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**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council  
NEWSLETTER**



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## Hungarian police hold 3 Arabs in bomb plot

Police arrested three Arabs yesterday in an alleged plot to bomb a Jewish museum two days before Israeli President Moshe Katsav was to inaugurate Budapest's Holocaust Memorial Center. An aide to Katsav and Israeli diplomats said that the president, who arrived in Budapest yesterday for a three-day visit, was the target of the conspiracy. One Israeli analyst suggested that the plot may have been motivated by Israel's assassination last month of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Full story:

[http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMSGArticle%2FWSJ\\_BasicArticle&c=MSGArticle&cid=1031774861691&path=!nationworld&s=1037645509161](http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMSGArticle%2FWSJ_BasicArticle&c=MSGArticle&cid=1031774861691&path=!nationworld&s=1037645509161)

**Related reporting:**

Debate over Budapest museum overshadowed by terrorist threat

[http://www.jta.org/page\\_view\\_story.asp?intarticleid=13976&intcategoryid=2](http://www.jta.org/page_view_story.asp?intarticleid=13976&intcategoryid=2)

## Webtapping battle lines drawn

The public comment period on a Justice Department proposal to make the Internet easier to wiretap ended on Monday with most of the filed comments tracing a clean line between two opposing camps. On the government's side, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies who perform wiretaps, allied with companies who sell surveillance equipment and services: on the other, Internet companies who would be forced by the plan to make changes to their networks, along with advocacy groups concerned about slowed innovation and an incursion on Internet privacy. The controversy kicked off last month when the Department of Justice, the FBI and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration jointly petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to immediately direct broadband providers to modify their networks to be more easily wiretapped by law enforcement, and to begin an "expedited rulemaking" of new regulations that would mandate that any new communications technology be certified as wiretap-ready by the government before launch.

Full story: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/04/15/webtapping\\_battle/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/04/15/webtapping_battle/)

Related reporting:

## Terror surveillance warrants up 85 pct.

The number of secret surveillance warrants sought by the FBI has increased 85 percent in the past three years, a pace that has outstripped the Justice Department's ability to quickly process them. Even after warrants are approved, the FBI often does not have enough agents or other personnel with the expertise to conduct the surveillance. The FBI still is trying to build a cadre of translators who can understand conversations that are intercepted in such languages as Arabic, Pashto and Farsi.

Full story: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/politics/8440204.htm?1c>

## U.S. identifies front companies for Saddam Hussein regime

The U.S. Treasury Department has designated eight companies and five associated individuals as fronts for Iraq's former Ba'athist regime. According to an April 15 press statement, the companies and individuals "were procuring weapons, skimming funds, operating for the Iraqi Intelligence Service, and doing business in support of the fallen Saddam Hussein regime." Deputy Assistant Treasury Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes Juan Zarate said, "We are unmasking the financial façade of the former Iraqi regime. Hussein and his cronies used a global network of agents and businesses to pilfer from the Iraqi people and to underwrite their tyranny."

Full story and text of Samuel Bodman's remarks and the Treasury Department press release: <http://www.noticias.info/Asp/aspComunicados.asp?nid=22114&src=0>

## Iran gets its hands dirty

It took a hail of bullets into the car of Iranian envoy Khalil Naimi in Baghdad on Thursday to jeopardize Tehran's attempts to become an influential mediator in Iraq, with the strong hope of seeing itself removed from George W Bush's "axis of evil". Press and cultural attache Naimi died instantly when the car in which he was traveling near the Iranian embassy was raked by three heavily-armed men. Against all odds, Iran had embarked on an unlikely diplomatic mission to get the American "Satan" out of its difficulties in Iraq.

Full story: [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle\\_East/FD17Ak03.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/FD17Ak03.html)

## Trials and Terrors

This week saw the start of yet another nationally watched terror trial—of University of Idaho grad student [Sami Omar Al-Hussayen](#), charged with [three counts of supporting terrorism](#) and miscellaneous visa violations. Al-Hussayen is accused of using his computer to help funnel \$300,000 to terrorist organizations and using the Web to advocate violence against Americans. The real question at the core of the Al-Hussayen trial is the same question that plagues the other big terror trials that have occurred since 9/11: Is this really the best way to stop terror?

Full story: <http://slate.msn.com/id/2098948/>

## Suspicious items keep team on edge

The mail facility at Reagan National Airport shut down for 90 minutes last month after a grainy, green powder spilled from a package from Ethiopia, raising fears of a biological hazard. It turned out to be ground-up dried peas. A suburban Metro station was shut down recently after something mushy was spotted there. It was chicken and brown rice. A few weeks ago, traces of a white substance were found on a package at the Pentagon, triggering concern. An analysis revealed the mystery material was Alfredo sauce. Since the deadly anthrax mailings 2½ years ago, the FBI's National Capital Response Squad has responded to thousands of false alarms involving suspicious substances or packages. Lately, the squad has handled an average of five to 10 incidents a week, but the numbers can jump much higher, often depending on events at home or abroad.

Full story: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/nation/8451992.htm?1c>

## **Weapons search in San Leandro Rocket launchers sought in warehouse**

Investigators from a dozen federal, state and local agencies raided a sprawling warehouse complex near Oakland International Airport on Friday, looking for items that included devices used to launch rockets from vehicles. The exact nature of the investigation and the evidence being sought at the complex in San Leandro was not known because the federal search warrant used to conduct the raid was filed in U.S. District Court under seal. The search is expected to continue today. However, U.S. Magistrate Edward Chen, the judge who signed the warrant earlier in the week, told The Chronicle: "The warrant was for a bunch of devices for rockets that could be launched from military vehicles and (for) some M-16s," semiautomatic assault rifles used by the U.S. military. "Not your typical thing to have in San Leandro,"

Full story: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/04/17/MNGLO66QR71.DTL>

## **War protesters close federal building**

Sixteen anti-war protesters were arrested Thursday after staging a "die-in" inside the lobby of the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building to protest spending tax money to pay for the Iraqi occupation and aid to Israel. Following a rally featuring speeches, slogans and colorful banners outside the federal building in downtown Oakland, a group of protesters chanting slogans and clutching tax forms smeared with red paint locked arms and laid down in a circle inside the lobby. As private security guards rushed to lock the doors to the federal building on Clay Street, the crowd, which swelled to about 300, pounded on the glass entryway chanting, "Occupation is a crime from Iraq to Palestine." The protest shut down the federal building for several hours and frustrated dozens of people who had appointments Thursday afternoon with federal agencies, as well as last-minute tax-filers in need of forms and other help.

Full story: <http://www.timesstar.com/Stories/0,1413,125~1486~2087970,00.html>

## **U.S. concerned over terrorist threats during election season**

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Robert Mueller said the nation is bracing for possible terrorists attacks occurring during the election season, the Associated Press reported 18 April. "We understand that between now and the election, there is a window of time in which terrorists may well wish to influence events, whether it's in the United States or overseas," he said. Speaking to Fox News Sunday on 18 April, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice reiterated Mueller's assessment saying, "terrorists might have learned, we hope, the wrong lesson from Spain," referring to the surprising defeat of incumbent Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar. Mueller also indicated that terrorists are likely changing their tactics to focus away from fortified targets such as airports and are also turning to the recruitment of individuals who would be less likely to draw suspicions. Neither official indicated what areas would be of particular concern or vulnerability. However, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security issued a memo late March that warned of possible terrorist attacks on the nation's rail systems and mass transit.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The revelation by Mueller and Rice is not entirely surprising given the impact and effect of the March Madrid train bombings and the subsequent Spanish elections. Although there are various interpretations of why the elections proceeded in the manner which they did, authorities mostly agree that terrorists view the event as a victory: the disruptive attacks seeming to influence the political sphere of Spain. Anzar admitted to Fox News that he had warned both President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to be "extremely careful before elections... and to be very vigilant." Mueller identified Boston and New York City as of particular concern since they be hosting the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, respectively.



## Lessons Learned Information Sharing

**LLIS.gov** is the national network of Lessons Learned and Best Practices for emergency response providers and homeland security officials. **LLIS.gov's** secure, restricted-access information is designed to facilitate efforts to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism across all disciplines and communities throughout the US

Visit this site at: <https://www.llis.dhs.gov/>  
 Select the 'Click Here' link under First Time User

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### *Spirit of America*

#### **This is what Iraqis see on Al Jazeera ...**



"Occupation troops are often known to be trigger happy."



"Despite a truce, jittery US troops fired on Falluja residents."



"Analysts say the chaos gives the US/UK forces an excuse to stay."

#### **They don't see this ...**



**US Marines rebuild schools, clinics and hospitals.**



**Iraqi schoolchildren greet Marines delivering school supplies.**



**US Army Chaplain brings clothes and toys to Iraqi orphans.**

Spirit of America (SoA) is a nonprofit, charitable organization that helps Americans serving abroad improve the lives of people in need. We enable American military, Foreign Service and reconstruction personnel to submit requests for goods that will help local people.

<http://www.spiritofamerica.net/>