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**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council
NEWSLETTER**



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

Islamic terrorist threats on the rise worldwide

A series of recent developments in the war on terrorism, barely noticed in the United States, suggests that global Islamic extremism is spreading. "The modern face of global Islamic militancy is very disjointed and extremely diffuse. There are all kinds of different groups and different networks operating around the world now." Many events, all within the past two weeks, received scant attention in the United States, where the Iraq prisoner abuse scandal dominates news headlines. But they are the most recent indications that the threat of Islamic terrorism - and the transnational battles against it - are intensifying.

Full story: http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/article_7423.shtml

Egyptian police arrest 54 members of banned group

In a series of dawn raids throughout Egypt, police arrested 54 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood opposition movement. Among the detainees are doctors, engineers, civil servants and businessmen, some of whom had their bank accounts frozen and businesses shut down.

COMMENT:

This is part of an ongoing crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, the main opposition party in Egypt, in response to organized protests against U.S. involvement in Iraq and in support of the Palestinian cause. The group was banned in 1954 for its support of turning Egypt into an Islamic state through violent means, but its leaders insist that it is a peaceful movement today. While the Brotherhood is technically banned, it is generally tolerated by the Egyptian government. Members even hold seats in parliament, although they must run as independents. As long as Muslim Brotherhood keep organizing protests and rallies, more police action against them will follow.

Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya

An offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya originally sought the overthrow of Egypt's secular regime and the creation of an Islamic state. However, unlike the Muslim Brotherhood, its members believe only in violent jihad with no room for diplomatic compromise.

For more information visit:

<http://www.cdi.org/document/search/displaydoc.cfm?DocumentID=1153&StartRow=1&ListRows=10>
and <http://www.ummah.org.uk/ikhwan/>

Web of terror: Radical groups using Abu Ghraib photos, Internet as recruiting tools

There are many, many sites on the Net with these (Abu Ghraib) images, ranging from message boards to news sites to commentary sites," said Laura Mansfield, associate director of the Northeast Intelligence Network, an anti-terrorist Web site based in Erie, Pa. Fomenting hate on the Internet isn't new. The white supremacist site www.stormfront.org, launched in 1995, is "the granddaddy of all the hate sites," according to Emerson College professor Robert Hilliard, who designed the course Hate.com four years ago to teach students about the subject.

Full story: <http://theedge.bostonherald.com/lifeNews/view.bg?articleid=27642>

Virtual camp for killers

The internet has become a powerful weapon for terrorists raging against the West – one that countries such as Spain and Australia cannot ignore. Terror experts say the internet is now an online training camp, allowing terrorists worldwide to communicate – clandestinely in chat rooms and by publishing their manuals and strategies on websites. "The internet has become a virtual Afghanistan," says Clive Williams, director of terrorism studies at the Australian National University. "They are using the internet as a command and control centre and for discussion of targets like Madrid. The documents show they had been talking about that on the internet since last December," he says.

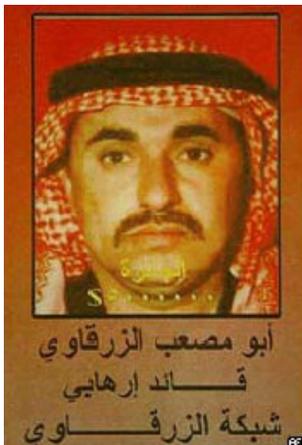
Full story: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,9544574%5E28737,00.html

Unification of the “Mujahid Salafist” group and “Attawhid Wal Jihad” group

According to a message posted on an Islamic website, a unification statement was signed on 24 Rabih Al Awwal, 1425 [May 13, 2003], between Abu Dajana Al Iraqi – Prince of the Salafist Mujahid Group – and **Abu Mussab Al Zarqawi** – Prince of Attawhid Wal Jihad.

Full story: <http://www.siteinstitute.org/exposing.asp?id=224>

PROFILE - Abu Musab al-Zarqawi



Place of birth: Zarqa, Jordan
Passport: Jordanian Z264958
Aliases: Ahmad Fadil Al-Khalailah, Abu Ahmad, and Abu Muhammad, Sakr Abu Suwayd.

Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi is identified as a senior member of the al Qaeda organization and the suspect in the October 2002 murder of USAID representative Laurence Foley in Amman, Jordan. According to sources, al-Zarqawi provided a 7mm pistol with a silencer, along with \$18,000 in funds, to the triggerman, Salem Saad Salem bin Soued. Zarqawi has a criminal record in Jordan, and was sentenced in absentia to 15 years hard labor for his part in various terrorist conspiracies, including an aborted plot to hit various tourist and religious sites in Jordan during the 2000 celebrations. Other sources in Jordan claim Zarqawi's planned attacks would have involved the use of chemical gas against US and Israeli interests in Amman. Jordanian authorities managed to foil the plot in 1999, and arrested and executed several of the plot's members. Zarqawi managed to escape and reportedly fled to an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan. While in the al Qaeda camps, Zarqawi was reported to have suffered a shattered leg as a result of the post 9/11 US bombing campaigns. Reportedly, he fled to Iran where he spent several months, despite US administration protests.

Then Zarqawi was identified as entering Iraq, seeking medical treatment for his leg wound. On 31 January, 2003, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told a Senate panel that al-Zarqawi was residing in Baghdad. More recently, US Secretary of State Colin Powell used the al-Zarqawi/Iraq connection as ammunition in the US Administration's efforts to solidify their case for war against Iraq. Jordanian officials have publicly disputed the US administration's claims. Identified as one of al Qaeda's top chemical weapons experts, al-Zarqawi has also been linked to Ansar al-Islam, the pro al Qaeda militia that operates out of Kurdish northern Iraq. There are also links the recent al Qaeda cells discovered in England. The English cells appeared to be manufacturing ricin, a deadly poison that al-Zarqawi with which he has experience and interest.

Two soldiers exposed to Sarin when roadside bomb explodes

Two soldiers suffered exposure to the nerve agent sarin when a homemade bomb exploded on a road near Baghdad early Saturday morning, said Col. Jill Morgenthaler, spokeswoman for coalition forces in Baghdad. The sarin came out of a 155-milimeter artillery round that was rigged to the improvised explosive device, she said. The round was "very old, binary and divided into two, which would require the mixing of two chemical components in separate sections of the cell before" the sarin is produced, she said.

Full story: <http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-2925362.php>

COMMENT:

Information on the incidents is still evolving and subject to revision over the next several days. Interestingly, but perhaps not surprisingly very few news organizations are posting the information. Of all the news organizations, Fox News has covered the issue more than the others. Fox News had a discussion this morning (5/18/04) whether this was a one time incident (actually two times, since mustard was also found previously) or whether this is part of a ratcheting up in the insurgency. There was also a discussion as to whether the material had never left Iraq or whether it had perhaps been brought back across the border from some other country. Time will likely answer many of these questions.

Related reporting:

U.S. officials said Monday they are concerned that other sarin-filled munitions may still exist in Iraq - and may not be well marked - after evidence indicated a roadside shell that exploded contained the nerve agent.

Full story: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20040517/D82KIMH00.html>

Border UAVs to fly in June

Officials at the Border Patrol, part of the Homeland Security Department's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, will start using two leased unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on the Arizona/Mexico border next month, an agency official said. The vehicles will be the first UAVs used outside of the military and in operational missions within the country by DHS. They will support the department's Arizona Border Control Initiative announced in March to combat illegal immigration, drug trafficking and terrorist activity in the Border Patrol's Tucson, Ariz., sector, said a top agency official.

Full report: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0510/web-dhsuav-05-14-04.asp>

Police Department gives officers a guide for detecting terrorists

The Police Department has issued a pocket-sized reference card for patrol officers detailing guidelines it says are designed to help them spot terrorists.

The department tells its officers to watch out for people with drivers' licenses from more than one state, passports from more than one country, and identification papers with different names and people videotaping or photographing bridges, tunnels, utilities, landmarks and government facilities.

Full story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/18/nyregion/18tips.html>

Committee expands Coast Guard's law enforcement powers

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Wednesday voted to expand the Coast Guard's law enforcement authority for carrying firearms and making arrests. "Port security missions often require the Coast Guard to enforce federal regulations on land in addition to the service's traditional missions on U.S. waters." [H.R. 4251](#) would authorize Coast Guard officers to carry firearms while at a waterfront facility, make arrests for felony offenses and seize property. It also gives state and local law enforcement officers the authority to make arrests for individuals violating federal security zones. It also grants the Coast Guard authority to refuse or revoke clearance of any vessel suspected to be in violation of port security regulations, among other provisions.

Full story: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0504/051204markup1.htm>

Featured Internet Web Site

Defend America Keeping the Public in Touch

DefendAmerica, an official Defense Department website, was launched just weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to keep the public informed about efforts by the United States and its coalition partners to combat global terrorism.

<http://www.defendamerica.mil/>