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NEWSLETTER



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The terrorist next door?

The U.S. warns of a major attack and reminds Americans that terrorists can be homegrown



Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn, A.K.A. Abu Suhayb, could be just the kind of prospective terrorist that intelligence analysts in Washington are most concerned about these days — a personification of what Attorney General John Ashcroft calls the changing face of al-Qaeda. Gadahn, 25, is an American through and through, born and bred in California, a speaker of unaccented English, intimate with the country's habits and thus able to move about without arousing suspicion. Brought up and homeschooled on his parents' goat farm, Gadahn was an introspective teenager who went looking for meaning and found it in Islam. Eventually,

he also found his way to Pakistan and, according to U.S. authorities, Afghanistan, where they claim he attended al-Qaeda training camps and has acted as a translator for the group.

Full story: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101040607-644199,00.html>

U.S. spells out dangers posed by plot suspect

Just weeks before the Supreme Court is to decide whether the Bush administration improperly declared Jose Padilla an enemy combatant, the Justice Department on Tuesday released newly declassified documents that it said showed the grave terrorist threat he posed to the United States. Officials disclosed for the first time that Mr. Padilla, a former Chicago gang member accused of becoming an operative for Al Qaeda, had cooperated extensively with American interrogators after his capture in May 2002. While the broad outline of the accusations against Mr. Padilla has been known for two years, the declassified documents provided new details about plots to detonate a radiological "dirty bomb" or blow up an apartment building, perhaps in New York City. "We now know much of what Jose Padilla knows, and what we have learned confirms that the president of the United States made that right call and that that call saved lives," James B. Comey, the deputy attorney general, said in releasing the declassified documents.

Full story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/02/politics/02PADI.html>

It's not so much *what folks don't know* that's the problem.
It's that *they know too much... that ain't so ...* that's the problem !

Switzerland could become European militant Islamist retreat

A study by Swiss federal police released on June 2 reveals concerns among law enforcement officials that Switzerland could become a retreat for radical Islamic groups and other militant organizations banned in neighboring countries. As other European states crackdown on radical Islamists, militants will likely search for a less turbulent base within Europe. Because of its location in the middle of Europe, and the famed secrecy surrounding financial transactions, Switzerland could become as attractive to radical Islamists as it is to organized crime figures.

COMMENT:

The report emphasized that a prosperous and stable country like Switzerland is not immune from changes in the global security situation, and may be prone to a wide range of extremist groups even if it is not directly targeted. Beyond Switzerland's financial and geographical inducements, the only terrorist group that is officially banned is Al-Qaeda. Meanwhile, the lists of terrorist groups banned in neighboring countries are quickly growing.

Arrest of suspect charged with inciting terrorism



Belal Khazaal was arrested and released on bail June 2 after being charged with inciting terrorism. Investigations revealed that the suspect had compiled a book and published it with his foreword on the internet in late 2003. The Australian Federal Police allege that translations indicate that it attempts to incite the killing of persons not adhering to the author's theological beliefs. Khazaal, the first to face the 2002 federal counter-terrorism act charge of inciting terrorism, was formerly a Qantas baggage handler known to Australian intelligence organizations since 1994 as being cooperative regarding information concerning activities in Sydney's Muslim community. He is also accused of giving money to another terrorist suspect from Australia for an April 2003 attack on a McDonalds restaurant in Beirut.

Khazaal is scheduled to appear in court on July 6 and may face extradition to Lebanon, where he and his brother were convicted of helping to fund a terrorist campaign last year. On June 3, Australia announced it will make changes to its regulations on bail so other high-profile and potentially dangerous defendants are not released.

Related reporting:

New anti-bail laws for Australian terror suspects

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/latestnewsstory.cfm?storyID=3570433&thesection=news&thesubsection=world>

Via eavesdropping, terror suspects nabbed

Intelligence officials use cellphone signals to track Al Qaeda operatives, as number of mid-level arrests rises.

An ordinary-looking grid map of Riyadh adorns one wall of a command-and-control center deep inside a government building in Saudi Arabia's capital. The map is higher-tech than it appears at first glance. Tiny embedded lights flash red when certain cellphones - those belonging to suspected terrorists - initiate or receive a call. Teams of officials from Saudi Arabia, the FBI, the CIA, and the US Treasury Department decide instantly whether simply to watch and listen to the suspected terrorist - or to send in screaming police cars to nab him. So far, officials say, this technology - and others - has enabled them to interrupt several terror plots and nab dozens of suspected terrorists. Certainly it hasn't served as a panacea, as the attacks on foreign workers in Saudi Arabia's oil-worker compounds last weekend show. At least 22 people, including one American, were killed when terrorists stormed a compound where foreign oil workers lived. One terrorist was captured, while three others escaped using hostages as shields. It doesn't take long for terrorists to figure out how authorities are tracing them and then change methods. Still, the technology has proved helpful in rolling up cells in Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and America. "Today, gumshoe is really a lot more electronics," says Peter Crooks, a retired FBI agent who specialized in counterterrorism. "They have some pretty sophisticated equipment."

Full story: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0602/p02s01-usmi.html>

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Islamic group outraged by MPP's comments

The Canadian Islamic Congress is taking issue with remarks made by Conservative MPP Bob Runciman following recent arrests in Thunder Bay of two men with Middle East origins. Police charged two people in a truck with transporting dangerous goods, allegedly several drums of red phosphorus. It's a combustible substance also used to make speed.

Full story: http://ottawa.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=ot_runciman20040528

Source report for this story :

Pair found with bomb ingredient were let go

Thunder Bay police released two people despite the discovery of more than half a tonne of red phosphorus, which can be used to make powerful bombs or illegal drugs, concealed behind furniture in their rented U-Haul truck.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20040522/TERROR22/TPNational/Canada>

Afghanistan's opium-led economy continues to fuel terrorist activity

Afghan officials have expressed concern surrounding the nation's inability to control the illicit production and trade of narcotics, amid growing signs that drug money is fueling the reemergence of terrorist groups such as the Taliban. Afghan Counter Narcotics Chief Mirwais Yasini recently told reporters that at least two millionaire drug smugglers with ties to the Taliban have been trying to destabilize the nation's south (*The Australian*). The spokesman for the Kandahar governor, Khalid Pashtoon, supported these claims, stating that the smugglers have been supplying Taliban fighters with ammunition and satellite phones. The statements come on the heels of an arrest last month of a suspected Taliban member who was farming opium poppies by day and participating in attacks against security forces by night. According to the UN Office of Drug Control (UNODC), terrorists may be procuring upwards of 15 percent of the value of drug shipments smuggled out of the country. UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa notes that cultivation is taking place in the center of the country, and opium shipments are moved by convoys towards the borders of Iran and Pakistan. The latest reports have led the UNODC to issue a warning about the failure of drug control policies in the country (BBC). According to Costa, "cultivation is spreading, and eradication measures undertaken by the government are not succeeding."

ANALYSIS:

Concerns about illicit narcotics production and smuggling coincide with reports that Taliban fighters have been intensifying operations against coalition forces in the south (Reuters). The drug-militant nexus has been known for years, but it was previously attributed to warlords and other local fighters seeking to profit economically. The latest revelations suggest that Islamic extremists such as the Taliban, who once banned poppy farming on religious grounds, are now shifting their views on drug production as a means of financing their operations. UN figures reveal that under the Taliban ban in 2000, farmers planted only 8000 hectares of poppy seed throughout the country, producing some 185 tons of opium. In the year following their ouster, 74,000 hectares were planted, yielding some 3400 tons of opium. Production continues to increase, with 80,000 hectares planted in 2003 and 3600 tons of opium produced. With seven percent of the nation's population -- some 1.7 million people -- involved in farming opium given its lucrative profits, one of the keys to eradicating this practice will be to offer viable commercial alternatives supported by economic development.

Islamism's campus club: The Muslim Students' Association

The northern Virginia-based Muslim Students' Association (MSA) might easily be taken for a benign student religious group. It promotes itself as a benevolent, non-political entity devoted to the simple virtue of celebrating Islam and providing college students a healthy venue to develop their faith and engage in philanthropy. Along these lines, its constitution declares the MSA's mission as serving "the best interest of Islam and Muslims in the United States and Canada so as to enable them to practice Islam as a complete way of life." Yet consider some of these recent activities of the MSA: At a meeting in Queensborough

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Community College in New York in March 2003, a guest speaker named Faheed declared, "We reject the U.N., reject America, reject all law and order. Don't lobby Congress or protest because we don't recognize Congress. The only relationship you should have with America is to topple it ... Eventually there will be a Muslim in the White House dictating the laws of Shariah."

Full story: http://www.defenddemocracy.org/research_topics/research_topics_show.htm?doc_id=227566

Terrorism is serious threat in SE Asia-Rumsfeld

Terrorism is a serious threat in Southeast Asia but the United States has no plan to send warships and troops into territorial waters to boost regional security, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Friday. Rumsfeld, visiting Singapore for an Asia security conference, told reporters that money was still fueling guerrilla networks in the area and the potential use of weapons such as biological agents should "get the attention of people and governments." Singapore and other states have voiced increasing worry that terrorists might hijack ships such as giant liquid natural gas tankers and turn them into floating bombs.

Full story:

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=WOZ0011CIWWTQCRBAEOCFFA?type=topNews&storyID=5345444>

New Indiana lab to reflect bioterrorism concerns

When officials in Indianapolis break ground on Thursday for a \$46 million lab and technology building, Indiana will move to the forefront of states that believe placing health and criminal investigative resources together can better serve Americans in the post-9/11 world. Indiana already was looking to expand its DNA crime laboratories to reduce a backlog and increase its Health Department lab capacity when the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked. Those attacks and the subsequent anthrax scares nationwide solidified the decision to house state police and health labs in one building

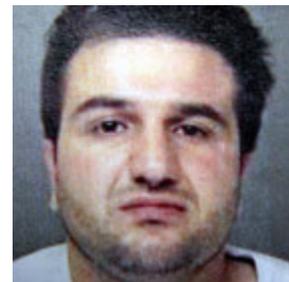
Full story:

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/chitribts/20040531/ts_chicagotrib/newindianalabtoreflectbioterrorismconcerns

Suspects ordered held without bail



Far from being a financier of overseas terrorists -- as police say -- Sai Zhao Jiang is just a cashier at a Chinese restaurant who is unfortunate enough to have a boyfriend with a taste for credit card fraud, her attorney said Thursday in Suffolk County Court. Jiang, 29, a native of China, and Yunus Unlu, 32, originally from Turkey, were arrested last month after a search of their Brooklyn apartment found thousands of fake identifications and credit cards in Unlu's name, cash, subway



maps and information on microbial organisms. The last item alarmed Suffolk authorities and prompted them to alert the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, said Assistant District Attorney James Cudden. He said neither defendant is a biology student or would have any legitimate need to keep information on biohazards.

Full story: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-liidtheft0604.0.2458453.story?coll=ny-liminute-headlines>

New York City was alerted to gas lines as terror tool

Since at least January, the New York Police Department has been aware of the possibility that terrorists might try to ignite "household utilities" like gas lines in apartment houses to cause a building's collapse. In a Jan. 23 letter to Calvin Drayton, first deputy commissioner at the city's Office of Emergency Management, Assistant Chief Phil T. Pulaski warned that operatives of Al Qaeda had been ordered to turn

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such utilities into a weapon "by renting several strategically selected apartments within a residential building and then simultaneously igniting the gas lines/appliances in order to cause a catastrophic explosion and building collapse." Still, several experts contacted yesterday said that from an engineering perspective, it would be almost impossible for a terrorist to bring a building down that way.

Full story:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/02/national/02bomb.html?ex=1086753600&en=111d27e4c67bfe30&ei=5062&partner=GOOGLE>

Popular culture clashes with homeland security mission, panel chief says

"The nation can hardly succeed in this inevitably long and arduous struggle if our popular culture -- our media, our entertainers and even many politicians at home and abroad -- continues to spread the perception that the need for homeland security is a contrivance, a snare and a delusion," Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Fla., said during a keynote speech at the McGraw-Hill Companies Homeland Security Summit in Washington. Cox singled out a new film by director Michael Moore, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, saying it presents a "warped view" that terrorists would be justified in further attacks because the United States is responding aggressively on all fronts to terrorism.

Full story: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0604/060404c1.htm>

Car bomb injures 14 in Medellin

A car left in a central Medellin parking lot near a Catholic church and a police station and the Latin American Autonomous University exploded early June 7, injuring at least 14 people and causing damage to several buildings.

COMMENT:

The explosion, which occurred during morning mass, was the second in 48 hours in Colombia. A car bomb detonated in front of the Aguablanca police station in Cali on June 5, wounding seven. Police have blamed both bombings on the rebel group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), but no group has claimed responsibility. While the church absorbed the brunt of the explosion in the latest attack, the police station was most likely the target. FARC guerrillas have increased terrorist attacks in urban areas, as President Alvaro Uribe has inflicted heavy losses on the guerrillas throughout the country.

Border troops make huge heroin seizure

Tajik authorities June 7 said they had seized more than 100 kg (220 pounds) of heroin in a series of raids on smugglers attempting to bring the drug in from Afghanistan to Western markets. Officials reported the amount of heroin confiscated would be worth about USD 1.5 million on the street.

COMMENT:



Tajik guards protect the Afghan-Tajik border jointly with Russian troops. Plans had been in place for Tajikistan to take full control of the border by 2005; however, at a June 4 meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov, the two sides agreed to put off the Russian withdrawal until 2006. In addition, they will create a new joint operational group that will resolve border issues, including drug-interdiction efforts. Many observers had cautioned that Tajikistan is not properly equipped to patrol the porous border, where drug trafficking is a major problem and only appears to be getting worse.

US extends the war on Islamic terror to the Sahara Desert

America has launched a secret war against Islamic terrorists across the southern Sahara after it discovered that a group linked to al-Qaeda bought heavy weapons using the proceeds of a ransom deal with the

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German government.

Full story: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/06/06/wsaha06.xml>

Fighting back against Cyber-Crime

Desperate times call for desperate measures, and to law enforcement officials tasked with fighting criminals online, the [skyrocketing number](#) of cyber-crimes is a full-blown crisis.

Full story: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1607372,00.asp>

Drug bust nets seven foreigners

Peruvian Interior Minister Javier Reategui announced that security forces seized 700 kg of refined cocaine near Lima June 8 and arrested 12 individuals, including two Uruguayans, two Colombians, two Chinese and one Panamanian. Five Peruvian nationals were also detained. The Anti-drug Administration of the National Police seized the narcotics in two separate raids in the northern Lima districts of San Martin de Porres and Puente Piedra. Reategui also announced that the cocaine was located inside bars of lead ready to be shipped internationally from local ports.

COMMENT:

The seizure of narcotics inside bars of lead is the first of its kind in the ongoing anti-drug campaign in Peru. Also, the capture of seven foreigners in the June 8 raids illustrates the multinational aspect of drug trafficking that originates in South America.

Suspected Madrid bombing 'mastermind' arrested



Italy arrested an Egyptian man suspected of helping to plan the Madrid train bombings as police across Europe swooped on Islamic militants in coordinated anti-terror raids, officials said last yesterday. Rabei Osman Sayed Ahmed, known as "Mohamed the Egyptian", was seized in Milan in a operation that Italian Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu said was aimed at a "dangerous group of terrorists close to al-Qaeda" which had been planning more attacks. Ahmed was one of at least 17 people arrested in coordinated operations in Italy, France, Belgium and Spain.

Full story:

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/06/09/1086460306748.html?oneclick=true>

Attacks hint tactics in Iraq are changing

Coordinated sabotage attacks on fuel and transmission lines around an enormous power plant south of Baghdad shut the plant down last weekend, American and Iraqi government officials said Tuesday, raising new fears that insurgents were targeting major sectors of the Iraqi infrastructure as part of an overall terror plan.

Full story: <http://www.ihf.com/bin/print.php?file=524075.html>

Featured Internet Site

The International Crisis Group (ICG)

The International Crisis Group (ICG) is an independent, non-profit, multinational organisation, with over 100 staff members on five continents, working through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy to prevent and resolve deadly conflict.

<http://www.icg.org/home/index.cfm>

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