

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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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.

Violent new front in Drug War opens on the Canadian border



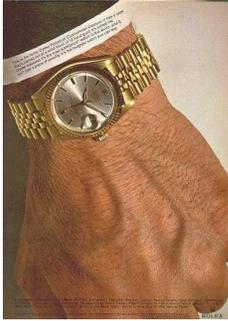
The drugs move across the Canadian border inside huge tractor-trailer rigs, pounds and pounds stashed in drums of frozen raspberries, tucked in shipments of crushed glass, wood chips and sawdust, or crammed into hollowed-out logs, in secret compartments that agents refer to as "coffins." Kayakers paddle them south from British Columbia across the freezing bays of America's northwest corner, and well-paid couriers carry up to 100 pounds at a time in makeshift backpacks, hiking eight hours over the rugged mountainous terrain that forms part of the border between the United States and Canada. Small planes drop them onto raspberry

fields and dairy farms in hockey bags equipped with avalanche beacons to alert traffickers that the drugs have landed. The contraband is called B.C. bud, a highly potent form of marijuana named for the Canadian province where it is grown, and it has become the center of what law enforcement officials say is an increasingly violent \$7 billion cultivation and smuggling industry. On Thursday, four officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were shot to death in Alberta, British Columbia's neighboring province, as they were searching a marijuana-growing operation, one of many on the rise there. The killings stunned a country that has apparently not lost that many officers at once since the mid-19th century. Now law enforcement officials here fear the violence will migrate south. Mr. Winchell likened Seattle, with its currently low crime rate, to "Miami before the drug wars" because of what he said was an impending threat of drug-related violence. Vast amounts of drugs and money are now flowing through Seattle and other West Coast cities, he said, along the heavily traveled Interstate 5 corridor from California to the Canadian border. In many cases, law enforcement officials from both countries say, traffickers are smuggling cocaine north from California to Canada in exchange for B.C. bud.

Full story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/05/national/05bud.html?th>

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Don't buy that fake Rolex! It could finance terror



Think twice before you buy that fake Rolex watch or knock-off designer handbag. The money you pay could end up funding terrorists. There is evidence that counterfeiters operating in New York City have sent money to Hamas and Hezbollah, groups designated as terrorist organizations by the United States, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said at a conference on counterfeiting. So far, said Kelly, there had been no clear link between the selling of counterfeit goods and al-Qaeda, the group blamed for the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in 2001. But he said the low cost of entry into the counterfeit business, low risk of penalties and the potentially big payoff made the making and selling of fake goods an ideal criminal enterprise, one that would appeal to terrorists in the same way it attracts organized crime.

Full story:

<http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=reutersEdgeNews&storyID=681154§ion=finance&rc=rss/uk/featuresNews>

Dirty money harder to trace

Terrorists' ploys growing in complexity

Bankers must be continually vigilant and devote resources to monitoring suspicious financial activities that could point to terrorist activities, experts said Wednesday at the start of a three-day conference focusing on anti-money laundering regulations and practices. The people behind the Sept. 11 attacks didn't make sophisticated financial transactions, but terrorist financing is becoming more complex, said John Roth, chief of the fraud and public corruption section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

Full story: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/local/sfl-pzmoney03mar03,0,1568526.story?coll=sfla-business-headlines>

Man pleads guilty in U.K. shoe-bomb plot



A British man accused of plotting with "shoe-bomber" Richard Reid pleaded guilty Monday to conspiring to blow up a U.S.-bound aircraft in 2001. Saajid Badat, 25, who prosecutors said dismantled his bomb after having second thoughts, was to be sentenced at a later date. It was the first major conviction for a terrorist plot in Britain since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. "It is clear the plan was that Reid and Badat would bring down a passenger aircraft at similar times in late December" of 2001. But four days later, Badat sent an e-mail to his handlers "indicating he might withdraw" from the plot. According to that indictment, Badat "admitted that he was asked to conduct a shoe bombing like Reid" when he was arrested in Britain last November. Bomb components similar to Reid's were found at his home.

Full story: http://news.findlaw.com/ap_stories/i/1103/2-28-2005/20050228130018_27.html

Indiana man charged with trying to sell names of Iraqi spies



A Greenfield man charged with conspiring with Iraq against the United States is in federal custody. Federal investigators say the case is the first of its kind in Indiana. A federal indictment says that an Indiana man agreed to act as a foreign agent for Iraq. The federal grand jury alleges that Shaaban Hafiz Ahmad Ali Shaaban agreed to sell the names of US intelligence operatives living in Iraq to Saddam Hussein's government for \$3 million when he traveled to Baghdad, Iraq in late 2002.

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Full story: <http://www.wishtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=3028128&nav=0Ra7X4VZ>

Interpol lays out measures to combat bioterrorism

Interpol laid out measures Wednesday to fill gaps in the ability of police around the world to combat bioterrorism, pledging to work with scientists and health experts and assume the role of global coordinator in the effort. Closing a two-day conference on bioterrorism, Interpol warned that terrorists intend to use biological or chemical weapons and that no nation is fully equipped to handle a large-scale attack on its own. "Bioterrorism is a real threat," John Abbott, chairman of the police agency's bioterrorism steering group, told a news conference.

Full story: <http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?id=22024&siteSection=8>

Imprisoned terrorists still advocating terror

1993 World Trade Center bombers write letters exhorting jihad

It was 12:18 p.m. on Feb. 26, 1993, lunchtime, when the van exploded. The massive bomb rattled the World Trade Center, leaving a giant crater in the underground garage. Six people were killed, and more than 1,000 were wounded. At the time, it was the worst act of terrorism ever committed on American soil. Three Islamic extremists were among those convicted, each sentenced to more than 100 years in prison. While behind bars, the 1993 bombers continued their terrorist activities. They wrote letters to other suspected terrorists and brazenly praised Osama bin Laden in Arabic newspapers. In February 2003, bomber Mohammed Salameh writes: "Oh God! Make us live with happiness, make us die as martyrs, may we be united on the Day of Judgment." The recipient, Mohamed Achraf, later allegedly led a plot to blow up the National Justice Building in Madrid.

Full story: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7046691/>

U.S. adopts preemptive counterintelligence strategy

The Bush administration has adopted a new counterintelligence strategy that calls for preemptive action against foreign intelligence services viewed as threats to national security, officials said Saturday. "The United States has become the number one target for the intelligence collection of other nations," said John Quattrocki, a senior U.S. counterintelligence official. "What we'd like to do with the counterintelligence program is what we've done with counterterrorism, which is take the fight to other guy's back yard and exploit and interdict where we can, and at home, interdict where we must." Former intelligence officials described the strategy as an attempt to revitalize counterintelligence after years of neglect and demoralization after espionage cases involving CIA agent Aldrich H. Ames and FBI agent Robert P. Hanssen, who were both caught spying for the former Soviet Union. "Today we are at war, and the potential harm to this country from intelligence losses is far more immediate".

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10397-2005Mar5.html>

Chechen leader Maskhadov killed

Chechen rebel leader [Aslan Maskhadov](#) has been killed by Russian troops, Chechen police confirmed. Maskhadov, 53, who had a \$10 million reward on his head, was blamed for a string of deadly attacks in Russia, including a [rebel attack on a school in Beslan](#) in which at least 326 hostages - half of them children - died. *(Select the highlighted links for more reference information)*

Full story:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/03/08/umash.xml&sSheet=/portal/2005/03/08/ixportaltop.html>

Related reporting

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Russian forces kill Chechen leader Maskhadov

http://www.aljazeera.com/me.asp?service_ID=7187

COMMENT:

Maskhadov had long been at the top of Moscow's most-wanted list and his death represents a coup for the Kremlin. It will not forestall rebel attacks, however, and unless Russian forces kill or capture Basayev and other radical Chechens, separatist activities, including terrorist attacks, could be even more devastating in the future.

Analysts see Bin Laden, Zarqawi as independent operators

Abu Musab Zarqawi has told Osama bin Laden that he would be willing to discuss a suggestion by the al Qaeda leader that Zarqawi consider broadening his future operations to include possible attacks inside the United States. "Let's talk some more. I have ideas, you have ideas," was the way one senior counterterrorism official described Zarqawi's message, which was a response to an earlier communication sent by bin Laden. Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant who has claimed responsibility for bombings and assassinations across Iraq, pledged his network's allegiance to bin Laden and al Qaeda in October. The atest bin Laden-Zarqawi exchange -- transcripts of which have not been released -- became public after a Department of Homeland Security bulletin, classified "Secret," was sent last weekend to state homeland security directors "detailing information about al Qaeda's continued desire to carry out an attack potentially in the homeland," according to Brian Roehrkasse, spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security. Both Zarqawi, on the run in Iraq, and bin Laden, hiding along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, continue to carry out high-level planning and independent plotting, intelligence officials said, although their logistical challenges are presumably great.

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A8874-2005Mar4.html>

Related reporting

Zarqawi rallies Iraqi insurgency thanks to Al-Qaeda, US

<http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=37912>

Iraq Insurgency Leader Charged in Jordan

<http://www.nynewsday.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-jordan-terrorism,0,4053486.story?coll=sns-ap-world-headlines>

Iraq Qaeda Wing Says Still Strong, Vows New Attacks

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=internetNews&storyID=7806227>

Missing Imam's trail said to lead from Italy to CIA

Prosecutors in Milan are investigating whether an Egyptian-born suspected militant was spirited away by the U.S. using a disputed tactic.

When Hassan Osama Nasr, a controversial Egyptian-born imam, vanished from the streets of Milan two years ago, his friends and family insisted he'd been kidnapped by American agents. Few people listened. But today it appears Italian judicial authorities may agree with them. The case has outraged Italian opposition politicians, who want to know whether their government is involved in what one called "the outsourcing of torture." Nasr reportedly resurfaced 15 months later in Egypt and said he had been kidnapped by American and Italian agents and taken to Egypt, where he was tortured. His current whereabouts are unclear. Extraordinary renditions have apparently been used increasingly since the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. U.S. agents reportedly grab suspects in one country and then transfer them to another country to be interrogated, sometimes with tactics not allowed on American soil, such as torture. Nasr, widely known as Abu Omar, was a suspected militant affiliated with a mosque in Milan that U.S. and Italian investigators have long contended was a hotbed of Islamic extremism. A former senior CIA operations officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the agency's "routine and practice" was to notify another government before U.S. agents snatched someone off their soil. He said he could not discuss the Abu Omar case because the details were classified

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Full story: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/nationworld/la-fg-vanished3mar03.0,1810076.story?coll=sfla-newsnation-front>

Related reporting

Rule Change Lets C.I.A. Freely Send Suspects Abroad to Jails

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/06/politics/06intel.html?th>

Khadr laptop seized at Pearson

RCMP execute search on daughter Believed to have Al Qaeda information

Police have seized a laptop from the daughter of an accused terrorist financier because they believe it holds vital information about Al Qaeda's operations, court documents state. As part of the sworn information used to obtain a search warrant for her possessions, the lead investigator on Khadr's case wrote, "I believe that Zaynab Khadr (pictured ?) has willingly participated and contributed both directly and indirectly towards enhancing the ability of Al Qaeda to facilitate its criminal activities." RCMP Sgt. Konrad Shourie writes in the document that he believes "the entire family is affiliated with Al Qaeda and has participated in some form or another with these criminal extremist elements." Shourie writes: "The sole purpose of the Khadr patriarch's existence (was to create) his own `terrorist cell' and indoctrinate his children from an early age in the values and beliefs of the criminal extremists, specifically Al Qaeda."

Full story:

http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1109803812263&call_pageid=970599119419

Related reporting as reference

Al-Qaeda Family: The firefight at Waziristan

http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/khadr/gfx/zaynab_khadr.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/khadr/khadrfamily.html&h=150&w=200&sz=10&tbnid=2_EfukCrKjMJ:&tbnh=74&tbnw=99&start=1&prev=/images%3Fq%3

Also see side panel topics at the above URL

Al-Qa'idah plotting biological, chemical attacks - FBI chief in Russia

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] has information that international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qa'idah, are hatching plans to perpetrate acts of terrorism with the use of biological and chemical substances, the deputy assistant director of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, John [E.] Lewis, told journalists in Novosibirsk today. "We regard the problem of biological and chemical terrorism as pretty serious," he said. At the same time Lewis specified that "at present, we have no data concerning any specific plans by terrorists to carry out acts of terrorism with the use of chemical and biological substances in the near future". "At the same time operational information is reaching us from various areas of the world that numerous terrorist groups and their cells, including the Al-Qa'idah group, are hatching plans to carry out terrorist acts using biological and chemical substances," he noted.

Source: Source: ITAR-TASS news agency, Moscow

Related reporting

Ukraine Secret Service Seizes Uranium at Airport

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=7782450>

Al-Qaeda Made Biological Weapons in Georgia — French Minister

<http://www.mosnews.com/news/2005/03/01/villepin.shtml>

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COMMENT:

The French minister confirmed what the Russian authorities have been alleging for years: The Pankisi Gorge is not only a home to the Chechen refugees, but that terrorist groups linked to Al-Qaeda use the Gorge for training camps and enter Chechnya through Georgia. The support of these allegations - coming from a prestigious international security conference - is no doubt welcome in Russia, as the new French intelligence gives Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov a much stronger position in his negotiations with the Georgian counterparts.

Mexico will take action against *Cazailegales*

Foreign Relations Secretary Luís Ernesto Derbez (pictured) stated that the Mexican government will toughen legal actions against a group called Minutemen, or *Cazailegales* [migrant-hunters], that plan to hunt illegal migrants in the Arizona-Mexico border region between 01 and 30 April 2005, violating Mexican rights. Derbez stated that he would discuss strategies to defend the rights of Mexican migrants with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 10 March 2005. Derbez also stated that he would continue discussing some "negative points" with the U.S. authorities, including Law 200, which denies social services to illegal migrants in Arizona.

Translated from 01 March 2005 Source:

<http://www.elvigia.net/noticias/?seccion=nacionales&id=5932&como>

Related reporting for reference

New migrant law irks Mexico

http://azbilingualed.org/News_2005/new_migrant_law_irks_mexico.htm

Official text of 'PROPOSITION 200'

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/2004/info/PubPamphlet/english/prop200.htm>

Proposition 200 and Mexico's War on Arizona

<http://www.chronwatch.com/content/contentDisplay.asp?aid=12834>

Prop. 200 Foes Not Giving Up

<http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/news/newsbyid.asp?id=21097>

Also see

Showdown at border?

Violent, terror-connected gang threatens to confront civilian immigration patrols (Minutemen)

It looks like there is going to be a second "showdown at the OK Corral" in Tombstone, Ariz., April 1. A leader of the violent, terror-connected Latin American gang Mara Salvatruchas, Ebner Anivel Rivera-Paz, has reportedly issued orders from federal prison to members of his international criminal organization to teach a lesson to a group of Americans taking border control into their own hands. Lately, the gang has joined forces with former members of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, a radical terrorist group, and some U.S. intelligence sources say they may also be cooperating with Islamic terrorist groups – including al-Qaida.

Full story: http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=43171

Maras threaten to attack Minuteman Project volunteers



According to the Americans for Legal Immigration (ALI), a high-ranking leader of the *Mara Salvatrucha* ordered gang members to take action against Minuteman Project (MMP) members, who are planning to conduct surveillance operations on the Arizona/Mexico border in April 2005. Ebner Anibal RIVERA Paz, an incarcerated *Mara* leader, apparently instructed fellow gang members to "teach [MMP members] a lesson they would never forget." The ALI cited a note posted on the internet portal of the U.S. radical Hispanic group *La Voz de Aztlan* that

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stated, "The morons [of the MMP] think that they are going to enjoy themselves under the sun (in Arizona) while hunting defenseless Mexican migrant workers, but instead, they could find the same demon." The note further indicated that the MMP might have a surprise waiting for them on 1 April 2005, or any other day during their operation. MMP has supposedly recruited over 531 armed volunteers to participate in a border surveillance operation from 1-30 April 2005 to search for illegal migrants and report these persons to the Border Patrol. The Mexican government has sent a diplomatic note to Washington requesting that [the U.S. government] protect migrant rights. A Tucson, AZ Border Patrol spokesperson stated that whenever armed citizens engage in potential conflict with violent human or drug traffickers, it is an "ideal recipe for a disastrous result."

Translated from 04 March 2005 source:

<http://www.lacronica.com/edicionenlinea/notas/noticias/20050303/84056.asp>

COMMENT:

The article is referring to a posting that appeared on the website [aztlan.net](http://www.aztlan.net), a far-left political paper. The information should be considered within that context.

MORE... Related reporting

Supremacists a border worry

FBI, civilian group are concerned about racists joining border sweeps next month.

The FBI and leaders of a civilian patrol set to descend on southern Arizona next month to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border say they are becoming increasingly concerned about white supremacists and other extremists joining the effort. The Internet-driven recruiting effort for the Minuteman Project has almost 900 volunteers and last week alone generated more than 1 million hits on the project's Web site, organizers said. But the patrol also has drawn major interest on white supremacist Web sites and in their chat rooms. An Aryan Nation site links directly to the Minuteman Project home page with the words: "A call for action on part of ALL ARYAN SOLDIERS."

Full story: http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=border_news&story_id=030505a4_extremists

Featured Internet Site (This week is a featured article)

A 101 Course in Mideast Dictatorships

When his powerful father died in 2000, Bashar al-Assad promised the end of political repression in Syria. But after a brief period of democratic transparency, the curtain of dictatorship fell once again. The country's true power brokers refused to let go.

"If you intend to remain in power," ... "you must make others afraid."

"I suffer from serious nightmares. It was terrible. I saw all my earlier friends get locked up. But we had to do it. There was no other alternative. We have achieved stability, 34 years without a coup."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/21/international/europe/21spiegel2.html?pagewanted=all&position=>

***** NOTICE *****

New address and telephone number information for ATF

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ATF 8420 Indiana Street Merrillville, Indiana 46410
Telephone Number: (219) 755-6310 (24 hours) Fax: (219) 755-6311

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