism" applied to terrorism - whatever the terrorists' goals - will lead only to more terrorism.]

### Georgia

Georgia Stops Armenians Entering Turkey With Radioactive Matter

Source: Associated Press via Dow Jones, 26 Oct 07

The four men were carrying 2 grams of Lovresium or LAV-103, a radioactive isotope.

Georgian border guards detained four Armenians attempting to cross into Turkey this week with just over 2 grams of a radioactive substance, the former Soviet republic's border police service said Friday. The Armenians were detained at a border crossing into eastern Turkey on Wednesday with the substance in a special container, the border police said in a statement. It identified the substance as an isotope called Lovresium, or LAV-103, but no reference to such an isotope could immediately be found. Georgian authorities were attempting to determine where the detainees got the substance and what they were planning to do with it, border police spokeswoman Lela Mchedladze said.

Germany

German SPD Congress Rebuffs Schaeuble: Rule of Law Vital in Combating Terror

Source: ddp in German 1850 GMT 26 Oct 07

The Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] is calling for the rule of law to be maintained in combating terrorism, and has rebuffed the plans of Federal Interior Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble (Christian Democratic Union [CDU]). "We are opposed to any and every attempt to sacrifice the open nature of our democratic society to the illusion of a security society," states a policy paper adopted by the party congress in Hamburg on Friday [26 October]. The SPD will therefore "not accept the military being entrusted with internal policing functions."

The protection of security and freedom formed the basis of a libertarian society, it was argued. The SPD therefore resolutely opposed any call that was incompatible with these fundamental values. This applied for example to the abandonment of the presumption of innocence in criminal law, the targeted killing of suspects, the internment of "persons posing a danger," along with the announcement of an order for a passenger aircraft to be shot down.

From the technical point of view, the powers of the Federal Crime Police Office (BKA) also had to be fully in tune with the latest developments. However, this did nothing to alter the particular impact of online searches [of suspects' computers] on citizens' rights, as many legal and technical issues were thereby raised. "For this reason, we wish to initially await the Federal Constitutional Court's ruling on online searches under North Rhine - Westphalia's constitutional protection [homeland intelligence] law, so as not to unnecessarily incur the risk of a ruling of unconstitutionality," the agreed paper adds.

Hizballah Keeps Low Profile, Capable of Mobilizing

Source: OSC Analysis in English, 25 Oct 07

German authorities have recently stepped up efforts in monitoring Hizballah-related activities and have identified several key sites frequented by Hizballah supporters. Open source reporting suggests that, at present, the Hizballah sympathizers are only loosely organized, value Germany as a mediator, and have made a conscious decision to keep a low profile. At the same time, Hizballah sympathizers have shown some capability to mobilize public support for their cause, especially over the internet. Media reporting indicates that Hizballah has been linked to terror-related activities in Europe in the past.

German Authorities Identify Key Hizballah-Associated Sites

Although German authorities have been aware of a latent Hizballah presence in Germany for many years, the fighting between Israel and Hizballah in 2006 and Germany's ensuing maritime contribution to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) prompted many German politicians and security officials to question whether the fighting and Germany's role in stopping weapons smuggling into Lebanon could lead to Hizballah sympathizers in Germany committing acts of violence domestically. Subsequently, several governmental reports identified locations frequented by Hizballah activists and sympathizers.

\* In February 2007, the German parliament issued a report stating that it was "aware of 30 cultural and mosque associations" in Germany frequented by Hizballah members or sympathizers, whose numbers it estimated to be around 900. Yet the report concluded that Hizballah supporters did not pose an "immediate threat" to the country (<http://dip.bundestag.de>, 19 February 2007).

\* In 2007, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution described the Iranian-supported Islamic Center of Hamburg-ICH (Islamisches Zentrum Hamburg), which allows Hizballah-affiliated persons to use its facilities, as "Hizballah's most important contact point" in Germany ([www.verfassungsschutz.hamburg.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.hamburg.de), 15 February 2007).

\* Berlin-based daily Morgen Post quoted city authorities as saying that "Lebanese Hizballah members" use the Imam Reza mosque, known for organizing the yearly anti-Israel Al-Quds Day Berlin demonstration, for meetings with Iranian officials (24 July 2006).

Sympathizers Appear To Be Only Loosely Organized

Hizballah in Germany lacks central leadership and appears to have no formal organizational structure. Some government reporting suggests that the sympathizers in Germany maintain links to Hizballah in Lebanon through personal contacts with Hizballah officials.

\* In its 2006 security assessment, the Hamburg Office for the Protection of the Constitution stated that in Germany Hizballah is "represented in a number of mosque organizations operating relatively independently," adding that "Hizballah has no unified structure" ([www.fhh.hamburg.de](http://www.fhh.hamburg.de)). A Westdeutscher Rundfunk public radio station, using government sources, cited the lack of a German-based leader "acceptable to all parties" as a possible reason why Hizballah leadership in Beirut has long tried "in vain" to "build an efficient structure" in Germany (27 July 2006).

\* Two separate government reports assessed that the connection to Hizballah in Lebanon is maintained through individual trips to Lebanon, personal and family contacts, and emissaries sent from Lebanon to Germany, who inform sympathizers of current Hizballah directives and operations in the Middle East ([www.fhh.hamburg.de](http://www.fhh.hamburg.de); <http://dip.bundestag.de>). According to the Baden-Wuerttemberg intelligence service, "Hizballah members from Lebanon, among them shaykhs, office-holders, or members of parliament, regularly travel [to Baden-Wuerttemberg] for ceremonies" ([www.verfassungsschutz-bw.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz-bw.de)).

\* In October 2001, public television station ZDF reported the official visit of the high-ranking Hizballah representative, Shaykh Ali Khatoun, to the Islamic Center of Muenster-IZM (Islamisches Zentrum Muenster), a Lebanese mosque identified by German authorities as a Hizballah "meeting place" ([www.puc-web.de](http://www.puc-web.de); [www.im.nrw.de](http://www.im.nrw.de)).

Hizballah Values Germany as Mediator, Keeps Low Profile...

On several occasions, Germany has acted as an arbiter between Hizballah and Israel, negotiating the release of Israeli-held Hizballah prisoners. Hizballah leadership has expressed appreciation for Germany's mediating role and has instructed its

followers there to avoid attention.

\* German mediation between Israel and Hizballah resulted in the exchange of prisoners and the return of remains in 1996, 2004 and 2007 (Der Spiegel, 12 August 1996; Handelsblatt, 30 January 2004; Financial Times, 16 October 2007).

\* In the past, Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah has publicly acknowledged Germany's "important role as mediator" in Hizballah-Israeli negotiations (AFP, 22 January 2000).

\* A parliamentary report stated that, regarding Germany, Hizballah's "highest priority" is an "undisturbed presence" there, adding that it "takes pains to avoid conflicts with local authorities." A State of Hamburg intelligence service report assessed that, in 2004, Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah directed its German followers to "keep to the letter of [German] law" to avoid state scrutiny ([www.deutscherbundestag.de](http://www.deutscherbundestag.de); [www.verfassungsschutz.hamburg.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.hamburg.de)).

...But Sympathizers Capable of Mobilizing Public Support, Especially via Internet

Hizballah supporters in Germany, carrying the group's paraphernalia and portraits of its Secretary General Nasrallah, showed solidarity by taking part in the many anti-Israel demonstrations held throughout Germany during the 2006 Israeli-Hizballah conflict. The large turn-out suggests that the number of Hizballah supporters in Germany exceeds official estimates and that the sympathizers are quite savvy in using the internet.

Protesters in Germany carrying Nasrallah portraits([www.netzeitung.de](http://www.netzeitung.de), 26 July 2006)

\* According to a report in the weekly Der Spiegel, officers from the Office for Protection of the Constitution monitoring the 2006 anti-Israel rallies were "amazed" by the fact that the number of participants far exceeded the organizers' expectations (23 July 2006). For example, an unofficial tally of protesters at a Berlin rally was estimated at 10,000 ([www.tagesspiegel.de](http://www.tagesspiegel.de)).

\* Der Spiegel reported on 23 July 2006 that at another Berlin rally about 1,500 "mostly Lebanese and Palestinian protestors" with Hizballah flags and portraits of Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah "dominated the scene." Describing the summer 2006 demonstrations in Lower Saxony, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution report referred to a "large number of Hizballah supporters," identifiable by their "Hizballah emblems" and Nasrallah portraits ([www.cdl.niedersachsen.de](http://www.cdl.niedersachsen.de)).

\* Rallies throughout Baden-wuerttemberg and the rest of Germany were "partly coordinated and organized on the internet" by sites like [www.rache-engel.de](http://www.rache-engel.de) ("Revenge Angel"), which provided downloadable images and banner slogans for use in demonstrations, according to a government security report ([www.verfassungsschutz-bw.de/downloads/jabe/2006/jabe-islam-2006.pdf](http://www.verfassungsschutz-bw.de/downloads/jabe/2006/jabe-islam-2006.pdf)).

\* Administrators of the website [www.muslim-markt.de](http://www.muslim-markt.de), "probably the largest German-language internet portal for Muslims" ([www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de)) use the site to promote the annual anti-Israel Al-Quds Day in Berlin, where "regime-loyal Iranians and Hizballah supporters" gather to demonstrate, according to security experts ([www.berlin.de/imperia/md/content/seninn/verfassungsschutz/stand2005/jb\\_2006\\_ht\\_ae.pdf](http://www.berlin.de/imperia/md/content/seninn/verfassungsschutz/stand2005/jb_2006_ht_ae.pdf)).

Precedents for Hizballah Terrorist Activity in Europe and Germany

Even though authorities assess that current Hizballah activity in Germany is law-abiding, the group's past illegal operations in Europe demonstrate its ability to conduct terrorist operations in the region.

\* In October 2007, amidst a new round of German-brokered prisoner exchange talks between Hizballah and Israel, Germany announced its early release of a Lebanese and an Iranian prisoner convicted for the 1992 assassination of dissident Kurds in Berlin (AFP, 16 October 2007). German authorities believed the attack was ordered by Tehran and involved a "middle man for the Lebanese Hizballah" (The Guardian, 7 April 1997).

\* In 2000, Hizballah operatives in Switzerland lured an Israeli businessman to the Middle East, where he was kidnapped and held by the group for years before being released in a German-brokered prisoner swap (AP, 19 April 2004).

\* In 1989, German authorities arrested Hizballah associate Bassam Makki on charges of planning attacks against a synagogue and US military buildings and personnel in Germany (Sueddeutsche Zeitung, 7, 18, 21 July 1989).

[See "Arab Public Support for Hizballah, Iran, Syria Wanes" in General CT News.]

## Greece

Greece to Introduce a 'Europe-wide System for Monitoring People' Says Paper

Source: Al. Avlonitis, Ethnos tis Kiriakis in Greek 21 Oct 07 46

The Greek Government has given its full consent to the introduction of a Europe-wide system for monitoring people. Its consent has been given quietly, in the name of fighting terrorism, a fight that has now been expanded to include illegal immigration and cross-border crime. The last two are believed by some to be directly connected to each other.

The government's consent has been given despite the fact that the responsible independent authorities have long warned of serious repercussions concerning the protection of fundamental rights and other, constitutionally-protected, freedoms. These include the protection of personal rights and a prohibition against the use of any personal data, some of which could be of a sensitive nature. In its latest annual report, the APPD [Authority for the Protection of Personal Data] voices several warnings about the dangers posed and stresses that its warnings have not been heeded.

The planned monitoring system provides that each country should maintain a large data base, which will be used to enter information about the DNA, fingerprints and details of any vehicles owned by suspects. At a later stage, it will include biometric data, since it appears inevitable that full use will be made of information such as the iris of the eyes, the structure of the hands, etc. All the above will be taking place in the name of security.

The data collected could be exchanged between European countries although Washington is anxiously expecting for them to be made available to the United States as well. A precedent for this exists in other measures that have been introduced, such as the agreement providing for judicial cooperation. The intention is to use the recording of personal data as a deterrent against all those either suspected or already convicted of carrying out criminal activities and, moreover, to have any such information exchanged between all countries.

Nevertheless, according to existing plans, during its second phase of implementation all the above data could be made available in order to prevent the movement of "undesirable" elements. These could include, among others, soccer hooligans that wish to see their team playing in another country but, mainly, "troublesome" demonstrators traveling to protest at the meetings of the Group of "Eight," etc.

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police official said Saturday. Between 30 and 40 heavily armed rebels stormed a village around midnight and opened fire on about 150 people gathered there after a match to watch a local cultural performance, police said. "Seventeen persons have been killed in the attack," district police superintendent Arun Kumar Singh told AFP in Jharkhand state. One man died later of a bullet wound, taking the toll to 18, police said, adding that a three-year-old was among the three remaining wounded. "Intensive combing operations are going on," Singh said, adding that the border with Bihar, the state to the north, had been sealed to prevent rebels from fleeing there.

The night's entertainment was organized by the brother of the former chief minister Babu Lal Marandi, whose son Anup Marandi was in Chilkhari village for the match. "The police security personnel deployed left the place after the football match," said Singh. "They did wrong. They should have stayed."

The attack echoed the assassination of federal lawmaker Sunil Mahto, who was gunned down by Maoists posing as spectators at a football match in a village in the state in March. The attackers, including several women, wore fatigues similar to those used by India's anti-terror paramilitary forces and gradually surrounded the unsuspecting crowd before opening fire, witnesses said.

The Maoist insurgency -- which grew out of a peasant uprising in eastern India in 1967 -- threatens huge swathes of India's centre, east and south and has spread to half of India's 29 states. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last year described them as the single biggest threat to India's internal security, but the Maoists say they are only fighting for the rights of neglected tribal people and landless farmers.

Former chief minister Marandi flew on Saturday to the village, which is surrounded by heavy forest and situated 290 kilometres (180 miles) from the state capital Ranchi, but spoke to reporters before he left. "The government seems to have no idea how to get out of this situation. It is getting worse," said a calm Marandi, who was the first to run the newly-created Jharkhand state when it was carved out of Bihar in 2000. The left-wing guerrillas of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) hold sway in 16 of the 19 districts in the mineral-rich state. "The Maoists have no faith in democracy. They have concentrated in the areas where there is no development, no streets, no electricity. If we want to solve this problem, we have to move development in those areas."

Marandi's family members have organised sports and entertainment events in remote areas in a bid to encourage villagers not to support the rebels. The former chief minister said his brother and son "should have been more careful." Marandi's brother told AFP that he narrowly dodged a bullet that hit another villager in the eye and fled several kilometres (miles) before calling the police. "I saved my life by squeezing amongst the villagers and I escaped," said Nunu Lal Marandi. "I had informed police about the program and sought security. But no proper security arrangements were made."

#### India TV Channels Pulled After Massacre Sting Operation: Reports

Source: AFP in English 0819 GMT 27 Oct 07

Officials in the Indian state of Gujarat have blocked television channels which aired a sting operation that claimed to expose government involvement in the 2002 mass killings of Muslims, reports said Saturday. The Headlines Today private television network began Thursday broadcasting footage of men accused of taking part in the deadly Gujarat riots five years ago apparently admitting that the Hindu nationalist-ruled local government backed the violence.

On Friday cable operators in the state's commercial capital Ahmedabad received written orders to block the Aaj Tak (Until Today) and Headlines Today channels, the Indian Express newspaper reported Saturday. Channels that covered the expose, which

comes as the state readies for assembly elections in December, were also ordered to be pulled, it said. State elections officer Ashok Manek confirmed the order had been issued by top Ahmedabad district official, or collector, Dhananjay Dwivedi, the report said. Dwivedi cited concerns about sparking "communal feeling," said the report, referring to a term commonly used to describe tension between religious groups in India. Dwivedi could not be reached for comment.

Police verbally told cable operators in other parts of the state to stop carrying the channels, a Hindustan Times report said. But Gujarat government spokesman Bhagyesh Jha denied that the state had issued any orders against television channels. "I have not passed the order," said Jha. "You ask the collector (Dwivedi) about it." The channels showed interviews secretly recorded by a reporter of the investigative news magazine Tehelka (Sensation!) with several men allegedly involved in the anti-Muslim attacks. At least 2,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed after a Muslim mob was accused of torching a train, burning 59 Hindus alive. So far, more than a dozen people have been convicted over the bloodshed. An enquiry by the state-run railways later ruled the fire on the train which sparked the riots was an accident.

## Indonesia

### Indonesia Restricts Rights of Three Convicted Bali Bombers Ahead of Executions

Source: Unattributed, The Sydney Morning Herald (Internet Version-WWW) in English 26 Oct 07

The three death row Bali bombers have had their prison visitation rights restricted in a bid to prevent contact with other terrorists ahead of their looming executions. Indonesia's elite anti-terror squad Detachment 88 is vetting all potential visitors, who must first apply to visit the trio in the super maximum security Batu Prison on isolated Nusakambangan Island, which is dubbed Indonesia's Alcatraz.

Authorities are inching forward in their preparations to execute bombing mastermind Imam Samudra, senior Jemaah Islamiah figure Mukhlas, aka Ali Ghufron, and his younger brother, the "smiling assassin" Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, for their role in the 2002 Bali bombings. The blasts killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, when they ripped apart Kuta's Paddy's Bar and the Sari Club on October 12, 2002. Central Java's Department of Justice and Human Rights this week said all potential visitors must now first apply to the department in writing, and enclose their Indonesian identification card. "It's for the sake of preventing convicts from meeting members of the terrorist network," the office's penitentiary division head, Bambang Winahyo, told local media this week. Physical contact including handshakes was forbidden for visitors, except for blood-relatives. Head of Batu Prison, Sudijanto, confirmed there were new restrictions in place. "The family is allowed to have physical contact, but if they are not family, then there is a restriction," he said.

"They are terrorists." The tighter security measures also follow the escape this week of two convicts from the super maximum security facility. All visits to the prison had been temporarily halted, he said. "All of our employees are deployed in the forest to look for them," Sudijanto said. "So for now we cannot receive any visitors." The pair escaped after reportedly being allowed to use a toilet at the prison clinic, where they had earlier been taken complaining of ill health. Sudijanto said one prisoner, serving 14 years for robbery, was recaptured on Thursday. The other, a convicted murderer, was still somewhere on the 30 sq km island, he said.

The three Bali bombers were transferred to the island prison, off Central Java's south coast, in 2005 for security reasons, after the second set of bombings in Bali sparked demonstrations from Balinese calling for their immediate

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execution. When AAP visited the facility two weeks ago, the three bombers said they were ready to die and would not be asking for a pardon - the final legal step before the execution can take place. "Absolutely we are not afraid," Samudra said, after being allowed to mingle, uncuffed, with other prisoners to pray for the holy Islamic day Lebaran. "That's what I've been waiting for ... firstly with execution we will go to heaven and then our wish to see god and the angels is far higher than the wish of the infidels for our death."

Iraq

Petraeus: Al-Qaida Reeling, But Still Lethal

Source: Army Times, 28 Oct 07

The threat from al-Qaida in several former strongholds in Baghdad has been significantly reduced, but criminals who have established "almost mafia-like presence" in some areas pose a new threat, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said Sunday.

Gen. David Petraeus stressed, however, the terror organization remained "a very dangerous and very lethal enemy" - a comment underscored by the abduction Sunday in Baghdad of 10 Sunni and Shiite tribal leaders who joined forces against al-Qaida. "Its presence has been significantly reduced and its activity and freedom of action have been degraded," Petraeus told a small group of reporters at a U.S. base near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad. He singled out success in what had been some of the most volatile Sunni neighborhoods in Baghdad, including Ghazaliyah, Amariyah, Azamiyah and Dora. "Having said that ... al-Qaida remains a very dangerous and very lethal enemy of Iraq," he said. "We must maintain contact with them and not allow them to establish sanctuaries or re-establish sanctuaries in places where they were before."

The gunmen ambushed the two cars carrying the 10 sheiks - seven Sunnis and three Shiites - in Baghdad's predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Shaab at about 3:30 p.m., police officials said. The sheiks were returning to Diyala province after attending a conference with the Shiite-dominated government's adviser for tribal affairs to discuss coordinating efforts against al-Qaida in Iraq, police and a relative said. Petraeus said the reduced threat from al-Qaida had given way to nonsectarian crimes - kidnapping, corruption in the oil industry and extortion. "As the terrible extremist threat of al-Qaida has been reduced somewhat, there is in some Iraqi neighborhoods actually a focus on crime and on extortion that has been ongoing and kidnapping cells and what is almost a mafia-like presence in certain areas," he said. Petraeus made his comments after a transition ceremony as the 1st Armored Division, which is based in Wiesbaden, Germany, assumed command of northern Iraq from the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division.

The new commander for the region, Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, said the number of attacks so far in October had dropped by 300 from the previous month, although he did not provide more specific numbers. A car bomb Sunday ripped through a Kirkuk bus terminal that serves travelers to Iraq's Kurdish region, killing eight people and wounding 26, according to police Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qadir. The terminal is located in a mainly Kurdish area of Kirkuk, an oil-rich city which Iraq's Kurds want to annex to their self-rule region in the north of the country. The city's Arab and Turkomen residents dispute the Kurdish claim. Gunmen meanwhile, sprayed a car carrying five bodyguards of the head of local Sunni Endowments department in the turbulent city of Basra, killing one of them and injuring the rest, police said. Also in Basra, a mainly Shiite city 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, a local elections official was gunned down late Saturday in front of his house.



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The police officials who reported both attacks spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. They did not give a motive for the attacks. But while the attack on the bodyguards may have had a sectarian motive – the Sunni Endowment is a state agency that looks after the sect's mosques and seminaries – the second one could have been linked to the widening fight among rival Shiite groups vying for control of the city in the wake of the redeployment outside Basra of British troops. News of the attacks in Basra came as a public tussle between Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and the country's Sunni Arab vice president, Tariq al-Hashemi, grew more intense. Al-Hashemi's office said in a statement Sunday that he asked President Jalal Talabani to push parliament to pardon security detainees who aren't what he called "dangerous elements" that would rejoin the insurgency. Al-Hashemi has campaigned for the release of thousands of detainees held in Iraqi and U.S.-run detention facilities without charge. He appeared to be trying to bypass al-Maliki in the appeal.

Nearly 90 percent of the estimated 25,000 Iraqis held by the U.S. military are believed to be members of the once-dominant Sunni Arab minority, a fact that Sunni politicians say is evidence of sectarian policies of the Shiite-dominated government. Petraeus also offered some personal reflection on the plight of Sultan Hashim al-Tai, who faces the death penalty after his conviction for his role in a Saddam Hussein-era military campaign that killed tens of thousands of Kurds. Al-Tai and the two other defendants – Saddam's cousin "Chemical Ali" al-Majid and Hussein Rashid Mohammed, former deputy operations director for the Iraqi military – were convicted in June of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for their part in the 1986-88 crackdown. They were sentenced to death by hanging. But the executions have been delayed as Iraqi politicians wrangle over the refusal of Jalal Talabani, himself a Kurd, to sign the order, as required by the constitution. Some legal experts have argued the requirement did not apply to former regime officials.

Al-Tai, a Sunni Arab from the northern city of Mosul, negotiated the cease-fire that ended the 1991 Gulf war, when a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. He also surrendered to U.S. forces in September 2003 after weeks of negotiations. His defense lawyers claimed the Americans had promised al-Tai "protection and good treatment" before he turned himself in. Petraeus, who was then commander of the 101st Airborne division that oversaw the surrender, denied he had promised al-Tai immunity. "We put the word out to his family through interlocutors that you know I would receive his surrender in an honorable manner and convey him to the central authorities and that's basically what we did. And I did treat him honorably." Petraeus said they brought al-Tai's family to him for a "final farewell." The commander also recalled that he personally flew al-Tai in his helicopter to Mosul and spent about an hour with him as they waited for a C-130 transport plane to fly him to Baghdad. "But the bottom line is that if the appropriate Iraqi process is followed then we will respect that process," he said, adding that the three men remained in U.S. custody.

#### Coalition Forces In Iraq Capture Extremist Splinter Group Leader

Source: KUNA, 27 Oct 07

Coalition forces captured a senior militia extremist, killed two others and detained an additional 14 admitted criminals during operations in the village of al Fawwaliyah, northwest of Khalis early Saturday, according to the Multi-National Force (MNF).

In a statement, it said the operation was "targeting a splinter group leader, who was not honoring Muqtada Al-Sadr's pledge to cease attacks and who was involved in weapons procurement, kidnapping operations and explosively formed penetrator attacks against coalition forces. Intelligence indicates that this individual also has ties to an Iranian intelligence cell." It said that as the

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assault force approached the building where the criminals were believed to be housed, they called for the occupants to exit the building. Two armed men with weapons and hand grenades maneuvered on the assault force, one of whom was wearing a suicide vest. Coalition forces engaged, killing the two men after they failed to comply with instructions and warning shots. Upon securing the area, the main target of the raid identified himself and peacefully surrendered to the ground force.

Inside the building, Coalition forces discovered several automatic weapons, a sniper rifle, maps and ammunition magazines. The area was further assessed to be a substantial militia extremists' compound used to coordinate criminal activity in the area. An additional 14 admitted criminals were detained on site. "We continue to support the Government of Iraq in welcoming the commitment by Muqtada al-Sadr to stop attacks and we will continue to show restraint in dealing with those who honor his pledge," said Major Winfield Danielson, MNF-I spokesman. "Those who have honored his pledge have made a positive impact, reducing violence levels in Iraq. However, as this operation illustrates, not all are honoring his pledge and some continue to conduct violent crimes against Iraqi citizens and security forces. Coalition forces will continue to take the necessary action against these criminals to protect the Iraqi people from their violent actions," he concluded.

President Of Iraqi Kurd Region Urges End To Rebellion

Source: Agency Focus Daily, in Bulgarian 25 October 07 - Translated by Cubic Translation Service

The president of Iraq's northern Kurd region urged the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party to end its more than two-decade armed fighting against Turkey.

According to a tough worded four-point statement, issued by the office of Massud Barzani, the President of the autonomous Kurd region of Iraq declared, "We call upon the PKK to eliminate violence and armed struggle as a mode of operation. We do not accept in any way, in accordance with our commitment to the Iraqi constitution, the use of Iraqi territories, including the territories of the Kurdistan region, as a base to threaten the security of neighbouring countries."

Israel

Israel Cuts Gaza Fuel In Response To Rocket Fire

Source: Reuters, 28 Oct 07

Israel began reducing fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip on Sunday under new economic sanctions to punish the Hamas-controlled Palestinian enclave for rocket fire on Israeli towns.

"In line with the Israeli government's decision, the Defense Ministry will this week begin cutting fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip by between 5 and 11 percent, depending on the type of fuel," an Israeli security source said. Palestinian officials had already complained on Sunday that deliveries of fuel oil for Gaza's power station, as well as diesel and petrol, were cut by between a quarter and a half. There was no immediate obvious impact on electricity supply. An official from the European Union, which funds fuel oil to Gaza's only electricity generating plant, said deliveries to the plant were down by about a quarter but it had stocks for some seven days of

operation. Power demand tends to ease at this time of year, as air conditioning use decreases. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said he will not allow a "humanitarian crisis". Officials say Israel will take care to ensure supplies for medical and other vital facilities in Gaza, which last month it declared to be an "enemy entity".

Hamas, the Islamist group whose violent seizure of control in the territory in June triggered a virtual closure of its borders, condemned Israel's "blackmail". "The ... bid to strangle the Palestinian people will create an explosion that will blow up not only in the face of Hamas but affect the entire region," Hamas spokesman Faze Barroom said. Under pressure to act against rocket attacks at a time when the government is also being criticized for talking peace with Hamas's Palestinian rivals in the west Bank, Defense Minister Ehud Barak last week ordered gradual cuts in energy supplies. Makeshift rockets have killed two Israelis this year. The United Nations has cautioned Israel against imposing "collective punishment" on Gaza's 1.5 million people. Israeli officials said the government was still reviewing its legal position -- Palestinians argue that, as Israel continues to control Gaza's frontiers since withdrawing troops in 2005, it still has the obligations of an occupying power under international law to ensure the welfare of the population.

An Israeli court is reviewing the sanctions, the security source said. He added that Israel had closed the Sufa crossing point, one of the few passages for goods since the main cargo clearing terminal was closed when Hamas seized power. The Palestinian Authority led by President Mahmoud Abbas in the larger west Bank, which has cut off relations with Hamas, has called on the international community to intervene to protect the civilian population of the Gaza Strip. An association for fuel merchants in Gaza said only about half the day's deliveries of petrol and diesel had been made. Mojahed Salama, head of the Palestinian Authority's Petrol Agency based in the West Bank, said Sunday fuel imports showed a 40 to 50 percent reduction in diesel and petrol supplies and a 12 percent reduction in fuel for the power plant in Gaza. A spokesman at Israeli fuel supply firm Dor Alon said it was implementing orders received from the Defense Ministry.

Abbas: Hamas Planning west Bank Takeover

Source: Jerusalem Post, 29 October

Hamas is planning to overthrow the Palestinian Authority government in the west Bank with the help of external forces, PA President Mahmoud Abbas said Sunday. Meanwhile, Fatah officials in Ramallah revealed that some Hamas leaders had received financial aid from former PA chairman Yasser Arafat. Documents released by the officials showed that the Hamas leaders had received thousands of dollars from Arafat in the 1990s. "We have information that Hamas is planning to copy the Gaza coup in the west Bank," Abbas said. "It's no secret that international parties are supporting Hamas in its efforts." Although Abbas did not name the international parties, his aides told The Jerusalem Post he was referring to Iran, Syria and Qatar. Abbas expressed confidence that Hamas's plan would fail. He also expressed readiness to resume talks with Hamas after the Islamist movement relinquishes control over the Gaza Strip. "Hamas is an integral part of the Palestinian people and we are prepared to talk to them if they cede control over the Gaza Strip," Abbas said. "But we know that Hamas can't make decisions on its own because of political and economic pressure from outside forces."

Abbas said Hamas was talking with Israel. He said that although he was not opposed to such talks, Hamas leaders must openly admit that they were talking to Israel. Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum denied that his movement was planning to stage a coup against Abbas's government. He said the charges were aimed at covering up for the "crimes" committed by Abbas's "militias" against Hamas supporters and figures in the west Bank. Barhoum said Hamas was "forced to take security measures in the Gaza Strip to stop Abbas's forces from carrying out the Zionist-American plot

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to overthrow the democratically elected government."

Fatah spokesman Ahmed Abdel Rahman said Sunday that Hamas's "coup" in the Gaza Strip had undermined the Palestinian cause in the international and Arab arenas. He denied that Hamas and Fatah were conducting secret negotiations to end the conflict, but said some Arab and Islamic countries had been mediating between the two parties. Abdel Rahman said there were growing signs the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were unhappy with the Hamas rule. He said Hamas's actions in the Gaza Strip had alienated many Palestinians, who were publicly criticizing the Hamas government.

The Fatah official, who also serves as an adviser to Abbas, said a PA delegation was expected to visit Damascus soon in a bid to persuade the Syrians to ban a meeting organized by radical Palestinian groups to protest against the upcoming US-sponsored peace conference. According to documents published by Fatah officials, several Hamas members who had formed a new party called the National Islamic Salvation Party received \$50,000 a month from Arafat. The party, which is an offshoot of Hamas, was headed by Yahya Musa, who today serves as a Hamas legislator in the Palestinian Legislative Council. According to the documents, some of Hamas's current leaders and spokesmen had also received \$5,000 each from Arafat. The money was given to them after they wrote letters to Arafat seeking financial aid.

Bomb Detonated Under SUV Of Deposed Gov't Security Personnel

Source: KUNA, 27 Oct 07

Unknown armed men detonated an explosive device early Saturday morning under an SUV belonging to the Palestinian police force of the deposed government, near a police station in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

Witnesses said the blast damaged the vehicle but there was no loss of life. The Interior Ministry of the deposed government said in a statement that the attack was staged by people who had "deviated from the track of law," adding that "any attempt to re-instigate chaos is rejected." Moreover, it said it would not be lenient with "traitors" whom it claimed wanted to destabilize Gaza.

Two Dead In Gaza House Explosion: Medics

Source: Reuters, 27 Oct 07

An explosion ripped through a house in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing at least two Palestinians, witnesses and medical workers said.

The source of the blast was unclear. An Israeli army spokeswoman said Israel was not involved in the incident. Medics said a young child and a woman were killed and at least three others were wounded. Residents searched through the rubble of the house for other survivors. Witnesses described a loud explosion in a village east of the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis near the border fence with Israel.

Israeli Troops Kill Palestinian Militant In Gaza

Source: Reuters, 26 Oct 07

Israeli troops killed a Palestinian gunman belonging to the Islamic Jihad militant group in the Gaza Strip on Friday, militants and hospital officials said.

An Israeli army spokesman said troops had clashed with militants during routine operations near the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis. Israeli troops frequently conduct raids into the Gaza Strip to try to prevent Palestinian militants from firing short-range rockets into southern Israel.

#### Israeli Troops Raid Gaza, Kill 6 Militants

Source: Reuters, 26 Oct 07

Israeli troops killed six Palestinian gunmen on Friday in some of the heaviest fighting for weeks in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian medical and militant sources said.

Two Israeli troops were wounded, the army said, as three separate raids were mounted into the territory, backed by air strikes. Seven Palestinian militants and three civilians were wounded, hospital staff said. Fighters from Hamas, the Islamist group which controls Gaza, were joined by other militants in battles that began overnight. The Israeli army, which described the raids as "routine", said its forces pulled back in early afternoon and witnesses said fighting appeared to have ended. On Thursday, Israel said it planned to start cutting power supplies to Gaza in response to almost daily rocket fire on Israeli towns nearby. Explosions and gunfire could be heard throughout Gaza and plumes of smoke billowed from the battle zones, in the north, south and centre of the 45-km (30-mile) strip of coast.

Hamas, which routed forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to seize control of the territory in June, said three of its men were killed. Islamic Jihad militants said three of their number also died in the clashes. Hamas said its fighters had overrun a small Israeli position and shot two soldiers. The group showed journalists some Israeli military equipment, some of it bloodstained -- evidence Hamas leaders said of their fighters' successes. As the fighting died down, Abbas met Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in an effort to narrow differences over a possible peace settlement that the United States hopes to push forward at a conference to be held near Washington before the year ends. Hamas's leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, dismissed such meetings as "a cover for continued Israeli aggression".

#### Kenya

#### Kenyan Paper Urges State To Clarify Over Deportation Of 19 On Terrorism Charges

Source: THE PEOPLE in English 0000 GMT 27 Oct 07

The cat and mouse game over the fate of 19 people who were deported to Ethiopia, Somalia and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba has taken a rather disturbing angle. The fact that the matter is quickly transforming into a hot political tool is an open secret. But it is iniquitous for any person to play around with this matter to gain political mileage. Kenyans and indeed the families of these people deserve to be told nothing but the truth.

On the one hand, the government has been issuing very conflicting statements on the matter which is of grave importance to the families of these 19 individuals. The sequence of events surrounding this issue is also confusing Kenyans and smacks of conspiracy to hide the truth. Recently, President Kibaki appointed a special task force to investigate the alleged deportation after pressure from Muslim leaders. The committee will be chaired by Eng A M H Sharawe, while Ambassador Amina Mohamed will be the secretary. Members include senior Muslim officials in the government. But the Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons and the government spokesman Alfred Mutua later emerged and denied that the extradited individuals are Kenyans. Internal Security Minister John Michuki has also added his voice to the issue by denying that the government has sanctioned the deportation of the 19 people on allegation of terrorism. The Human Rights Forum and the National Muslims Leaders Forum has, however, maintained the Kenyans are being held outside the country and has tabled a report with the government to substantiate their claims.

The [opposition] Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) presidential candidate Raila Odinga added a new twist when he published the names of the alleged victims of the deportation in a section of the press. Foreign Affairs Minister Raphael Tuju shocked the country last Thursday [25 October] when he admitted the individuals were indeed deported on grounds that they were a security threat. Whether these individuals are Kenyans or not is an issue the government needs to clarify without giving contradictory statements. It is not right to gamble with the lives of 19 individuals for political expediency.

#### Ex-Terror Suspect's Case Withdrawn

Source: All Africa / The Nation, Caroline Rwenji & Mark Agutu, 27 Oct 07

The state has withdrawn a case against a former terrorism suspect accused of being in the country illegally.

Mr. Farah Ahmed Hirsi was a happy man yesterday when state counsel Vincent Wihoro entered a nolle prosequi [NOLLE PROSEQUI - An entry made on the record, by which the prosecutor or plaintiff declares that he will proceed no further.], stopping all the charges. Mr. Hirsi had been accused of also giving false information when he applied for a passport. He came into the limelight after an explosion at the Ambassador Hotel building, on Moi Avenue, Nairobi, killing one person and injuring several others. He presented himself to police after learning that he was a suspect.

Through lawyer Ahmednassir Abdulahi, Mr. Hirsi said he believed the charges were meant to save the face of police, who had maintained that he was the main suspect in the blast. In an application, he told the court that the state wanted to withdraw the case so that they could have him deported to Somalia, Ethiopia or Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. He wanted the court to stop his deportation, saying that he is a Kenyan born in Mandera. Mr. Hirsi further accused police of failing to substantiate, or even charge him with, the offences. The trial is an abuse of the court process, he said, adding that he was being prosecuted in bad faith, unfairly and maliciously. "There is no valid reason for the police to say they need my client in their investigations into the blast yet they are charging him on immigration related matters," the lawyer said. Mr. Hirsi had been released on a Sh50,000 cash bail by Nairobi magistrate Stella Muketi, and ordered to report to police every Monday for a month. In another case, local manufacturers were yesterday allowed to join a case challenging the Government's planned economic partnership with the European Union.

Judge Joseph Nyamu of the judicial review division granted an application by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, through lawyer Ochieng' Oduol, that said it had interests in the matter. The new development came as Mr.

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Justice Nyamu certified the application as urgent and directed that the file be sent to Chief Justice Evan Gicheru to set up a bench of judges to hear the case. The judge also directed the other applicants - the Kenya Small-Scale Farmers Forum and the Kenya Human Rights Commission - to serve all the defendants, named as the Government and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, with the suit papers to enable them to prepare and file their responses ahead of the hearing on a date to be set by the chief justice. In their application filed on Thursday by lawyer James Orengo, the two lobby groups warn that the EPA trade arrangement will have devastating effects on the economy, equating it to the Structural Adjustment Programmes of the 1980s, which caused an economy downspin through its push for liberalisation.

Niger

Niger Rebels Say Kill 12 Soldiers In Ambush

Source: Reuters, 27 Oct 07

Niger's Tuareg-led rebels said on Saturday they had killed at least 12 soldiers and destroyed two army vehicles in the desert north of the central African country, but the military denied this.

The Niger Movement for Justice (MNJ), which has already killed more than 45 soldiers during an eight-month uprising, said on its web site it carried out the ambush at dawn on Thursday near Touara, in the region of Agadez. The MNJ has not staged any attacks since the start of the Muslim fast of Ramadan last month, during which it had declared a truce. The deputy head of Niger's army, Colonel Garba Maikido, told national radio that only a few soldiers had been lightly injured after a vehicle ran over a mine near the Algerian border.

Maikido was speaking at the presentation of a seizure of 1.1 tonnes of cannabis resin, worth an estimated 7 billion CFA francs (\$15.33 million), captured by an army patrol in the northern region of Air. Soldiers also seized arms, munitions and aircraft fuel. President Mamadou Tandja's government has refused to recognize the MNJ, blaming the violence in northern Niger on bandits and smugglers of arms and drugs. The rebels demand greater regional autonomy and want a larger share of revenues from major uranium mines in the region to be spent on local development. Niger's uranium provides around a quarter of France's electricity and French state-run utility Areva operates mines in the region. Chinese investors hope to start production soon.

Nigeria

Nigerian Rebel Group MEND Claims Oil Kidnap

Source: Reuters, Tom Ashby, 27 Oct 07

A prominent militant group claimed responsibility on Saturday for the kidnapping of six foreign workers from an Italian oil facility off the coast of Nigeria.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) gave no reason for Friday's abduction, the second in a week, which underscored the fragility of a peace initiative in the Niger Delta, Africa's biggest oil producing region.

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"MEND carried out the attack. Six oil workers captured," the group said in an e-mail to Reuters from a recognized MEND address. The raid on the Mystras oil production vessel, 53 miles (85 km) offshore and operated by ENI <ENI.MI> unit Saipem and SBM Offshore <SBMO.AS>, cut output by 50,000 barrels per day (bpd) and helped lift oil prices to a record \$92 a barrel on Friday. ENI said the six hostages included Polish, Filipino and Nigerian nationals, but industry sources said some Indians were also among the captives. Attacks by MEND since early last year had already cut Nigerian output by a fifth and forced thousands of foreigners to flee the vast wetlands region in southern Nigeria. MEND had observed a ceasefire since the inauguration of President Umaru Yar'Adua in May, who promised to address armed groups' grievances of poverty and neglect. But it threatened to resume kidnappings and attacks after the arrest last month of one of its leaders, Henry Okah, in Angola on gun running charges.

Kingsley Kuku, secretary of a government committee negotiating with the rebels, told Reuters he was making contact with those responsible for the abduction. "This happened in an area under the control of MEND," he said. "We are reaching out to MEND. We are working on it and we are getting close. When we are through, they should be released within 48 hours." MEND also claimed responsibility for an attack on the offshore EA oilfield last week in which seven workers contracted to Royal Dutch Shell <RDSA.L> were abducted for two days. The EA field, which can pump 115,000 bpd, has been closed since an earlier attack in February 2006. Kuku said MEND fighters had resumed operations because of Okah's detention. He said he feared the group was preparing for a major assault on the world's eighth largest oil exporter.

"From what we are hearing, these are warning strikes. That is what they say. We are worried they are planning something bigger," he told Reuters. MEND has accused Nigeria of being behind Okah's arrest. The Nigerian presidency has said it wants Okah returned to Nigeria to face criminal charges, a position that is not shared by many involved in the peace effort. Nigeria has no extradition treaty with Angola. Kuku said any attempt to bring Okah to Nigeria as a suspected criminal would be counterproductive. "Nigeria should not get involved. Angola should release Okah so our peace process can go on," he said. The government has had regular contacts with several militia leaders over the past few months in the hope of holding a formal peace conference before the end of the year. But militant representatives say they are frustrated with the slow pace of progress and organisation of the talks, and they doubt the sincerity of the government.

Pakistan

Daily Says Swat Violence Result Of Govt's 'Capitulation' To Militants

Source: The News International, 28 Oct 07 "The new FATA?"

The war-like situation that has broken out in Swat, which unnervingly mirrors that of the troubled tribal areas, offers irrefutable evidence of the government's inability to contain the militants' surge from the border region into the county's heartland and its failure to put into action the lessons learnt in the past.

The capturing of eight security personnel by the militants and the beheading of four, whose corpses were later publicly displayed in local markets, is a very disturbing indicator of what the state is up against in Swat. The situation there had been tense for quite a while before the government, which was for all intents and purposes sitting on its hands, finally decided that it needed to take action to halt the growth of extremism.

The problem, similar to the one encountered in the tribal areas, is that



an operation has finally been launched in the region but not before the hold of the militants, under the leadership of Maulana Fazlullah, has grown manifold, thanks to the government's previous inaction. Fazlullah was allowed to operate with an absurd amount of freedom, spreading his ideology of hate while raising his own standing army which, reports suggest, consists of almost 5,000 men and is tactically organised to a point where there is a separate cell of 'elite' fighters called the 'Shaheen Commando Force'. There is no way that the government can take the route of ignorance in this regard because the activities of the militant maulana were brazenly open. It is a documented fact that he began operating his own FM radio channel without the required government approval and he also openly challenged the provincial government's polio vaccination campaign in the region, telling his followers to refuse inoculation for their children. Ironically enough, instead of taking swift and robust action against a man that had all the makings of a future thorn in the government's side, the provincial government allowed him to continue operating his illegal channel in exchange for him stopping his action against the polio campaign. whichever way one views this, the bottom line is that it reeks of powerlessness on the part of the authorities; the capitulation in turn only served to embolden the maulana and his horde of militants.

There is no doubting the fact that the operation is necessary, and is one in which the state needs to come out on top if the rest of the country is to escape the growing tentacles of extremism and Talibanisation. Having said that, though, the fact also is that had this problem in Swat been tackled when it had began, the situation would not have been as grim as it is today. This is precisely what the government also did in the case of Lal Masjid and even, one could argue, in waziristan. Questions also need to be asked about the usefulness of strategies -- which the government now says are a thing of the past -- that sought to actually encourage such elements because they could be used to fight 'jihads' or proxy wars. while one hopes that the authorities are able to clean up the situation in Swat soon, the situation on the ground, with some reports suggesting that help for the militants may be on its way from neighbouring Kohistan district, indicates that the fight could well go on for many weeks or even longer.

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(Pakistan army forces on Sunday killed 10 islamist fighters during a skirmish in the Northwestern part of the country. The battle began on Friday in the Svat valley 180 km North of the city of Peshawar. The valley, a tourist attraction with Buddhist memorials and a temperate climate, is now the operating area for 2500 Pakistani troops.)

Source: Dawn, 28 Oct 07

Secret agencies were involved in violence in Swat and the government should withdraw forces from the Malakand region, said the provincial amir of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, Senator Maulana Gul Naseeb Khan, on Saturday.

Addressing a public rally in Chakdara, Maulana Naseeb said the Malakand division was a peaceful region but the government and its secret agencies had turned it into a battlefield. Accusing the government of toeing the American agenda, he condemned militants for attacking girls schools and music shops. He claimed that the people involved in bombings were neither jihadis nor good Muslims but were products of government agencies.

Terming the Frontier caretaker government powerless, he said that all powers were being exercised by the federal government. He said the recent incidents in Swat were part of a campaign to defame ulema and the Taliban. He challenged the government to produce foreign militants before the people and said if there was any foreign militant in the area, local people would themselves hand them over to the government. The rally was organised by the Adenzai chapter of the JUI-F and was attended by JUI's tehsil amir Maulana Habibun Nabi, Maulana Gul Rahim and Maulana Bashir Ahmad.

#### 20 Killed In Latest Clashes Between Pakistani Forces, Militants

Source: KUNA, 27 Oct 07

More than 20 persons, including security personnel, were killed and several were wounded in an operation against a local militant commander and his supporters launched Friday in once peaceful lush-green Swat valley in northern frontier province of NWFP, said officials Saturday.

Meanwhile, militants kidnapped 13 security personnel and publicly beheaded four. Fighting resumed between the two sides on Saturday after few hours of ceasefire, security sources told KUNA. They said militants and paramilitary troopers were exchanging heavy fire. They added that militants attacked the house of a local government official and put it on fire. Sources confirmed that more than 20 persons including about a dozen security personnel were killed in fighting and several others were wounded. Forces launched offensive on Friday against local militants commander, Maulana Fazlullah, in Imamdehri village of the valley, a day after about 39 soldiers were killed in a suicide and ammunition explosions. Militancy and extremism is on rise in once peaceful and premier tourist Swat valley since Tahreek Nifaz-e-Shariat Mohammadi (TNSM), Fazlullah's Al-Qaeda linked banned group, established its strongholds in the area.

Despite governments ban on his group and illegal radio station, Fazlullah, also known as Mullah Radio, has been giving fiery anti-government and anti-west speeches on his illegal FM radio station. Meanwhile, militants of TNSM group Friday publicly executed four law-enforcement personnel, all in their mid-20s, in what witnesses described as gruesome and gory scene of beheading by masked militants armed with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles. There was no information about the identity of the beheaded men but local newspapers citing witnesses said two of them were from police and the other two belonged to paramilitary force. Police sources said that masked militants Friday evening attacked a security checkpoint in Mangora area of Swat and kidnapped at least 13 security personnel.

wikipedia map showing location of Swat

Militants Execute 13 In volatile NW Pakistan

Source: Reuters, Junaid Khan, 27 Oct 07

Militants in northwestern Pakistan executed 13 people, including six members of the security forces, in apparent retaliation for a crackdown on their stronghold, an official and residents said on Saturday.

The Swat valley in the North West Frontier Province was the scene of a fierce battle between the security forces and followers of a radical Muslim cleric on Friday after authorities sent more than 2,000 soldiers to counter growing militancy. At least 17 paramilitary soldiers and four civilians were killed in a suspected suicide attack near the valley's main town of Mingora on Thursday. Provincial officials said the militants on Friday killed seven civilians outside nearby Matta town, and beheaded three soldiers and three policemen they had taken hostage.

"(The civilians) were travelling in a van. The militants took them out of the van and slaughtered them," Badshah Gul Wazir, a top provincial home ministry official, told Reuters. The corpses of the slain police and soldiers were found in the same area. "All six of them have been found beheaded," he added. He said two civilians were killed in the crossfire. Residents said there had been sporadic exchange of fire between the security forces and militants in Swat on Saturday but there were no reports of casualties. Swat, a scenic valley close to Pakistan's lawless tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, has seen a surge in militant activity since Maulana Fazlullah, a pro-Taliban cleric, reportedly launched an illegal FM radio station and urged people to join a jihad or Muslim holy war. Fazlullah is de facto head of a pro-Taliban group, Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) or Movement for the Implementation of Mohammad's Sharia Law, which was banned by U.S. ally President Pervez Musharraf in January 2002.

Muslim Khan, an aide to Fazlullah, denounced the executions. "Someone may have done it out of emotion but we condemn it," he told a group of reporters. Militants have attacked security forces and carried out bomb attacks in recent months in Swat where they have been forcing residents to follow a strict Islamic code. Pakistani tribal areas have been a hotbed of support for al Qaeda and Taliban militants who have fled Afghanistan. Thousands of soldiers and militants have died in battles in these regions since 2003. Violence has escalated across Pakistan since July, when militants scrapped a peace deal and the army stormed a radical mosque in the capital, Islamabad. Last week, at least 139 people were killed in a suicide attack in the city of Karachi during a procession led by former prime minister Benazir Bhutto on her return from eight years of self-imposed exile.

Russia

Attack On Tyumen-Baku Passenger Train In Russia

Source: Azerbaijan News Service, 28 Oct 07

50-60 people armed with cutting facilities attacked passenger train at Artezian station of the Autonomous Republic of Kalmykia.

There was an armed attack to Tumen-Baku passenger train. Nadir Azmammadov, head of press service of Azerbaijani State Railway, informed ANS TV that 50-60 people armed with cutting facilities attacked passenger train at Artezian station of the Autonomous Republic of Kalmykia. 25 people were injured as the result. 4 of them being seriously injured, were placed in Kizlyar hospital. Transport police and soldier, who came to help, are also among injured. The administration of the Azerbaijani State Railway sent a telegram to the administration of the Russian Railways LLC, North-Caucasus Railways and Russia's transport police asking to seriously investigate the incident

#### Chechen Police Arrest Suspected Rebel

Source: Regnum in Russian 0559 GMT 26 Oct 07

During operational and search measures carried out on the evening of 25 October, the police in Oktyabrskiy district of Groznyy arrested a 31-year-old local resident. According to the law-enforcement agencies, he has been a member of Akmurzayev's bandit group since 2000, the Chechen Interior Ministry told Regnum news agency. A criminal case has been opened under Part 2 of Article 208 (participation in armed resistance or attacks) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

#### Saudi Arabia

#### Saudi King Chides UK on Terrorism

Source: BBC News, 29 October

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has accused Britain of not doing enough to fight international terrorism, which he says could take 20 or 30 years to beat. He was speaking in a BBC interview ahead of a state visit to the UK - the first by a Saudi monarch for 20 years. He also said Britain failed to act on information passed by the Saudis which might have averted terrorist attacks. King Abdullah is expected to arrive in the UK on Monday afternoon; his visit begins formally on Tuesday. In the BBC interview he said the fight against terrorism needed much more effort by countries such as Britain and that al-Qaeda continued to be a big problem for his country. BBC world affairs correspondent John Simpson says King Abdullah is annoyed that the rest of the world has largely failed to act on his proposal for a UN clearing house for information about terrorism.

#### Terror 'information'

Speaking through an interpreter, the Saudi monarch said he believed most countries were not taking the issue seriously, "including, unfortunately, Great Britain". "We have sent information to Great Britain before the terrorist attacks in Britain but unfortunately no action was taken. And it may have been able to maybe avert the tragedy." The Saudi leadership maintains that it passed the UK information that might have averted the London bombings of 2005 if it had been acted on. BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner says Whitehall officials have strenuously denied this, and a subsequent investigation by Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) found no evidence of any intelligence passed on by the Saudis that could have prevented the 7 July 2005 bombings. The king's visit has provoked controversy over Britain's relationship with Saudi Arabia. A demonstration is planned outside the Saudi embassy in London later in the week in protest at the country's human rights record. And acting Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable has announced he is boycotting the visit, citing the corruption scandal over Al Yamamah arms deal, and the Saudis' human rights record.

## Serbia

### War-Crime Suspects Key To Serbia's Future

Source: Financial Times, 28 Oct 07

The European Union and Serbia are approaching a moment of truth as EU leaders weigh up whether Belgrade's co-operation in tracking down alleged war criminals is enough to justify putting Serbia on the road to EU membership.

Carla del Ponte, chief prosecutor at the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, discussed the matter with Olli Rehn, the EU's enlargement commissioner, on her return from a two-day trip to Serbia last week. The pair will hold more discussions at the end of the week before a final decision is taken. EU governments have mixed views about how much Serbia's progress towards membership should depend on handing over war-crimes suspects. The central problem concerns Ratko Mladic, the former Bosnian Serb military commander and alleged organiser of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. Ms del Ponte said Belgrade's co-operation was improving but could not be deemed sufficient without Mr Mladic's arrest. However, some EU officials want to initial a "stabilisation and association agreement" with Serbia - the first step towards EU membership - if Belgrade is doing all it can to find Mr Mladic and three other fugitives. Boris Tadic, Serbia's pro-EU president, said he hoped Ms del Ponte would "prepare a positive report regarding our co-operation . . . even though we are facing some difficulties to find Ratko Mladic and other fugitives."

Serbian officials this month offered a €1m (\$695,000, £487,000) reward for information leading to Mr Mladic's arrest, and rewards of €250,000 for two others. Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb political leader, would also be worth €1m, but he does not hold Serbian citizenship, officials said. Western intelligence agencies are uncertain where Mr Karadzic is hiding, but suspect Mr Mladic is in Serbia, according to diplomats in Brussels. Besides opening the door to the EU, Mr Mladic's arrest would, in Serbia's view, boost its goal of retaining sovereignty over the breakaway province of Kosovo. Ms del Ponte has said political pressure, especially from the EU, is the only way ex-Yugoslav suspects have ever come to trial in The Hague. Serbia has delivered nearly 40 war crimes suspects to the tribunal since 2000. However, co-operation with the tribunal was "not fully satisfactory" before Serbia's current government was formed four months ago, Mr Tadic said. The president has insisted on intelligence oversight as a condition for his Social Democrats working in coalition under the nationalist-leaning prime minister, Vojislav Kostunica. Until then, Mr Kostunica had periodically questioned the fairness of the Hague tribunal for Serb suspects. "The first report I get every morning is on full co-operation with the tribunal," he said.

## Somalia

### Heavy Fighting Shakes Somalia

Source: News24, 27 Oct 07

Insurgents and government-allied forces battled with machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades on Saturday in the heaviest fighting to hit Somalia's capital for months, leaving at least seven people dead and dozens others wounded, witnesses and health officials said.

Islamic fighters briefly occupied a police station in south Mogadishu, before heading back out of the area, chanting "God is great", witnesses said. Witnesses said at least seven people including a woman had died in the heavy fighting, which saw insurgents and government troops and allied Ethiopian forces trading heavy machine-gun fire and mortar rounds. Insurgents could be seen firing rocket-propelled grenades.

At least 35 people were under treatment at Mogadishu's Medina Hospital from injuries suffered during the fighting, including some who were seriously wounded, said Tahir Mohammed Mahmoud, an administrative assistant. He said it was the worst fighting, and heaviest day for hospital admissions, for at least four months in the war-scarred city. Another witness to the fighting, Hassan Hussein, said he saw two dead Ethiopian troops. Ethiopian officials were not immediately available for confirmation. On the political front, Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi was in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, for consultations. He has been locked in a power struggle for months with President Abdullahi Yusuf, who wants to push through a no-confidence vote this week and form a new government - presumably without Gedi. On Friday, Gedi told local media that he was not planning to resign, contrary to widespread speculation.

Twenty-two ministers and deputy ministers have threatened to resign unless the no-confidence vote is held, exposing deep rifts in the administration. Mogadishu has been plagued by fighting since government troops and their Ethiopian allies chased out the Council of Islamic Courts in December. For six months, the Islamic group controlled much of southern Somalia, and remnants have vowed to fight an Iraq-style insurgency. Thousands of civilians have been killed in the fighting this year. Somalia has not had a functioning government since 1991, when rival warlords overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and then turned on each other. Some 1.5 million Somalis are now in need of food aid and protection - or 50% more than at the start of the year - due to inadequate rains, continuing internal displacement and a potential cholera epidemic, the UN says.

Spain

Spain To Extradite Syria Arms Dealer Suspect To US

Source: Reuters, 26 Oct 07

Spain's High Court on Friday agreed to a U.S. request to extradite a suspected Syrian weapons dealer accused of planning to supply arms to a Colombian rebel group.

Monzer al-Kassar was arrested in Madrid in June on charges of conspiring to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). U.S. authorities accuse Kassar of agreeing to provide arms to the FARC to protect a cocaine-trafficking business and attack U.S. interests in the South American country. A long-time Spanish resident known as the "Prince of Marbella" for his outlandish lifestyle, Kassar has sold weapons to the Palestine Liberation Front, Nicaragua, Bosnia, Croatia, Iran, Iraq and Somalia since the 1970s, the U.S. Embassy in Madrid said. In 1995, Kassar was acquitted by Spain's high court of a charge of piracy in connection with the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro by Palestinian guerrillas.

Syria

Source: BBC, 26 Oct 07

Newly-released satellite images of the presumed site of an Israeli air raid on Syria last month suggest that a large building has been completely removed.

US research group, the Institute for Science and International Security, obtained and analysed the images. The industrial-style building may have been a nuclear reactor under construction, says the ISIS. A BBC correspondent says the images are not conclusive. Nor is it certain that they show the site hit by Israeli jets. The Israeli strike has been shrouded in mystery and speculation. Originally Israel did not even admit that the 6 September raid had been carried out, and its military censor ordered a complete blackout on information. But Syria said Israeli warplanes violated its airspace in what it called a "hostile act", and Israel eventually acknowledged the mission some four weeks later. Intelligence sources hinted at a possible link with North Korea's nuclear programme.

#### 'Resemblance'

On Wednesday the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), an independent organisation, released satellite images pre-dating the attack, of a facility in northern Syria that it believes was the target. They showed both a large industrial building and a pumping station near the Euphrates river. The ISIS said the building bore a resemblance to the Yongbyon nuclear facility in North Korea. "The length of the outer walls of the structures are approximately the same," the institute said in its analysis. "From the image, the Syrian building is similar in shape to the North Korean reactor building, but the Syrian building is not far enough along in its construction to make a definitive comparison," it said. The ISIS has now produced a more recent image of the same site taken on 24 October, more than six weeks after the alleged air attack. The image appears to show that the building has been completely removed and the ground scraped clean.

#### 'Provocative'

Syria has consistently denied any plans to build a nuclear reactor, and its ambassador to the UN rejected the ISIS's analysis, saying the building was "only a centre for research for the desert areas, arid and desert areas in Syria". "The main point is that is that the Israeli fighter jet violated the airspace of a member state of the United Nations. This is the only fact that we should focus on," Bashar Jaafari said. "The Israelis have undertaken a provocative action and they should assume the consequences." North Korea has adamantly denied that it was involved in helping Syria build any kind of nuclear facility. The images, says the BBC's diplomatic correspondent Jonathan Marcus, are far from conclusive. But they suggest that, for whatever reason, the Syrian authorities have gone to great lengths to remove any trace of the building apparently targeted in the strike, our correspondent adds.

The ISIS argues that "dismantling and removing the building at such a rapid pace dramatically complicates any inspection of the facilities and suggests that Syria may be trying to hide what was there". The report also raises the question of whether Syria might be in breach of its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, our correspondent says. Under that, it would have an obligation to notify the UN's nuclear watchdog of any plans to construct a new nuclear facility. While about the Israeli air strike on Syria is a mystery, it is believed that in the early hours of 6 September a number of Israeli jets appeared to enter Syrian airspace from the Mediterranean Sea. Later, unidentified drop tanks, which may have contained fuel from the planes, were found on Turkish soil near the Syrian border, indicating a possible exit route. Witnesses said the Israeli jets had been engaged by Syrian air defences in Tall al-Abyad, north of Raqqa and near the

border with Turkey.

Turkey

Turkish Troops 'Kill PKK Rebels'

Source: BBC, 28 Oct 07

Turkish troops have killed 15 suspected Kurdish rebels in the east of the country, reports say.

Military sources and Turkish TV reports said operations were taking place near the town of Pulumur, in the eastern province of Tunceli.

The area is thought to be a stronghold of separatists from the Kurdistan workers' Party (PKK). Turkey has stepped up moves against the PKK recently after strikes from across the border with Iraq. The government in Ankara has warned it will not tolerate continued raids by PKK fighters based in northern Iraq, and has massed troops near the border in preparation for a possible ground invasion.

Sunday's raid happened a considerable distance from the border flashpoints. Tunceli is some 550km (340 miles) north-east of the province of Sirnak and 650km (400 miles) north-east of Hakkari, where most of the recent fighting has taken place. The government-run Anatolia news agency said fighting began on Sunday morning, with Turkish troops backed by helicopter gunships. One report said some 8,000 troops were involved. Security forces also shut down a major highway leading to the town of Pulumur, Anatolia reported. There was no official confirmation of casualty figures, but two private TV stations said 15 PKK rebels were killed. The latest raid came a day after Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticised European Union nations for not doing enough to rein in the guerrillas...

Kurdish PKK Militants Focused On Own Survival

Source: Reuters, 26 Oct 07

Holed up in the mountains of northern Iraq, Kurdistan workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas have grabbed world attention as rarely before as Turkey mulls whether to launch a cross-border incursion against their bases.

But recent attacks on Turkish soldiers look above all like a sign of desperation as a depleted PKK show no sign of being able to force their aims onto the political agenda, analysts say. Their goals, derived from a Marxist-Leninist ideology, have anyway become blurred since they took up arms in 1984 with the aim of establishing an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey. More than 30,000 people have died in the conflict. "Their own survival is more important to them now than the issue of Kurdish rights or autonomy," said Gareth Jenkins, an Istanbul-based expert on Turkish security issues. "What they are fighting for is political legitimacy for themselves -- to get Turkey to negotiate with them so they can become a political player." He said the PKK still saw Abdullah Ocalan, their leader captured in 1999, as a potential interlocutor with the state.

After his capture, Ocalan called for a peaceful resolution and the rebels announced a ceasefire. This was ignored by Turkey, which like the United States and the European Union condemns the PKK as a terrorist group. Many of the



group's statements have since shifted their focus more to demanding greater political and cultural rights for Turkey's 12-15 million Kurds. While there is still wide sympathy for the PKK in the southeast, some of the steam may have gone out of Kurds' complaints that their interests and culture are suppressed. In recent years, Turkey has begun to allow limited Kurdish television broadcasts, and Kurdish lessons in private classes. And in last July's parliamentary election, the ruling AKP made strong gains in the region at the expense of the main Kurdish party.

### Stirring Tensions

At the same time, the PKK's attacks have continued and recently intensified, to try to draw attention to their cause. "In order to do this they must create an atmosphere in which there are clashes. They want to stir up tensions between Turks and Kurds by provoking Turks. But I don't think this game will work," said Sadi Cayci, international law consultant at the Eurasian Strategic Studies Centre in Ankara. Cayci said the militants' ultimate aim of creating a Kurdish state remained, and had been reinforced by the growing autonomy of the Kurdish administration in northern Iraq.

The PKK's camps in northern Iraq are now at the heart of their activities, and their armaments are believed to come from poorly controlled Iraqi military stocks. The PKK are still capable of raising money through fund-raising events and protection rackets within Turkey, and through the Kurdish diaspora in Europe, to fuel their insurgency, and this month have mounted two large-scale attacks in which 25 Turkish soldiers have been killed. But their numbers are estimated to be down sharply from a decade ago, to about 3,000 in Iraq and 1,000-2,000 in Turkey.

This explains why more than half the PKK attacks in the last two years have been bomb attacks, the Turkish military says. A military official in southeast Turkey said he did not see the PKK returning wholesale to more direct confrontations, which involve high rebel casualties. "Strategically they are focused on attacks that incur the fewest losses. Hence, they are resorting to remote-controlled bombs and hit-and-run attacks," the official said. Meanwhile, public opposition across Turkey in general to talks with the PKK or Kurdish autonomy is as strong as ever. Ocalan, unable to control the rebels on a tactical level but still a powerful influence in terms of their strategy, has not commented on the latest violence. His lawyers were last able to visit him a month ago, when they issued a statement in which Ocalan stuck to familiar themes of Marxism, democracy and plots against him.

### Turkey Calls For Iraq To Hand Over All PKK Rebels

Source: Reuters, 26 Oct 07

Turkey wants Iraq to hand over all members of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) based in northern Iraq, Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Cicek said on Friday.

Cicek, speaking in a televised interview as Iraqi and U.S. officials met Turkish officials in Ankara in a bid to stop Turkey launching an incursion into northern Iraq to tackle the militants, also said Turkish air forces had hit targets in northern Iraq but there had been no full land incursion. "Everyone (PKK members in northern Iraq) there is guilty. They are criminals at least for being a member of a terrorist organisation," Cicek said. "We want all of them to be handed over," he said, adding that Ankara had given Iraq a list of PKK militants. The central government in Iraq has little clout in the mainly Kurdish autonomous north of Iraq, and the interior chief of the autonomous region was blocked from attending the talks by Ankara.

#### Village Guards Arrested in Turkey's Southeast for 'Aiding PKK'

Source: CNN TURK Online WWW-Text in Turkish 1613 GMT 26 Oct 07

Six provisional village guards have been arrested in the Cukurca district of Hakkari on charges of aiding and sheltering the terrorist organization. Acting on a tip, squads from the local gendarmerie command obtained information that some provisional village guards were helping and sheltering the terrorist organization PKK.

Security forces began to monitor the six village guards, and their phones were placed under surveillance.

After it was determined that the said guards were leaking information to terrorists in phone conversations with PKK members, squads affiliated with the Cukurca District Gendarmerie Command raided the homes of the guards in the district center and surrounding villages.

The six provisional village guards detained in the course of these raids were taken to court after they were interrogated at the gendarmerie command. The six men underwent a health check and were sent to the Hakkari Closed Prison after the court ordered them arrested on charges of "aiding and sheltering the terrorist organization."

#### Mine Injures One Person in Siirt

The Office of the Chief of the General Staff reported that one citizen was injured by a mine explosion in Siirt and that there were no casualties in the brief firefights that occurred between terrorists and security forces in Bitlis, Bingol, and Siirt.

According to the counterterrorism bulletin that appeared on the website of the Office of the Chief of the General Staff, one citizen was injured yesterday when an explosive device of unknown type and origin went off in a mountainous area of the Pervari district of Siirt.

Security forces encountered groups of terrorists in the mountainous countryside of Bitlis yesterday, the Karlioiva district of Bingol two days ago, and the Eruh district of Siirt on 23 October in the course of search and sweep operations.

Brief firefights ensued when the terrorists fired in response to orders to "surrender" by the security forces. There were no casualties in these incidents.

#### Explosive Device Found

An explosive device, crafted out of three kilograms of plastic explosive, was found to have been planted by terrorists near the 2-kilometer marker of the Dargecit-Mardin highway yesterday. The device was subsequently destroyed.

#### Eleven Detained in Sirnak

Eleven persons were detained in the Silopi district of Sirnak on charges of being members of the terrorist organization PKK.

Acting on an intelligence tip, counterterrorism squads of the Security Directorate of Silopi raided a tea garden in the center of the district. In the course of this raid, 11 persons, two of them women, were detained and taken to the Security Directorate of Silopi on charges of being members of the PKK.

#### PKK Changes Battlefield Tactics to Force Turkey into Negotiations

<[http://www.jamestown.org/news\\_details.php?news\\_id=282##](http://www.jamestown.org/news_details.php?news_id=282##)>

Source: Gareth Jenkins, Jamestown Foundation from Terrorism Focus  
<<http://jamestown.org/terrorism/>> , October 24

Recent attacks by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) suggest that the organization is adopting new battlefield tactics in order to increase the psychological pressure on Turkey in the hope of forcing the Turkish authorities to enter into peace negotiations. Since it resumed its armed struggle in June 2004, the PKK has been pursuing a two-front strategy: an urban bombing campaign in western Turkey and a rural insurgency in the mountainous southeast of the country. During its first armed campaign, which lasted from 1984 to 1999, the PKK initially sought to control large swathes of territory in southeast Turkey, particularly at night. During the early 1990s, it also staged several large-scale attacks on military outposts. However, the practice was abandoned after the Turkish military began to inflict heavy casualties through the use of Cobra attack helicopters in hot pursuit operations. Gradually, through a combination of a scorched earth policy, aggressive search-and-destroy patrols and the development of a cadre of battle-hardened NCOs, the Turkish security forces gained the initiative. By the time that the PKK announced it was abandoning the armed struggle in 1999, it had already effectively been defeated on the battlefield, while political pressure had forced Syria, its main state sponsor, to withdraw its support.

The decision to return to violence in June 2004 was taken despite the opposition of many PKK field commanders, who argued that the organization was too weak militarily, lacked a state sponsor and had only around 4,000 militants under arms, which was down from a peak of around 8,000 in the early 1990s. When it resumed its insurgency, the PKK tacitly acknowledged its relative weakness through its choice of battlefield tactics. It reduced the average size of its active field units to around six to eight militants, compared to 15-20 in the 1990s, and avoided direct confrontations with the Turkish military. Although it staged small ambushes, it concentrated primarily on the use of mines, snipers and long-range strafing of military outposts, after which its units rapidly withdrew before the Turkish military could call up land reinforcements and air support.

The first sign of a change came in the October 7 ambush of a Turkish commando unit in the Gabar mountains in which 13 Turkish soldiers were killed (Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 10). Not only was it the highest Turkish death toll in more than a decade, but the ambush appears to have been laid by 45-50 PKK militants, the largest concentration of PKK forces in a single attack since the resumption of the armed campaign in June 2004.

At 12:20 AM on October 21, an estimated 150-200 militants attacked a 50-strong infantry battalion in a military outpost close to the village of Daglica, approximately five kilometers from Turkey's border with Iraq. The attack appears to have been planned well in advance (Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 22). Local villagers reported that first electricity and telephone lines were cut and then the only bridge to the outpost was blown up (Dogar Haber Ajansi, October 23). A total of 12 soldiers were killed and 17 wounded. One of the wounded later told Sabah daily newspaper that they were able to see the PKK militants taking up positions through night-vision binoculars and thermal imaging devices, while listening to their wireless communications. When the PKK attacked, they overran the outpost before reinforcements could arrive (Sabah, October 23). They then withdrew under fire into northern Iraq, taking with them eight Turkish soldiers as prisoners. On October 23, the PKK released photographs of the soldiers in captivity (Firat News Agency, October 23).

The PKK's decision to incur the operational burden of escorting the prisoners through difficult mountain terrain while under fire appears to indicate that it was part of a preconceived plan. It was the first time that the organization had seized a group of prisoners since the mid-1990s, and at the time they subsequently exploited them for propaganda purposes. It was only after a Turkish parliamentary delegation led by members of the Islamist welfare Party (RP) traveled to northern

Iraq to negotiate with the PKK that the prisoners were finally released. Members of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP), which is widely believed to be linked to the PKK, have already offered to negotiate the release of the eight soldiers seized on October 21 (NTV, CNNTurk, October 22).

The Turkish military claimed to have killed 32 PKK militants in hot pursuit operations following the attack on Daglica (NTV, CNNTurk, October 21). The claim, however, has been denied by the PKK and the Turkish authorities have yet to produce any corpses of slain PKK militants (Vatan, October 23). Nevertheless, given their experience in the 1990s, the PKK high command would have known that the attack of October 21 carried the risk of high casualties. It appears that they calculated that the cost would be more than offset by the propaganda benefits and the psychological impact on the Turkish public not only of the high death toll but also of the capture of the eight soldiers. The Turkish media has already begun publishing photographs of the prisoners' traumatized relatives (Sabah, NTV, October 23).

The seizure of the eight soldiers also appears to be part of a wider strategy of trying to force the Turkish authorities into negotiations. The staging of the attack on October 21, just days after the Turkish parliament approved a motion authorizing the deployment of Turkish troops in a cross-border operation against the PKK's presence in northern Iraq, seems to have been designed to try to provoke Turkey to threaten an incursion in the hopes that the international community would intervene and argue that a permanent solution to PKK violence could only come through the opening of negotiations (Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 22).  
Gareth Jenkins is a writer and journalist based in Istanbul, who has written on Turkey for the past 20 years.

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(The Turkish information ministry reported the deaths of 15 Kurdish fighters on Sunday in the Southeastern province of Tundjeli. Turkey has deployed a 150,000 man force to the border area with a mandate to cross into Iraq to conduct operations against Kurdish fighters, thought to number approximately 3500.)

Uganda

Confusion Sets Into LRA Peace Process

Source: The Monitor, 28 Oct 07

After a difficult 16 months of going back and forth, the Juba peace process is now faced with yet another storm.

Garamba, where the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leadership is holed up, is dead silent and the news trickling out is deeply worrying: The two topmost rebel commanders, Joseph Kony and his deputy, Vincent Otti, have disagreed and a major split is feared. Otti's fate remains a mystery. Kony's signaller, Labal Piny, is in possession of Otti's satellite phone set. "Everyday for almost a month now, I have failed to talk to Otti. Kony is not taking my calls, I wonder what is happening, last night I went to Mega FM and personally asked Kony to quickly explain what is going on," Col. Walter Ochora, Gulu's resident district commissioner said. Col. Ochora has been an instrumental channel of communication between the rebels and the government but now finds himself in a vacuum. Kony and Otti, both indictees of the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity, have led the LRA during the best and worst of times for the shadowy organisation. It is now difficult to say what their reported disagreement will mean for the peace process, especially since up to 33 rebels are said to have died in a reported gun battle on October 10 that pitted Kony loyalists against Otti's people. If true, this is unprecedented even in the rebel's long history of dishing out harsh treatment to its members who fail or are suspected of disloyalty. So, attempts by the LRA's delegation to the peace talks to either downplay or vehemently deny that there is anything wrong within the rebel ranks only serves to further complicate the already unclear picture. No substantive or verifiable information as to what may have sparked the disagreement is currently available. Only rumours; first about an alleged dispute over how to spend the \$600,000 ostensibly provided for consultations by the donor community, and then over claims that a power struggle was afoot between the top two rebel leaders.

"Kony was increasingly accusing Otti of doing things behind his back which he considered betrayal," a security source told Sunday Monitor. Otti had also reportedly sanctioned recruitment of 128 former rebels of the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF II) "to boost their numbers should things go wrong [with the peace talks]." It is not clear if Kony was aware of this. The UNRF II largely operated in West Nile region before it signed a peace agreement with the government in December 2002. Its leader, Maj. Gen. Ali Bamuze, is currently living in Kampala. The purported recruitment by a former senior member of the UNRF II in mid August, however, reportedly went bad with many of those said to have been recruited deserting upon realising that they had been duped. The men had reportedly been told that they were being hired to go and work on a huge bricklaying project.

Adding to the confusion was the strange decision by Sudanese People's Defence Forces (SPLA) troops to detain members of the LRA's negotiating team for almost one hour when they travelled to Maridi last Saturday (October 20). Mr Martin Ojul and Mr Yusuf Okwonga Adek were held as they travelled to Maridi on their way to Kony's base. "When our negotiators landed at Maridi and got into a convoy to Maridi Hotel they were quickly arrested by SPLA. We still wonder why and we are demanding an explanation," said LRA spokesman Godfrey Ayoo during an interview with Sunday Monitor during the week. Maridi is a small town near the border between South Sudan and the DR Congo through which the Garamba National Park, where the LRA are based, can be accessed. The search for answers continues after Kony snubbed the UN envoy for northern Uganda, Joaquim Chissano, who he was scheduled to meet on October 22.

A week to this appointment Mr Chissano lost contact with Kony. Desperate that the lack of contact was affecting the peace process, Mr Chissano decided to try to meet Kony face to face but he was only able to get as far as Maridi where he met the LRA negotiators, themselves stranded after they failed to meet their leader. Mr Chissano who flew back to Kampala on the same day, later told donors that he had been told that Otti was ill with cholera and could not travel for the meeting. The LRA also promised Mr Chissano that they would come to Uganda by this weekend for consultations. This has not happened either. Though there is speculation over the future of the peace process, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, the government's chief negotiator and minister for Internal Affairs, is confident that the process is still on course.

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"In peace talks we have hitches and corners but we are in touch with the LRA and the peace talks are still on course," Dr Rugunda said on Friday. Meanwhile, the issue of money is becoming a sticking point. The government delegation has expressed concern over what they perceive as indirect funding of the LRA through "exorbitant per diems."

Sunday Monitor obtained information, which we could not independently verify though, that there is an unwritten rule that every LRA delegate in Juba must hand over \$50 of \$120 they receive as allowances everyday to the LRA leadership. There are 15 LRA delegates participating in the Juba negotiations; 13 negotiators and two members who constitute the rebels' membership on the Cessation of Hostilities Team. If this allegation is true then the LRA leadership in Garamba would be receiving \$750 (Shs1.3 million) daily and that translates to \$5,250 (Shs9 million) in one week. "We have information that this is happening and we ask ourselves who is now bankrolling LRA? The donors?" said one government negotiator, who declined to be named in the interests of harmony. The government, according to our sources, has expressed this concern to the donor group, Partners for Development and Governance. The group includes European Union countries, the US, Norway and Canada that are contributing to the Juba Initiative Fund managed by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance.

France, the European Union chair, which had earlier expressed concern over LRA's direct handling of large sums of money declined to comment on this development. But the LRA rubbished the claim saying its delegates are free to use their per diems as they wish. "What is it that the Uganda government is worrying about when [they] are stealing millions of dollars from impoverished tax payers?" asked Godfrey Ayoo, LRA's spokesman, in a telephone interview from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. "No one is going to tell us how to run our affairs," he added. The peace talks are open-ended with no time table, a fact that is increasingly unsettling the government that has now resorted to applying pressure on the Congolese authorities to take action against LRA. But with the uncertainty of what is going inside the Garamba, especially in respect of Otti's fate, and no actual movement by Kinshasa on the rebels despite having made several commitments to do so, a sense of helplessness is beginning to set in.

#### Ex-LRA Chief Held Over Robbery

[One answer to the question, "How do terrorists end?". Legitimate occupations like farming lack luster after the thrill of being a terrorist.]

Source: Daily Monitor, 26 Oct 07

A former director of operations for the Lords Resistance Army and 10 others were on Wednesday arrested over allegations of armed robbery.

Onen Kamudulu, who surrendered to the government forces in 2004, was arrested with a pistol from his hideout in Maruzi farm in Apac District. Police detectives said that Kamudulu and his accomplices, who were armed with pistols and AK-47 rifles, came from Gulu and staged an ambush on Masindi Port Road and robbed cash, mobile phones and other personal belongings from local traders. "Police searched the farm and arrested the suspects with 180 rounds of ammunition, a pistol and four motorcycles which they have been using in the robberies," Police Spokesman Asan Kasingye said yesterday. The waylaid market vendors were returning by taxi from Bweyale Trading Center in Masindi District.

Mr Kasingye identified the other suspects as Joseph Okot, Thomas Opio, George Oola, Denis Okot and Richard Oloya, all residents of Gulu District. Police operatives also apprehended Christopher Ochaya, Justine Odom, Bitek Okot and Agiba

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Anyingi. However, one of the suspects is reportedly at large after fleeing from security officers. By the time of his arrest, Kamudulu had enrolled into an Adult Literacy Education programme and was said to be in Form Five. Maj. Felix Kulayigye, the Defence and Army spokesman, yesterday said the military had armed the ex-insurgent boss over fears that former victims of LRA war would launch revenge attacks on him. "We gave him a pistol for self protection but if he has used it for robbery, the law will take its course and he will be punished," Maj. Kulayigye said. The 10 suspects have now been detained at Apac Police Station from where they will be taken to court.

United States of America

Americans More Confident On War On Terror

Source: Angus Reid Global Monitor, 28 Oct 07

More people in the United States express positive views on the global effort to fight terrorism, according to a poll by Rasmussen Reports.

43 per cent of respondents believe the U.S. and its allies are winning the war on terror, up four points since August. Conversely, 30 per cent of respondents think the terrorists are winning the war, while 22 per cent say neither side is emerging victorious. Afghanistan has been the main battleground in the war on terrorism. The conflict began in October 2001, after the Taliban regime refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Al-Qaeda operatives hijacked and crashed four airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people. At least 702 soldiers—including 447 Americans—have died in the war on terrorism, either in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In addition, 1,708 U.S. military personnel have been wounded in action, according to data provided by the Pentagon.

On Oct. 24, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan—as well as other war on terror-related activities—are becoming unsustainable. The bipartisan group said such expenses have already amounted to more than \$600 billion U.S. since September 2001, and could ultimately reach the \$2 trillion U.S. mark. Peter Orszag, head of the CBO, declared: "Including both past funding and projected funding under these two illustrative scenarios, total spending for U.S. operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the rest of the war on terrorism would thus amount to between \$1.2 trillion U.S. and \$1.7 trillion U.S. through 2017. (...) The way I would put it is that we are on an unsustainable fiscal path and something has to give."

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(Michael McConnell, Director of National Intelligence, warned that Al Qaeda is recruiting Europeans specifically to infiltrate into the United States to conduct terrorist attacks. McConnell said that they are being recruited in Europe, trained in Pakistan and will be attempting entry into the United States due to the extra scrutiny U.S. security organs give to Arabs.)

From CIA Jails, Inmates Fade Into Obscurity

Source: Craig Whitlock, Washington Post Foreign Service, Saturday, October 27, 2007; A01

On Sept. 6, 2006, President Bush  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/George+W.+Bush?tid=informline>  
announced that the CIA  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Central+Intelligence+Agency?tid=informline>  
's overseas secret prisons had been temporarily emptied and 14 al-Qaeda  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Al+Qaeda?tid=informline> leaders  
taken to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/cuba.html?nav=e1> . But since  
then, there has been no official accounting of what happened to about 30 other  
"ghost prisoners" who spent extended time in the custody of the CIA.

Some have been secretly transferred to their home countries, where they remain in detention and out of public view, according to interviews in Pakistan  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Pakistan?tid=informline> and  
Europe <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Europe?tid=informline> with  
government officials, human rights groups and lawyers for the detainees. Others have  
disappeared without a trace and may or may not still be under CIA control.

The bulk of the ghost prisoners were captured in Pakistan, where they scattered  
after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/afghanistan.html?nav=e1> in  
2001.

Among them is Mustafa Setmariam Nasar, a dual citizen of Syria  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Syria?tid=informline> and Spain  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Spain?tid=informline> and an  
influential al-Qaeda ideologue who was last seen two years ago. On Oct. 31, 2005,  
the red-bearded radical with a \$5 million U.S. bounty on his head arrived in the  
Pakistani border city of Quetta, unaware he was being followed.

Nasar was cornered by police as he and a small group of followers stopped for  
dinner. Soon after, according to Pakistani officials, he was handed over to U.S.  
spies and vanished into the CIA's prison network. Since then, various reports have  
placed him in Syria, Afghanistan and India  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/india.html?nav=e1> , though  
nobody has been able to confirm his whereabouts.

Nearly all the Arab members of al-Qaeda caught in Pakistan were given to the CIA,



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Pakistani security officials said. But the fate of several Pakistani al-Qaeda operatives who were also captured remains murky; the Pakistani government has ignored a number of lawsuits filed by relatives seeking information. "You just don't know -- either these people are in the custody of the Pakistanis or the Americans," said Zafarullah Khan, human rights coordinator for the Pakistan Muslim League, an opposition political party.

Others have been handed over to governments that have kept their presence a secret.

Since 2004, for example, the CIA has handed five Libyan fighters to authorities in Tripoli <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Tripoli?tid=informline>> . Two had been covertly nabbed by the CIA in China <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/china.html?nav=e1>> and Thailand <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Thailand?tid=informline>> , while the others were caught in Pakistan and held in CIA prisons in Afghanistan, Eastern Europe <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Eastern+Europe?tid=informline>> and other locations, according to Libyan sources.

The Libyan government has kept silent about the cases. But Libyan political exiles said the men are kept in isolation with no prospect of an open trial.

Other ghost prisoners are believed to remain in U.S. custody after passing into and out of the CIA's hands, according to human rights groups.

Relatives of a Tunisian al-Qaeda suspect known as Retha al-Tunisi, captured in Karachi <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Karachi?tid=informline>> , Pakistan, in 2002, received notice recently from the International Committee of the Red Cross <<http://www.icrc.org/>> that he is detained at a U.S. military <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/U.S.+Armed+Forces?tid=informline>> prison in Afghanistan, said Clara Gutteridge, an investigator for Reprieve <<http://www.reprieve.org.uk/>> , a London <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/London?tid=informline>> -based legal rights group that represents many inmates at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay. Other prisoners, since released, had previously reported seeing Tunisi at a secret CIA "black site" in Afghanistan.

At least one former CIA prisoner has been quietly freed. Ahmad Khalil Ibrahim Samir al-Ani, an Iraqi intelligence agent captured after the invasion of Iraq <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/iraq.html?nav=e1>> in 2003, was detained at a secret location until he was released last year.

Ani gained notoriety before the Iraq war when Bush administration officials said he had met in Prague <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Prague?tid=informline>> with Sept. 11, 2001, hijacker Mohamed Atta. Some officials, including Vice President Cheney <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Dick+Cheney?tid=informline>> , cited the rendezvous as evidence of an alliance between al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Saddam+Hussein?tid=informline>> . The theory was later debunked by U.S. intelligence agencies and the Sept. 11 commission, which revealed in 2004 that Ani was in U.S. custody.

The Iraqi spy resurfaced two months ago when Czech officials revealed that he had filed a multimillion-dollar compensation claim. His complaint: that unfounded Czech intelligence reports had prompted his imprisonment by the CIA.

#### Guantanamo Newcomers

When Bush confirmed the existence of the CIA's prisons in September 2006, he said they had been vacated for the time being. But he said the U.S. government would use them again, if necessary.

The CIA has resumed its detention program. Since March, five new terrorism suspects

have been transferred to Guantanamo. Although the Pentagon  [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/The+Pentagon?tid=informline>](http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/The+Pentagon?tid=informline) has not disclosed details about how or precisely when they were captured, officials have said one of the prisoners, Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, had spent months in CIA custody overseas.

Details of the secret detention program remain classified. U.S. officials have offered only vague descriptions of its reach and scope.

Last month, in a speech in New York  [<http://www.cfr.org/publication/14158/>](http://www.cfr.org/publication/14158/) , CIA Director Michael V. Hayden  [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Michael+Hayden?tid=informline>](http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Michael+Hayden?tid=informline) said "fewer than 100 people" had been detained in the CIA's overseas prison network since the program's inception in early 2002.

In June, a coalition of human rights groups  [<http://hrw.org/backgrounders/usa/ct0607/>](http://hrw.org/backgrounders/usa/ct0607/) identified 39 people who may have been in CIA custody but are still missing. Many of those on the list, however, were identified by partial names or noms de guerre, such as one man described only as Mohammed the Afghan.

Joanne Mariner, director of terrorism and counterterrorism research for Human Rights Watch  [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Human+Rights+watch?tid=informline>](http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Human+Rights+watch?tid=informline) , said the CIA has moved many prisoners from country to country and relied on other spy services to take custody of suspects, sometimes temporarily and sometimes for good. "The large majority have gone to their countries of origin," she said. "But that doesn't mean all of them. There could be some that are still in proxy detention."

In a footnote to its 2004 report  [<http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/index.htm>](http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/index.htm) , the Sept. 11 commission named nine al-Qaeda suspects who were in U.S. custody at black sites. Seven were later transferred to Guantanamo.

Still missing is Hassan Ghul, a Pakistani national captured in northern Iraq in January 2004. U.S. officials have described him as a high-level emissary between al-Qaeda's core command in Pakistan and its affiliates in Iraq.

Another prisoner on the commission's list was Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Faqasi al-Ghamdi, a Saudi accused of planning attacks in the Arabian Peninsula  [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Arabian+Peninsula?tid=informline>](http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Arabian+Peninsula?tid=informline) . He surrendered to Saudi authorities in June 2003.

Although the Sept. 11 commission reported that Ghamdi was in U.S. custody, Saudi officials said that was not the case. They said he remains in prison in Saudi Arabia  [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/saudi-arabia.html?nav=el>](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/saudi-arabia.html?nav=el) and has never left the country. "He was never, under no condition, in U.S. custody," said a Saudi security source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials with the International Committee of the Red Cross said they have failed to find dozens of people once believed to have been in CIA custody, despite repeated queries to the U.S. government and other countries. "The ICRC remains gravely concerned by the fate of the persons previously held in the CIA detention program who remain unaccounted for," said Simon Schorno, a Red Cross spokesman in Washington. "The ICRC is concerned about any type of secret detention."

The CIA declined to comment on whether certain individuals were ever in its custody.

"Apart from detainees transferred to Guantanamo, the CIA does not, as a rule, comment publicly on lists of people alleged to have been in its custody -- even though those lists are often flawed," said Paul Gimigliano, a CIA spokesman.

Out in the Cold

When the Bush administration disclosed last year that 14 senior al-Qaeda leaders had been transferred to Guantanamo -- leaving the CIA prisons temporarily vacant -- some conspicuous names were missing from the list.

One was an al-Qaeda training camp leader known as Ibn al-sheikh al-Libi. He was arrested in the Pakistani border town of Kohat in late 2001 and eventually taken to Cairo <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Cairo?tid=informline>> , where the CIA enlisted Egyptian intelligence agents to help with the interrogation.

Libi began to talk. Among his claims: that the Iraqi regime had provided training in poisons and mustard gas to al-Qaeda operatives.

His statements were cited by the Bush administration as part of the rationale for invading Iraq in 2003. He recanted after the war began, however, and his continued detention became a political liability for the CIA.

Although the CIA has since acknowledged that Libi was one of its prisoners, U.S. officials have not disclosed what happened to him. In interviews, however, political exiles from Libya

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Libya?tid=informline>> said he was flown by the CIA to Tripoli in early 2006 and imprisoned by the Libyan government.

Libi reported that the CIA had taken him from Egypt <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/egypt.html?nav=el>> to several other covert sites, including in Jordan, Morocco <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Morocco?tid=informline>> and Afghanistan, according to a Libyan security source.

He also claimed that he had been kept someplace very cold and that his CIA captors had told him he was in Alaska <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Alaska?tid=informline>> , the source said. Human rights groups have suggested that Libi was part of a small group of senior al-Qaeda figures held in a CIA prison in northern Poland <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Poland?tid=informline>> .

In Tripoli, Libi joined several other Libyans who had spent time in the CIA's penal system. All were members of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, a network that had plotted for years from exile to overthrow Moammar Gaddafi.

After the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, members of the Libyan network who had been staying there dispersed. The CIA helped Libya's spy agencies track down some of the leaders.

One of them, Abdallah al-Sadeq, was apprehended in a covert CIA operation in Thailand in the spring of 2004, according to Noman Benotman, a former member of the Libyan militant network.

Another, Abu Munder al-Saadi, the group's spiritual leader, was caught in the Hong Kong <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Hong+Kong?tid=informline>> airport. In both cases, Benotman said, the Libyans were held briefly by the CIA before U.S. agents flew them to Tripoli. "They realized very quickly that these guys had nothing to do with al-Qaeda," Benotman said in an interview in London. "They kept them for a few weeks, and that's it."

Benotman said he confirmed details of the CIA operations when he was allowed to see the men during a visit to a Tripoli prison this year. The trip was arranged by the Libyan government as part of an effort to persuade the Libyan prisoners to reconcile with the Gaddafi regime.

The CIA has transferred at least two other Libyans to Tripoli, Benotman said. Khaled al-Sharif and another Libyan known only as Rabai were captured in Peshawar <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Peshawar?tid=informline>> ,

Pakistan, in 2003 and spent time in a CIA prison in Afghanistan, he said.

The Libyan Embassy in Washington did not respond to a faxed letter seeking comment.

#### A Missing 'Gold Mine'

In Spain, prosecutors have been searching for Nasar, the redheaded al-Qaeda ideologue, for four years.

In 2003, he was indicted by an investigative magistrate in Madrid <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Madrid?tid=informline>, accused of helping to build sleeper cells in Spain. A prolific writer and theoretician in the jihadi movement, Nasar had lived in several European countries as well as Afghanistan <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/22/AR2006052201627.htm>

Spain has filed requests for information about Nasar with the Pakistani government, to no avail. Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos also raised the issue during a visit to Islamabad

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Islamabad?tid=informline> last year. "We don't have any indication of where he is," said a source in the Spanish Foreign Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Brynjar Lia, a Norwegian terrorism analyst and the author of a new book on Nasar, "Architect of Global Jihad," said the radical would know valuable details about the inner workings of al-Qaeda. "The Americans are probably the ones who want him the most because he was prominently involved in al-Qaeda in the 1990s," said Lia, a senior researcher at the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment [http://www.mil.no/felles/ffi/english/start/research/Analysis\\_Division/\\_TERRA/](http://www.mil.no/felles/ffi/english/start/research/Analysis_Division/_TERRA/). "He must be a gold mine of information."

Some Spanish media have speculated that Nasar is being held in Syria, his place of birth. The CIA has transferred other terrorism suspects to Syria despite tense diplomatic relations between Washington and Damascus <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/related/topic/Damascus?tid=informline>.

Other Spanish press reports have claimed that Nasar remains in U.S. custody. Another rumor is that he's being held in a CIA-run prison in India, said Manuel Tuero, a Madrid lawyer who represents Nasar's wife.

Though Nasar would go on trial if he was brought back to Spain, that would be preferable to indefinite detention in a secret prison, Tuero said. "He's in a legal limbo," he said. "The Americans would never give him a fair trial. Spain would."

Special correspondents Munir Ladaa in Berlin and Cristina Mateo-Yanguas in Madrid contributed to this report.

#### General Counterterrorism News:

##### Current Trends in Jihadi Networks in Europe

Source: Lorenzo Vidino, Terrorism Monitor, Volume 5, Issue 20 (October 25, 2007)

The terrorist related events that took place during the summer in Europe—the doctors' plot in Great Britain, the dismantling of various cells in Italy, Austria and Spain, and, finally, the September arrests in Germany and Denmark—have confirmed that Europe is a key staging ground for jihadi activities. Although large differences exist from country to country and within various subgroups in the

ever-evolving underworld of jihadi networks in Europe, it is possible to identify some current trends that, in one way or another, are common to the whole continent.

#### Independent, or Part of a Network

During the last few years, commentators have been fascinated with homegrown networks in Europe and, clearly, small groups of European-born, self-radicalized, violence-prone Islamists have sprung up in most European countries. Yet, the panorama of jihadi networks in Europe is quite complex and, for a more accurate analysis, could be described on a continuum. At one extreme, one can identify quintessential homegrown groups such as the Hofstad Group in the Netherlands: small domestic clusters of radicals that have developed no ties to external groups and act in complete operational independence. At the opposite side of the spectrum are cells that respond to the traditional model used by al-Qaeda-affiliated groups in the 1990s: compartmentalized cells inserted in a well-structured network and subjected to a hierarchy whose heads are often outside Europe. That is the model to which various cells of the Algerian GSPC (today Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) belong.

In between these two extremes, there is a whole spectrum of realities, positioned according to the level of autonomy of the group. The most recurring model seems to be that of the cell dismantled by Danish authorities on September 4, 2007: a small group of young men, most of them born and/or raised in Europe, who knew each other either from the neighborhood or from the mosque. Their radicalization took place in Europe and only one or two members of the group traveled out of the country (Pakistan, in this case) to link up with foreign-based, well-structured groups ideologically or operationally affiliated with al-Qaeda. The knowledge acquired by the cell after this linkage obviously makes it more dangerous.

#### Traveling for Jihad: Primary and Secondary Fields

In contrast to the situation before the September 11 attacks, today most European jihadis do not travel out of the continent for training or to fight. Nevertheless, a small but significant number of them still opt for short stints in places where they can join training camps or guerrilla units. Pakistan/Afghanistan and Iraq are the two primary destinations. The former seems to attract recruits mostly from Northern Europe (Great Britain, in particular), while militants from Spain, Italy and France seem to travel mostly to the latter (El Periodico, May 6; Le Monde, December 16, 2004).

Noteworthy is the presence of European militants in two lesser known fields of jihad: Somalia and Lebanon. A few dozen European volunteers have been arrested by Ethiopian and Somali governmental forces among the Islamic Courts Union's (ICU) fighters since December 2006. Several of these militants possess Scandinavian passports, and, according to intelligence sources, Sweden is considered the hub for the flow of money from Europe to the ICU (Sveriges Radio, January 30). Italian authorities have also monitored the visits of several ICU-linked preachers who are traveling to various Italian cities in order to fundraise and recruit among the country's Somali population (L'Espresso, February 5). Reportedly, Swedish and British fighters were killed by U.S. missiles and Somali army operations (BBC News, June 3). A smaller number of Western volunteers, mostly from Denmark and Australia, have allegedly fought with Fatah al-Islam in the Nahr al-Barid refugee camp in Lebanon (The Australian, September 13).

#### The Muslim Ghetto Subculture: Jihad and Rap

Europe today is witnessing the growth of a disturbing new subculture that mixes violent urban behaviors, nihilism and Islamic fundamentalism. Many young, often European-born Muslims feel a disturbingly intense sense of detachment from, if not sheer hatred for, their host societies and embrace various antagonistic messages. While some turn to Salafism, others adopt an indefinite blend of counter-cultures, ranging from hip hop to Islamic fundamentalism. Many youngsters from the Muslim-majority ghettos of various European cities adopt several behaviors

typical of western street culture, such as dressing like rappers, smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol, yet watching jihadi videos and having pictures of Osama bin Laden on the display of their cell phones [1]. Any individual who attacks mainstream society becomes a hero to these teens, be it Abu Musab al-Zarqawi or the late American rapper Tupac Shakur.

This hybrid street culture is particularly influenced by African-American gangster culture and music. Bands such as Fun-da-mental and Blakstone in the United Kingdom, Medine in France, and Zanka Flow (Moroccan-based, but hugely popular in the Netherlands) combine radical Islamic concepts with hip hop sounds, jargon and attitudes. An aspiring star in the jihadi rap underworld is Mohammed Kamel Mostafa, the son of former Finsbury Park imam Abu Hamza, who has recently formed a rap duo called Lionz of Da Dezert. Using the stage name of al-Ansary, Mostafa raps about jihad and killing infidels. "I was born to be a soldier," read the lyrics of one of his songs. "Kalashnikov on my shoulder, peace to Hamas and Hezbollah, that's the way of the lord Allah. We're jihad. I defend my religion with the holy sword" (Agence France-Presse, March 1, 2006).

While the phenomenon affects only a minority of European Muslims, its dimensions and repercussions are more than noteworthy. In London, city officials are worried about the growth of an extremely violent gang commonly known as the Muslim Boys. Operating in the southern areas of the British capital, the gang is composed of several hundreds of members and is active in criminal activities ranging from robberies to drug trafficking. The members of the gang are mostly British-born black youth originally from the Caribbean or Africa who converted to Islam in British penitentiaries and bond over their newfound faith (Evening Standard, February 3, 2005). Yet, their interpretation of Islam is perverted. The gang members do not respect the most basic tenets of Islam, and their appearance and slang more closely resemble that of American ghetto culture than that of practicing Muslims. Tellingly, a gang member admitted to a reporter from the Evening Standard: "I pray twice a day: before I do crime and after. I ask Allah for a blessing when I'm out on the streets. Afterwards, I apologize to Allah for what I done [sic]." The gang is also involved in "forced conversions," compelling black youth at gunpoint to convert to Islam and join them; two years ago, they executed a 24-year-old for refusing to convert.

#### The Expansion to the Countryside

Radical Islam in Europe has traditionally been an urban phenomenon. Muslim immigrants have historically settled in large and mid-size cities and, as a consequence, radical mosques and jihadi activities have also been largely confined to urban settings. Yet, during the past few years, there has been a noticeable expansion of radical activities to rural areas. The phenomenon is particularly evident in southern European countries, where large numbers of North African immigrants are employed, seasonally or permanently, in agriculture. Wandering imams, often linked to Tablighi Jamaat and small makeshift mosques run by radicals, have popped up in small country towns and villages in Spain, Italy and France, spreading Salafism among the local Muslim communities. Taking advantage of the absence of other mosques and the limited surveillance of the small local police forces, Salafists have managed to establish a presence in rural areas of Piedmont, Campania, Provence and southern Spain [2].

In some cases, Salafist networks have taken advantage of the isolation provided by the countryside to create small fundamentalist communes, as in Artigat, a bucolic village of less than 1,000 residents in the French Pyrenees. When French authorities dismantled a Toulouse-based network that was smuggling volunteers to Iraq, they uncovered links to a 60-year-old Syrian man who was leading an Islamist commune in Artigat (Le Parisien, February 15). Living completely isolated from the outside world, the commune's five families lived under a strict self-imposed Islamic code and preached a radical interpretation of Islam to their children and to the visitors who would come occasionally from the city (mostly Toulouse) to spend time in a "pure Islamic environment."

Eastern Europe?

While not already an established trend, there are indications showing that radical Islam is spreading, albeit at a slow pace and with significant differences from country to country, to Eastern Europe. The presence of radical networks in Bosnia, many of them leftovers from the conflict of the 1990s, is well known. Although less grave, Wahhabi influence, propagated mostly by a wide network of Saudi-sponsored mosques, is on the rise in other areas of the Balkans with significant Muslim populations such as Albania, Kosovo and Serbia's Sandzak region (B92 Radio Serbia, June 6, 2006).

Various Islamist groups have been reported to be actively spreading their propaganda to other Muslim populations throughout Eastern Europe. Hizb-ut-Tahrir, for example, organized a large conference in Ukraine in August, targeting mostly Crimean Tatars (Kommersant-Ukraine, August 13). Yet, even countries with little or no native Muslim population have seen a tiny, yet growing, presence of Islamist activities, particularly among their Arab and Pakistani student population. During the last few years, authorities in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria have arrested individuals who were either promoting radical Islam through websites and publications or funneling money to terrorist organizations. Additionally, in October 2006, Czech authorities issued a terror alert after uncovering information of an alleged plot to kidnap and kill Jews in Prague (Der Spiegel, October 6, 2006).

The attractiveness of Eastern European countries for jihadis has increased significantly with the inclusion of many of them in the European Union. Some Eastern European countries, with their understaffed and often corrupt intelligence and law enforcement agencies, easy access to black market weapons and forged documents, and possibility of traveling to Western Europe without border controls, can constitute ideal bases of operation. An interesting related phenomenon is the suspicious spike in marriages between Bulgarian and Romanian women and North African men reported in Italy and Spain immediately after the entrance of the two Eastern European countries in the European Union. In all likelihood, the majority of these artificial marriages involve individuals with no connections to terrorism who simply want to acquire a European passport to stay and work in Western Europe. Nevertheless, the possibility that terrorists could use the same scheme should also be considered.

#### Conclusion

Jihadism is a global movement whose characteristics mutate rapidly. While today some of the abovementioned trends are still in a developing phase or can be noticed only in some European countries, it is likely that they will be replicated with greater intensity and in more countries in the near future.

#### Notes

1. The information is based on author's observations throughout Europe.
2. The information is derived from a variety of sources, including: the Indictment of Abdelillah El Kaflaoui, Tribunal of Turin, May 7, 2005; Libero, October 18, 2007; author's private intelligence sources.

<http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2373743>

NIC Associates Report: A Framework For Understanding Radical Islam's Challenge

Source: OSC Feature, 02 May 07

Synopsis. This Paper outlines the challenges facing Europe in integrating its Muslim citizens amidst radicalizing trends within segments of the Muslim community in European cities. The Paper describes the basic challenges facing Europe and five inadequate government responses to radicalization. It then elaborates on the

contrasting French and UK approaches to radicalism followed with some preliminary conclusions and observations.

#### Introduction: The Demographic Backdrop.

The challenges facing Europe are in large part demographic. A relatively high Muslim birthrate in Europe and an alarmingly low birthrate among indigenous Europeans, combined with the tendency of Muslims to live in urban areas, suggest that many European cities may have Muslim majorities by 2020 or 2025, even with government imposition of tighter immigration restrictions.

To take one city, Bradford, UK, one of the early destinations of Pakistani immigrants after the Second World War, the 1991 census recorded 64,000 Muslims representing 13 percent of the population. By 2001, there were 94,000 Muslims, a 50 percent increase from 1991. In 2001, Muslims represented nearly 20 percent of overall population but over 30 percent of students and 50 percent of toddlers. By 2011, Muslims will represent close to 30 percent of the population in Bradford and over 50 percent of its students. The high growth rates and youth bubble create a burgeoning pool of young Muslim males. The Muslim population surge is most apparent in the British Midlands and in the adjacent corridor across the channel from northern France through Belgium and Holland.

The growth of Muslim population is taking place in countries that until recently had a miniscule Muslim population. In Austria, the Muslim population was 1% in 1981 and only 4% in 2001. Yet, a study of the Vienna Institute for Demography projects that by 2051, the Muslim population in Austria will rise to 14-26%. Assuming current rates of fertility (*italics added*), Islam may be the majority population for those younger than 15 in Austria. If the Muslim population can rise so high from a near zero starting point in Austria, one can imagine the projections in other European countries with substantial Muslim populations. The other finding of the Austrian study is that the Muslim increase takes place simultaneously with a serious decline in membership among Roman Catholics in Austria so that among the religiously observant Austrians, Islam is growing even faster.

The concentration of Muslims in cities and towns is beginning to alarm authorities concerned with integration. Markus Kerber, the director of the new Deutsche Islam Konferenz set up in the German Ministry of Interior by Edmund Stoiber, pointed out that within two kilometers of his office in Berlin, there are separate Turkish (in one direction) and Lebanese (in the other direction) neighborhoods where someone rarely encounters a non-Turk, or non-Lebanese. Trevor Phillips, former chief of the Commission for Racial Equality, warns that Britain may be sleepwalking into segregation.

One can already see separate Muslim districts or millets emerging in cities like Antwerp where Salafist Imams are becoming more influential in the Moroccan neighborhoods that are mushrooming as indigenous Belgians move out to the countryside or to other countries. A worst case scenario could see the inner cities of several European cities eventually becoming no-go zones for non-Muslims beyond the control of the state.

Europe's challenge is thus one of integration. The question one must ask, given these trends and the worrisome manifestations of Islamic radicalism accompanying the rise of a new generation of European-born Muslims, is: what tools can Europe adopt to ensure a successful integration of this growing minority?

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The Triborder Sea Area: Maritime Southeast Asia's Ungoverned Space



Source: Ian Storey, Terrorism Monitor, Volume 5, Issue 19 (October 11, 2007)

Since the al-Qaeda attacks of September 11, maritime security analysts in the Asia-Pacific region have focused their attention on the Strait of Malacca and the potential for a major terrorist strike in this vital artery of world trade. Preoccupation with the Strait of Malacca has meant, however, that another, perhaps equally serious, maritime black spot has been neglected, namely the Sulu and Celebes seas, a porous triborder sea area between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Decades of poor governance, economic and political marginalization, lack of state capacity, and separatist conflict have turned this area into an "ungoverned space" and hence a haven for transnational criminals, including terrorists. Addressing transnational threats in this area not only requires greater security cooperation among the three countries, but also increased assistance from external powers who have much to offer in terms of capacity building.

The focus on the Strait of Malacca during the past six years is understandable given its importance to the global economy. The 550-mile strait, located between the Indonesian island of Sumatra and peninsular Malaysia, is the shortest route between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and it is estimated that 25-30% of world trade and 50% of global energy supplies pass through it each year. Post-9/11, security analysts conflated piracy and terrorism, and posited several scenarios in which transnational terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda or its Southeast Asian affiliate Jemaah Islamiya (JI) link up with pirates to perpetrate a major attack in the Strait of Malacca with the goal of disrupting the global economy.

While these concerns were almost certainly overplayed, the international pressure generated galvanized the three littoral states (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) into tightening sea lane security. In 2004-2005, the three countries launched the Malacca Straits Patrols (MSP), a cooperative security measure that comprises year-round coordinated naval patrols and combined air patrols. In addition, Indonesia—the locus of maritime crime in Southeast Asia—mustered the political will and resources to increase naval patrols in its territorial waters. As a result of these and other initiatives, cases of reported piratical attacks in Southeast Asia dropped 53% from 2003 to 2006.

#### Security Situation in Triborder Area Deteriorates

While international attention was focused on the Strait of Malacca, however, the security situation in the sea lanes linking the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia were allowed to deteriorate. This area—known as the triborder sea area—comprises two main sectors. The first is the Sulu Sea in the southwestern Philippines, a 100,000 square-mile body of water bounded to the northwest by Palawan Island, to the southeast by the Sulu Archipelago, and in the southwest by the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah. The second sector is the Celebes Sea (also known as the Sulawesi Sea), 110,000 square miles of water bordered by the Sulu Archipelago and Mindanao to the north, Sabah and the Indonesian province of Kalimantan to the west, and Indonesia's Sulawesi Island to the south. The Celebes Sea opens southwest through the Makassar Strait, which is increasingly used by large crude oil tankers unable to use the shallower Strait of Malacca.

The Sulu Archipelago (comprising the islands of Basilan, Jolo and Tawi-Tawi), Mindanao and Sulawesi have all been neglected by the central governments in Manila and Jakarta for decades, resulting in poor governance, corruption and high levels of poverty and unemployment. In addition, Mindanao has been wracked by over three decades of insurgency and separatist conflict. As a result, the Sulu and Celebes Seas have become notorious for illegal maritime activities such as smuggling, piracy, and trafficking in illegal narcotics, guns and people; in short, it is an ungoverned space. What most concerns security analysts is the utilization of the maritime domain in this area by terrorist organizations as a base of operations.

The locus of the problem is the southern Philippines, home to the

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terrorist organization the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the separatist group the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The ASG has been based on the islands of Basilan and Jolo since its foundation in the early 1990s, and is very familiar with the surrounding maritime area. It was from these islands that the ASG launched raids against tourist resorts in Malaysia and Palawan Island in 2000 and 2001, receiving large ransoms in return. The ASG was also responsible for the world's deadliest act of maritime terrorism to date, the sinking of the MV Superferry 14 in February 2004 in Manila Bay, which killed 116 people and injured 300.

Both the ASG and MILF have been accused of conducting piratical attacks in the Sulu and Celebes Seas as a means of generating income for their causes. The full extent of this problem, however, remains unclear as accurate statistics are not available. Piracy in the southern Philippines has been a perennial problem—indeed a way of life—for many centuries. Ships' masters are often unwilling or unable to report attacks to the International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) Piracy Reporting Center in Kuala Lumpur because it only receives reports in English via high frequency radio or fax, and language skills and equipment are often lacking in the rich fishing grounds of the triborder sea area. As a result, the vast majority of maritime depredations in this area go unreported to the IMB. For instance, in early January 2007, the Philippine authorities rescued dozens of fishermen who had been held for ransom off Tawi-Tawi, and in March suspected MILF operatives held 20 fishermen hostage off Mindanao—neither incident was reported to the IMB. The IMB received just six reports of maritime crime in Philippine waters in 2006, a grossly inaccurate figure.

Both the ASG and MILF have established linkages with JI, and a recent RAND study noted that the Sulawesi-Mindanao arc provides the terrorist organization with a "key logistical corridor" and "theater for jihadist operations" [1]. JI members Umar Patek and Dulmatin, both suspected of planning the 2002 Bali bombings, are believed to be in the Sulu Archipelago after escaping from Indonesian authorities. JI operatives are known to undertake training in camps in the southern Philippines, and travel from Sulawesi to Mindanao via Sabah which is just a short boat ride from the Sulu Archipelago. Sulawesi itself constitutes an important base of operations for JI as the organization has grafted itself on to sectarian and communal violence in Poso over the past few years. Sabah is also important to JI and the ASG for another reason: it provides a place of sanctuary. Sabah is home to more than half a million illegal immigrants from the Philippines and Indonesia, allowing operatives from both groups to blend in and lie low.

#### States Lack Capacity to Handle Threat

Tackling transnational security threats in the triborder sea area is hindered by the lack of state capacity, especially in the Philippines and Indonesia.

Starved of funding for years, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is one of the weakest military forces in Southeast Asia. As the country's primary security threats are land-based—separatist, communist insurgent and terrorist groups—the army has received priority funding. The operational effectiveness of the Philippine Navy (PN) and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has suffered accordingly, leaving the country's sea lanes largely unprotected. In October 2006, Philippine National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales summed up the situation: "we cannot check every boat that travels between Indonesia and Mindanao. Over 26,000 trips are made by these boats [every year] and it is impossible to monitor each of them given the government's meager resources" (The Philippine Star, October 16, 2006). The PN's inability to effectively monitor the sea lanes in the Sulu Sea enabled ASG and JI operatives to flee from Jolo and Basilan in the wake of a major U.S.-backed AFP offensive earlier this year. In early September, for instance, Philippine authorities arrested six alleged ASG members on Palawan Island, who were believed to have escaped the dragnet around Jolo.

The Indonesian Navy faces similar problems. In the wake of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Indonesia's defense budget was slashed, and by 2003 it was estimated that less than 30% of the Navy's 113 vessels were operational. Since 2004,

improved economic conditions have enabled the navy to purchase new corvettes and patrol boats, but it is still significantly below strength and incapable of monitoring the country's 34,000 miles of coastline and 4.9 million square miles of territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. The navy estimates it needs another 262 warships to adequately patrol the country's vast maritime domain (Antara, September 18). Moreover, due to international pressure, the navy has been required to concentrate its limited resources on the Strait of Malacca. Indonesia's participation in the MSP, and increased naval patrols in its territorial waters adjoining the strait, have put severe pressure on the navy's aging and fuel-thirsty vessels.

Malaysia is in a better position to deal with the problem. The Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) is more professional and better equipped than its Philippine or Indonesian counterparts, and after the 2001 raid on Sipidan its presence on Sabah was beefed up. In 2005, Malaysia launched its national coast guard, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), which is responsible for enforcing maritime law in both east and west Malaysia. However, both the RMN and MMEA have focused their efforts on the Strait of Malacca for the past several years to the detriment of security in the waters around Sabah.

Security cooperation among the three countries is very limited. The naval forces of Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia conduct coordinated patrols but their effectiveness is limited by infrequency and lack of available assets. Indonesia and the Philippines conduct CORPAT PHILINDO four times a year, but each patrol involves only one vessel from each country and lasts for only 10 days. Nevertheless, Manila and Jakarta have agreed to strengthen the patrols in an effort to stem arms trafficking into Poso, but resources are very limited. Malaysia and the Philippines conduct just two coordinated patrols (OPS PHIMAL) each year. In 2006, the Philippines proposed year-round coordinated naval patrols like the MSP, as well as designated sea lanes for all maritime traffic to facilitate easier monitoring and inspection by the three navies, but so far no agreement has been reached (Associated Press, March 13, 2006). The Philippines has, however, recently announced a program designed to enhance the PN's ability to conduct surveillance and interdiction of security threats in the country's "southern backdoor" called Coast Watch South. The concept, developed with help from Australia, envisages the establishment of 17 Coast Watch Stations from Palawan to Davao provinces, equipped with fast patrol boats and helicopters. Funding the \$380 million program, however, will be a challenge.

#### Conclusion

If maritime security threats in the triborder sea area are to be effectively addressed, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia will require sustained assistance from external powers in the form of capacity building. Capacity building efforts need to focus on improving the communication, surveillance, and interdiction capabilities of regional maritime law enforcement agencies such as the navy, coast guard and marine police. So far, the focus has been on the Strait of Malacca, but this is gradually changing. The United States has agreed to supply Indonesia with 12 radar stations, some of which will be situated in North Sulawesi, as well as 30 patrol boats for the Marine Police. Australia, meanwhile, has agreed to supply the Philippines with 28 high-speed boats for Coast Watch South. This is a good start, but much more needs to be done in the coming years to undo decades of neglect and rein in this ungoverned space.

#### Notes

1. Angel Rabasa, "Case Study: The Sulawesi-Mindanao Arc," in Angel Rabasa et al, *Ungoverned Territories: Understanding and Reducing Terrorism Risks* (Santa Monica: RAND, 2007), p. 116.

<http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2373708>

Terrorism: Forum Debates Bin Ladin's Remarks, Criticizes Al-Jazirah

Source: OSC Feature - Iraq -- OSC Report 26 Oct 07

#### Capture of Bin Ladin's Statement

In the wake of the 22 October release by the Qatari Government-financed Al-Jazirah satellite channel of excerpts from Usama Bin Ladin's statement on Iraq, some jihadist forum participants claimed the statement singled out the Al-Qa'ida-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) for criticism. However, after Al-Sahab, the media arm of Al-Qa'ida, released the full statement on 23 October, forum participants argued his comments applied to other insurgent groups in Iraq and not just ISI. By 25 October, many postings suggesting Bin Ladin criticized ISI had disappeared. Al-Sahab and many website participants sharply accused Al-Jazirah of intentionally distorting Bin Ladin's message.

After Al-Jazirah aired short segments of the statement on 22 October, some forum participants asserted that Usama Bin Ladin's references to "mistakes" were directed specifically at ISI. Some also speculated Bin Ladin may be preparing to replace ISI's alleged leader, Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi.

\* On 22 October, "Al-Nafir," a participant of the Ana al-Muslim forum, argued Bin Ladin did not "recognize" ISA and that Al-Baghdadi needed to "relinquish his rule" to preserve unity.

\* On 23 October, "Sami al-Hataq" argued Bin Ladin's statement was in "preparation" for al-Baghdadi's removal, which would be "to the advantage of everyone" (Ana al-Muslim).

After Al-Sahab released the entire statement on 23 October, forum participants generally agreed Bin Ladin's references to "mistakes" applied to the Mujahidin in general and not specifically to ISI.

\* On 24 October, "Jami'-al-Sham1" said on the Al-Boraq forum that Bin Ladin "addressed his speech to all jihadist groups," calling on them to "unite under one banner."

\* On Al-Fallujah Net, "Mawsu'at al-Jihad" argued Bin Ladin's comments were "a set of general instructions" to remind all Muslims of the "fundamental objectives of Al-Qa'ida" (23 October).

By 25 October, many of the postings suggesting Usama Bin Ladin had been critical of ISI had been removed from prominent forums. Participants in the Ana al-Muslim forum argued that member "Al-Nafir" should be suspended from the forum for supporting this view.

After the full statement was released on 23 October, both Al-Sahab and a number of forum participants attacked Al-Jazirah, which jihadists have historically accused of hostility to the jihadist movement. A minority of participants defended the satellite news network.

\* Upon releasing the full video, Al-Sahab issued a statement accusing Al-Jazirah of "counterfeiting" facts, altering "the purposes and objectives of the speech," and ignoring "all the pillars of honor" for professional media.

\* On the Al-Boraq forum, "Al-Mu'min-bel-Nasr" said that prior to this incident his belief in the truthfulness Al-Jazirah's was "forty percent" and that now it is "zero-percent" (24 October).

\* "Jami'-al-Sham1," on the other hand, noted on the Al-Boraq forum that many were talking as if "Al-Jazirah had broadcasted a speech" by someone other than Bin Ladin, when in fact it had summarized the content of his speech accurately (24 October).

Pakistan: Writer Calls for Differentiation Between 'Martyr and Terrorist'

Source: Rafia Zakria, Daily Times (Internet Version-www) in English 27 Oct 07

It is important ideologically to refine our definitions of who constitutes an enemy to Pakistan. In the past, for a variety of reasons, such definitions have pivoted on our identity as Muslims and the identity of our enemies as non-Muslims. We are a nation bred on war. Not simply because we have been ruled by the military for much of our sixty-year existence, but also in terms of the national myths that sustain our national identity.

Every Pakistani child learns early to venerate the army and to idolise the martyrs that have sacrificed their lives for the country. We name streets after them and commemorate their birthdays. Even those of us who were born decades after the wars fought against India in the sixties and seventies, learn of heroic acts by our soldiers.

These images and practices of nationhood that sustain and create our identity through textbooks, the celebration of Defence Days and the commemoration of martyrs are all pivoted against fighting the non-Muslim and usually Indian enemy. In this war, Pakistani forces fight against enemies of Islam that are threatening our national integrity. Parallels are often drawn between those fighting and dying for Pakistan and the early Muslim fighters who were martyred in the name of Islam in the Battles of Badr, Uhud and Karbala. Undeniably, the "shaheed" who put the sanctity of his faith, and hence the interests of his nation, above his own life is the ultimate Pakistani hero.

But now Pakistan faces a new battle, and a new enemy. The national myth of a valiant Muslim army fighting against the enemies of Islam that has sustained us in interminable wars and hostilities against India can no longer serve us. This is because the new enemy, which has claimed over two hundred innocent Pakistani lives and left more than 600 injured and maimed since September, is not an "other" defined by religious and national difference; he is situated within our own territorial boundaries, connected to us by culture, ethnicity and language, and making claims to the same concept of martyrdom in the name of Islam as our own army.

More worryingly, today's enemy was the vanguard in our battles against the infidels and while the state might have chosen to redefine some parameters of Pakistani nationalism, he holds the ideals aloft and considers the state and its functionaries treacherous -- not only because the state that sacralised itself by making the narrative religion-heavy is now reneging on those parameters but because by doing so it is also undermining the bigger ideal of pan-Islamism.

It is this final fact that poses the biggest challenge to Pakistanis in facing down and defeating the new extremism that has led to us to be entitled by Newsweek magazine as "the most dangerous nation in the world".

The increasing death toll from suicide bombings, the burning down of music and video shops, the overt threats of more violence by the likes of rebel cleric Maulana Fazlullah and Taliban commander Baitullah Mehsud are all desperate signs of the urgent need to reassess how we will redefine our ideologies and our sense of national identity to truly understand that those who commit acts of aggression against innocent civilians are our greatest enemies.

Most crucially, it requires us to define clearly the difference between a "shaheed" and a "terrorist", such that the confusion that currently pervades our understanding of this distinction does not drag us deeper into the morass of senseless violence.

In other words, how do we turn into the "other" what belonged to us, indeed defined us?

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The first task in delineating this crucial distinction is to recognise the battle being fought against extremism as our own distinctly Pakistani struggle. Much rhetoric has been expended on how the battles being fought in the tribal areas are being fought at the behest of the United States and have little to do with Pakistani national interests. This ignores the blatant and glaring reality that the 222 dead in the past two months have been innocent Pakistani citizens who had no stake in the US or its strategic interests.

While the imperialist influence of the United States is certainly worth denouncing and resisting, it should not dull us into supporting the scourge that is condemning our nation to a grisly reality. If we fall into the illogical and self-sabotaging trap of denouncing the war against extremism and suicide terror simply because of our opposition to the imperialist actions of the US, we would be doing our nation a great disservice.

Secondly, it is important ideologically to refine our definitions of who constitutes an enemy to Pakistan. In the past, for a variety of reasons, such definitions have pivoted on our identity as Muslims and the identity of our enemies as non-Muslims. Since this is no longer the case, we must create the ideological iterations that see the misuse of Islam and the use of its doctrines to justify violence as something unequivocally intolerable and reprehensible.

This is a complicated task. How indeed must an army and a nation raised on sixty years of fighting a non-Muslim enemy now re-conceptualise the meanings of "enemy" to fit a foe that claims to still practice the ideals the state has abandoned? Recognising this perversion of Islam that our new enemy represents is a goal that will require much work and soul-searching by a Pakistani population used to looking at religion as a panacea.

I began by arguing that every Pakistani child is taught to venerate and respect the shaheeds who gave their lives for their nation. This fact bears important clues regarding how the future of Pakistan must be shaped. The new enemy, the Al Qaeda and Taliban leaders that have unleashed a spate of bombings on innocent civilians across the country, are adept at using our own identity and our national veneration of death and martyrdom as a weapon against us.

Unless we, as a nation, can define clearly the difference between a shaheed that dies for his nation as part of armed combat, and a terrorist who misuses religion to justify an act of aggression against innocent civilians, our future generations will fall into the deceptive trap of believing that the distinction between a shaheed and a terrorist is perhaps just a matter of opinion.

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<[https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_0\\_266\\_207\\_0\\_43/http%3B/apps.opensource.gov%3B7011/opensource.gov/content/Display/7982842/mailto:rafia.zakaria@gmail.com](https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_266_207_0_43/http%3B/apps.opensource.gov%3B7011/opensource.gov/content/Display/7982842/mailto:rafia.zakaria@gmail.com)>

A Mountain Meeting With The PKK

Source: BBC, Crispin Thorold, 27 Oct 07

The soldiers at the final Iraqi border patrol checkpoint were reluctant to let us through.

"If you want to continue, you do so at your own risk," one warned. The writ of the local authorities ended at this point and after the checkpoint we would enter Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) territory. For the next 10 miles or so the road was

paved. As it hugged the rugged mountains, it wound deeper into the territories bordering Turkey. Abruptly we turned off onto a dirt track which local people had told us would lead us to the PKK. The dusty track was bumpy and was only accessible on foot or in a four-wheel-drive car.

The path descended into a valley and as we drove next to a stream, we were often in full view of the surrounding hills. An invading army travelling on the same route could face an ambush at any turn. The mountains in this part of northern Iraq are a rebel's paradise. The steep, jagged peaks are covered in trees and caves dot the hillsides. The rivers that flow through the valleys are hidden by woods. When we reached the PKK we nearly missed them. They were in a little copse across a stream and it was only the light of their campfire that caught our attention. Two men dressed in military fatigues with Kalashnikovs slung across their shoulders immediately jumped up. They said that they would talk but first the elder man had a question for us. "Why does everyone call us terrorists?" he asked. The rebel, who said that his name was Yezdin Sher, was puzzled. "The British government call us terrorists. The BBC call us terrorists."

He said: "They only call us terrorists because there are good relations between them and the Turkish government. That's why they call us terrorists." The PKK is considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. It is believed to have been responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians - Turks and Kurds - in south-eastern Turkey. Yezdin Sher was adamant. "We have a right to defend our nationality," he said. "The Turkish government has for many years stood against the Kurds. [In Turkey] There are no schools, no Kurdish language and no rights for the Kurds. We have a right to be free like the Kurds of Iraq who for 50 years stood against Saddam's regime and the previous regimes. We also want freedom and we don't target any civilians," he added.

That claim would be ridiculed by the Turkish government, as well as by much of the international community. Last Sunday the PKK was blamed by the Turkish military for a bomb explosion which injured 17 people who were part of a wedding party. Human rights groups say that during the course of the conflict between the PKK and the Turkish military, some 35,000 people have been killed - the vast majority of them civilians. They [the Turkish government] have special units who dress in our uniforms and kill civilians. PKK fighter Yilmaz Sardar However, the PKK men refused to acknowledge that they were responsible for the deaths of civilians, instead blaming the government. At this stage the younger and quieter of the two men spoke up. "They [the Turkish government] have special units who dress in our uniforms and kill civilians," Yilmaz Sardar said. "Then they blame us."

The fighters claimed that they had no support in the mountains from the Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq. Instead, they said that they relied on the help of local people and smugglers. The elder man, Yezdin Sher, said that he had been living in the mountains for 19 years and neither of the rebels had any intention of leaving before they had won rights for the Kurds in south-eastern Turkey. "If the Turks cross the border we will fight them," said Yezdin Sher. "We are guerrillas. They can't do anything against guerrillas." The afternoon was drawing to a close and the light was beginning to fall. Before we left the elder man wanted to make it clear that in his view war did not have to be inevitable. "It is better to resolve the Kurdish problem peacefully," said Yezdin Sher. "We are ready to make a ceasefire with the Turkish government if the Turkish government accepts that. We are ready."

Arab Public Support for Hizballah, Iran, Syria Wanes

Source: OSC Feature - State INR 10 Oct 07

Last year, Hizballah's strong showing against Israeli forces, Iran's defiance in halting uranium enrichment, and its overt hostility toward Israel were met with high levels of public support in the Arab world. But recent Office of Research nationwide polls indicate that these gains have been largely overturned. Favorable ratings

toward Hizballah and its leader, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, among publics in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia have fallen significantly since last winter.

### To Fight Insurgents, Armies Need More Brains, and Money

Source: The Economist, 29 Oct 07 Issue

The Economist says western militaries must be able to fight both traditional and insurgent threats.

#### Summary:

The Economist has some tough news for the U.S. government and its western allies: If they want their militaries to be able to grapple with dangerous insurgencies around the world, it is going to cost them. That is one of several messages that the British newsweekly seeks to convey in a cover story on how best to reshape the armed forces to deal with modern threats. To successfully wage a fight against terrorists and insurgents, western armies will need more "boots on the ground," but also different types of soldiers wearing them. And since more traditional threats from big powers like Russia and China can't be entirely discounted, the U.S. military in particular will have to continue funding its investment in hardware -- aircraft, ships and advanced weapons. Addressing both sets of challenges will require more contributions from taxpayers.

But that burden needs to be put in perspective, the Economist says. At 4% of gross domestic product, U.S. defense spending is low by historical standards (it hovered around 9% during the Vietnam War). Europeans are even less committed -- some U.S. allies spend less on defense than the 2% minimum target set by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. More money certainly will be needed to be spent to fight "protracted, enervating counterinsurgency wars" like the ones the U.S. and its allies are waging in Iraq and Afghanistan that offer no clear-cut victories and risk the prospect of humiliation. But to cope with new threats, armies need more brains than bullets, says the newsweekly. That means more linguists, civil-affairs officers, engineers and other skilled advisers who can help western militaries do as good a job at building things as they do in destroying them.

Source: Reuters, 28 Oct 07



U.S.-led coalition and Afghan troops killed about 80 Taliban fighters in a six-hour battle following an ambush in southern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said on Sunday.

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(Head of the Russian National Anti-terrorism Center, Nikolai Sintsov, said that terrorists more than ever are using the internet to spread their extremist ideas due to the practically unrestricted possibilities of spreading their propaganda around the world. He said that today, practically all extremists, terrorists, insurgents and various other groups have their own web sites. In 1998 there were 12 such websites, according to Sintsov, while today there are over 5000.)

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