



Homeland Threat Overview

28 April 2010



Homeland
Security

Department of Homeland Security
Office of Intelligence and Analysis

Al-Qa'ida and Affiliates—Homeland Plotting

▪ Al-Qa'ida, its affiliates and allies, remain dangerous and adaptive enemies:

— We lack insights into specific details, timing and intended targets but assess al-Qa'ida continues to pursue plans for Homeland attacks

— Historically AQ focused on prominent political, economic and infrastructure targets to produce mass casualties, visually dramatic destruction, significant economic aftershocks and fear among the population

— However, recent events suggest possible trend in which terrorists seek to conduct small, easy attacks



Usama Bin Laden in recent AQ video

Sources: 2007 National Intelligence Estimate: Terrorist Threat to the Homeland
DNI Annual Threat Assessment-February 2009

Media Statements Highlight Call for Action

- **March 17 statement by Yemen-based Anwar al-Aulaqi continues recent calls for attacks upon civilians and infrastructure within the United States by extremist ideologues.¹**
- **On March 7, al-Qa'ida media spokesman Adam Gadahn called for additional attacks similar to those executed and attempted by Ft. Hood suspect Maj. Nidal Hasan and accused Christmas Day bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab**
 - **“...unsuccessful attacks on Western mass transportation systems can bring major cities to a halt, cost the enemy billions and send... corporations into bankruptcy.”²**
- **In January Usama bin Ladin repeated his criticism of the U.S. and its policies in a video statement,**
 - **He instructed individuals within the U.S. to hold large corporations and politicians accountable for economic downturn.³**

¹ <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/03/18/raw-data-partial-transcript-radical-clerics-tape/>

² NEFA Foundation, <http://www.nefafoundation.org>

³ NEFA Foundation, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/UBL0110.pdf>

Homeland Threat Environment

- **Recent attacks, arrests and plot disruptions indicate a continued violent extremist threat to the Homeland.**
 - Arrests of US-based al-Qa'ida associates last year suggest the organization has succeeded in positioning Homeland-focused operatives in the U.S.
 - Ties that the Christmas Day attacker had to AQ affiliate al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula represent new Homeland threat concerns
 - Somali-Americans continue to show interest in returning to East Africa to participate in the ongoing conflict in Somalia
 - Separately, U.S.-based violent extremists with no overseas connections generally have the intent to conduct an attack but lack capabilities of those connected to terrorists overseas.

Important Arrests in the US

- Arrests of Zazi and his associates indicate overseas terrorist groups had operatives in the U.S. capable of facilitating and carrying out attacks.

- Zazi was allegedly in direct operational contact with an al-Qa'ida associate in Pakistan and plotting against targets in the U.S.
- Zazi allegedly planned attacks against the NYC subway system¹
- Zazi and co-conspirators Adis Medunjanin and Zarein Ahmedzay received training in Pakistan to include the use of explosives²



Najibullah Zazi allegedly planned to attack targets in the US with explosives.

¹ Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, Monday, February 22, 2010 Najibullah Zazi Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Use Explosives Against Persons or Property in U.S., Conspiracy to Murder Abroad and Providing Material Support to Al-Qaeda

² Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, Thursday, February 25, 2010 Two Charged with Terror Violations in Connection with New York Subway Plot

Important Arrests in the U.S.

- **Chicago man was arrested and charged with allegedly planning attacks against Denmark and India**
 - Charges against David Headley, who pleaded guilty last week, stem from his support to the Mumbai attacks, including facilitation of pre-attack planning and surveillance.
 - Headley charges included conducting surveillance of newspaper offices in Denmark in support of possible terrorist attacks there.
 - Charges highlight the al-Qa'ida links to the planned attack in Denmark and explain the significant involvement of Ilyas Kashmiri, a prominent Pakistan-based terrorist with ties to al-Qa'ida¹



Tahawwur Rana^{USPER}, an alleged co-conspirator in plotting overseas attacks.

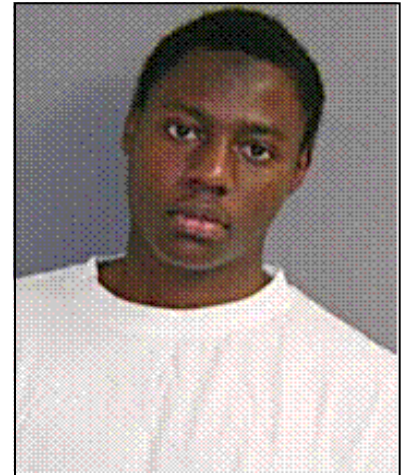


Ilyas Kashmiri allegedly plotted with a Chicago man against overseas targets.

¹ DOJ Press Release and Indictment dated Thursday, March 18, 2010 **CHICAGO RESIDENT DAVID COLEMAN HEADLEY PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN INDIA AND DENMARK TERRORISM CONSPIRACIES Admits Conducting Surveillance for Lashkar e Tayyiba in Planning 2008 Mumbai Attacks**indictment

Dec. 25, 2009, Attempted Aviation Attack

- Al-Qa'ida regional affiliate AQAP, which has advocated attacks on the U.S. Homeland in the past, directed Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab and provided him training and explosives.¹
- Lessons learned are still emerging; however, initial observations:
 - Compressed planning cycle²
 - Artful concealment³
- We are still exploring what other Homeland plots AQAP and associated Yemeni extremists may have planned. We are concerned that they will continue to try to do so.¹



Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab

¹ Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

² February 2010

² LA Times, Al Qaeda's New Tactic is to Seize Shortcuts

³ DHS-FBI Joint Roll Call Release, 29 December 2009

Somali Diaspora Support to al-Shabaab

- We judge most Al-Shabaab and East Africa-based al-Qa'ida members will remain focused on regional objectives in the near-term.
- East Africa-based al-Qa'ida leaders or al-Shabaab may elect to redirect to the Homeland some of the Westerners, including North Americans, now training and fighting in Somalia.
- Somali-Americans playing larger role in conflict; individuals leading attacks and conducting suicide bombings.¹
- An American from Houston was charged with receiving terrorist training from al-Qa'ida; others from Minneapolis have also been charged with similar counts.²



¹ Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 2 February 2010

² Department of Justice Press Release For Immediate Release November 23, 2009 United States Attorney's Office District of Minnesota Terror Charges Unsealed in Minnesota Against Eight Defendants, Justice Department Announces

Autonomous Violent Extremists

- Arrests last summer illustrate the threat posed by U.S.-based extremists
- These individuals are more reliant on additional participants
 - Hosam Smadi in Texas, Michael Curtiss Finton in Illinois and James Cromitie in New York asked law enforcement informants to obtain weapons and explosives
 - Tarek Mehanna considered attacking malls a few years ago but claimed he was unable to do so because he could not gain access to automatic weapons

*Hosman
Smadi*



*Michael
Curtiss
Finton*



*James
Cromitie*



Tarek Mehanna

Implications: These individuals identified with the ideas and goals of the global jihadist movement, but lacked direct guidance or instructions from the leadership of a formal terrorist network. Despite this, they attempted to advance plots by conducting training, selecting targets, and procuring weapons.

Congressional Testimony, Robert S. Mueller, III, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation
Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary January 20, 2010

Overseas Activities Provide Valuable Insight

- **Adversaries' actions overseas foreshadow possible terrorist tactics in the homeland**
- **Similar overseas experiences and the Internet provide common training opportunities and attack methods**
- **Intelligence information, web forums, disrupted operations and attacks provide insight into preferred terrorist targets**
- **Lessons learned from overseas attacks offer security officials in the U.S. insight and perspective for securing similar Homeland facilities**

DHS I&A Products

- Roll call releases provide general threat indicators for law enforcement
- Homeland Security Notes provide more specific information based on active threat or activities overseas
- Homeland Security Assessments provide greater analysis of terrorist tactics and targets

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ROLL CALL RELEASE
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ITACG

14 January 2010

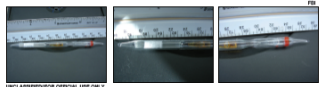
(U//FOUO) Update: Possible Initiation Device for Improvised Explosive

(U//FOUO) This release is to enhance situational awareness of a tactic that international or domestic violent extremists could use to conduct an attack in the United States.

(U//FOUO) Terrorists have used seemingly innocuous or innocuous items to conceal improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from detection by law enforcement and security personnel. First responders and investigators should be aware that individuals could use a multitude of household, commercial, or industrial items to conceal components of an IED in an attempt to circumvent visual detection, metal detectors, and olfactory sensors at U.S. ports of entry, sensitive facilities, open and entertainment venues, or other high-profile infrastructure sites in the United States.

(U//FOUO) Suspicious Recovered Tube

(U//FOUO) The FBI recently received photographs depicting a small, thin tube sealed at both ends containing liquid appear to be two segmented liquid and steel components which likely depicts a homemade gas detection device. First responders and security officials are encouraged to remain vigilant and identify and report any occurrences with a similarly constructed device.



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(U//FOUO) Tube recovered in foreign country.

IA-0206-10

(If Prepared by the DHS/ISA Domestic Threat Analysis Division, the FBI/Cyberterrorism Analysis Section, and the Interservice Threat Assessment and Coordination Group. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local and private sector law enforcement in identifying, preventing, investigating or responding to threats.)

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Intelligence and Analysis
NOTE

21 January 2010

(U//FOUO) "Jihadist" Forum Names U.S. Critical Infrastructure as Potential Target

(I) Prepared by the DHS/ISA Counter Threat Analysis Division and the DHS/ISA Office of Intelligence to provide awareness of emerging threats to homeland security and identify resources that may help in developing priorities for protective measures by the Department, other agencies of the federal government, state and local government agencies and authorities, the private sector, and other entities. The Interservice Threat Assessment and Coordination Group has reviewed this product from the perspective of our workload partners.

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This Homeland Security Note is intended to examine the potential threat posed by extremists who use online "jihadist" forums as a way to identify and promote possible targets for terrorist attacks in the United States.

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(U) 2010 State of the Union Address
Joint Threat Assessment

29 January 2010

 Homeland Security	 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 US Capitol Police	 National Counterterrorism Center
 United States Northern Command	 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
 Maryland Coordination & Analysis Center	 Virginia Fusion Center
 Washington Regional Threat & Analysis Center	 National Capitol Regional Intelligence Center

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Conclusion

- Al-Qa'ida remains the most adaptive and lethal foe but other groups such as AQAP have demonstrated their effectiveness.
 - Targets will be selected for maximum casualties; however, small, easy attacks will increasingly be employed because of the perceived success rate
- We are concerned that the influence of inspirational figures such as Anwar al-Aulaqi will increasingly motivate homegrown individuals toward violent extremism.
 - Of particular concern are individuals who travel abroad for training and return to attack the Homeland.
 - Individuals motivated by a combination of personal circumstances and external factors, such as grievances over foreign policy, negative ideologues, feelings of alienation, ties to a global pan-Islamic identity, and the availability of extremist propaganda through the Internet and other mass media
- The Intelligence Community judges that a handful of individuals and small, discrete cells will likely seek to mount attacks each year, with only a small portion of that activity materializing into violence against the Homeland.