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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.

Israel says hotel blast bears signs of Al Qaeda



Israeli and Egyptian investigators said Friday that they believe a Peugeot sport-utility vehicle crammed with more than 400 pounds of explosives caused Thursday's devastating blast at the Taba Hilton, which killed at least 30 people, ripped the front rooms off the 11-story hotel and tossed the mangled wreckage of another car into the middle of a banquet hall. In late 2002, al Qaeda asserted responsibility for the car bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, that killed 15 people, including three Israeli tourists. Five minutes before that attack, assailants fired two shoulder-held missiles at a Boeing



757 Arkia Israeli Airlines charter plane bound for Tel Aviv as it took off from Mombasa's airport. The missiles missed their target.

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17015-2004Oct8.html?referrer=email>

Related reporting:

Tribesman Admits to Explosives Sale

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=153360>

Woman part of terror attack

<http://washingtontimes.com/world/20041009-112602-4339r.htm>

Egypt hotel bombers aided by woman suicide backpacker

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/10/10/wegypt10.xml&sSheet=/news/2004/10/10/ixnewstop.html>



Authorities struggle to identify culprits in Sinai attack

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 !

Egyptian security forces continue to investigate the Oct. 7 terrorist bombings of tourist destinations in northeast Sinai. Terrorists used three car bombs to target the Taba Hilton Hotel and two other facilities: Moon Village and Mubarak Village in Raes Ash-Shaitan. There were likely between eight and 10 attackers. While the attack in Taba was successful - killing 32 people and bringing down one wing of the hotel - the Raes Ash-Shaitan bombings failed. One car bomb did not explode properly and the other only killed three people. Egyptian security forces have no concrete leads on who is behind the attack. At least 150 men - most of them Bedouin - have been arrested, though only 50 have been sent to Cairo for detailed investigation. Egyptian officials believe that local Bedouins helped the bombers obtain the explosives and vehicles used in the attack and provided the intelligence on the targeted facilities. At least one Bedouin confessed to selling explosives to individuals he could not identify for use in attacks in the West Bank and Gaza (rather than Sinai). Many Bedouins are also assisting Egyptian investigators by providing information on persons who traveled through the area recently and the routes that terrorists may have used. The owner of the Moon Village resort and his son were also arrested. The son's car was one of the vehicles used in the attack. Egyptian authorities, eager to reassure tourists, have increased security throughout the country. Tourism is key to Egypt's struggling economy. In recent years the Egyptian government has invested heavily in Sinai's tourism industry and can ill afford to watch travel to the area drop off.

ANALYSIS:

While some Bedouins likely helped the attackers, they have no vested interest in targeting the Egyptian government or Israeli tourists. It is more likely that Bedouins - whose main line of businesses is weapon and people smuggling - provided the material in exchange for a large sum paid by a terror group. Both Egyptian and Israeli officials believe that Palestinian terror groups are not directly involved in the attack. Sources have told Associated Press that Egyptian officials are holding talks with Hamas and Islamic Jihad to obtain information about possible attackers. Egyptian officials speculate that the attackers are not locals nor Egyptian Islamic militants. They have speculated that the attackers likely entered Egypt from Jordan or Saudi Arabia by speed boat. But this assertion is hard to verify and Israeli officials - who are also investigating the attack - claim that Egyptian Islamic militants were involved in one way or another. Officials hope that identifying the type of explosives used in the attack and information gained from Egyptian investigations will yield a strong indication of who is behind the attack. In the meantime, Al-Qaeda and its affiliates remain the most likely culprits for the operation. Initial indications are that the attack will force Egypt to crack down on domestic militant groups and weapons smuggling through Sinai. Israel has long claimed that Egypt is looking the other way with regard to weapons smuggling to the Gaza Strip via Sinai. In comments to Israel's Parliament, IDF Chief of Staff Moshe Yaalon claimed that Egypt should not be shocked that illegal weapons were used to attack Egyptian targets. Such tolerance is likely to end quickly likely, making it more difficult for Palestinian terror groups to smuggle weapons into Gaza.

After Egypt, where will al-Qaeda strike next?

Thursday's suicide bombs in Egypt's tourist resorts were foretold almost a week earlier in a chilling propaganda video made by al-Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahiri. Intelligence experts have picked over the text of the Egyptian-born doctor's carefully delivered diatribe. After exhorting all Muslims to defend Palestine as "a duty" against Israel and its backers America, Europe and Arab leaders like Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, al-Zawahiri said: "This is the century of the Islamic resistance ... Let's learn a lesson from Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine. "We shouldn't wait for the American, English, French, Jewish, Hungarian, Polish and South Korean forces to invade Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen and Algeria and then start the resistance after the occupier has already invaded us. We should start now. "The interests of America, Britain, Australia, France, Norway, Poland, South Korea and Japan are everywhere. All of them participated in the invasion of Afghanistan, Iraq and Chechnya, they also facilitated a *raison d'être* for Israel. We should not wait anymore than we already have or else we will be devoured, one country at a time, as they have occupied us in the last two centuries. The Islamic world has entered the period of occupation ... Oh, young men of Islam, here is our message to you, if we are killed or captured, you should carry on the fight."

Full story: <http://www.sundayherald.com/45324>

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Terrorism: We must ask why

We know, in horrible detail, how it is done. In the case of Ken Bigley, we will soon be able to view the act in video clips on the internet. With the bombing in the Egyptian resort of Taba on Thursday night, we know, from eyewitnesses, of the smiles of the suicide bombers as they blew apart several dozen Israeli holiday-makers. Trials in Casablanca, Istanbul, the Far East and elsewhere have exposed the mechanics of dozens of terrorist plots. And the September 11 inquiry in the United States has finally told us exactly how the most spectacular and successful of them all occurred. What we are still seeking is an answer to the question: "Why?"

Full story: <http://www.mg.co.za/Content/13.asp?cg=BreakingNews-InternationalNews&ao=123445>

The changing face of violence

The role of women in terrorist attacks has horrified the world

Many people are asking how such crimes can happen. In Russia, Chechen female suicide bombers known as the Black Widows have struck devastating blows in past weeks, reportedly carrying out attacks on airliners and near a Moscow subway station, and joining a hostage-taking at a school in the town of Beslan. In Israel, Palestinian women have blown themselves up in assaults that have killed more than 35 Israelis and wounded hundreds of others. In Iraq, genetic engineer Huda Salih Mehdi Ammash is suspected of taking a high-profile role in rebuilding Baghdad's biological warfare capacity. She is imprisoned along with microbiologist Rihab Taha, said to be a former director of a bacterial and biological warfare program aimed at mass killing. The participation of women and, sometimes, teenage girls in an increasing number of deadly acts has horrified the international public, and a wave of revulsion has rolled through the media at female violence in its most ruthless form.

Full story:

http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1097358613697&call_pageid=968332188854&col=968350060724

U.S. schools warned to watch out for terrorists

Federal officials are warning educators around the country to pay special attention in the coming weeks to suspicious people lurking around their buildings. The federal Department of Education alert went out to school boards, administrators and professional organizations in each state. Officials said the warning was issued after the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security analyzed the September terrorist seizure of a school in Beslan, Russia. The federal government offered no specific information to indicate that an attack is planned in the United States, Hickok said. But the alert was followed by Friday news reports of a computer disk found in Iraq that includes diagrams and photographs of American schools. The disk has photographs of schools in six states, including two in New Jersey, but none in Delaware. The Department of Homeland Security said it had no information about a specific threat toward any school.

Full story: <http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2004/10/09usschoolswarned.html>

North Korea ready to launch cyber war: report



North Korea has trained more than 500 computer hackers capable of launching cyber warfare against the United States, South Korea's defense ministry says. "North Korea's intelligence warfare capability is estimated to have reached the level of advanced countries." The military hackers had been put through a five-year university course training them to penetrate the computer systems of South Korea, the United States and Japan, the report added. Their goal, it said, was to gather intelligence or to launch a cyber attack.

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Full story: http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/109911/1/.html

U.S. forces tighten security in S. Korea



American installations in South Korea went on a high state of alert last week after intelligence was received that a terrorist attack might be planned in retaliation for the dispatch of Korean troops to Iraq. More than 33,000 U.S. troops, along with family members, civilians and some military contractors, have had a 9 p.m. curfew since Sept. 24. Roadblocks and armored vehicles have cropped up around U.S. facilities here and access has been restricted to bases, and the South Korean government has increased security around its diplomatic establishments abroad. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul issued an unusually strong advisory warning American citizens of the increased threat of "suicide operations, bombings, or kidnappings" and said that attacks "may involve aviation and other transportation and maritime interests."

Full story: <http://www.nwherald.com/MainSection/281575590623844.php>

Related reporting:

Terrorists Declare Ultimatum to S. Korea

<http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/200410/kt2004101215551210230.htm>

Terrorist espionage on the rise in Korea

From 2002 to July of this year, there was a total of 199 cases of espionage by international terrorist groups in South Korea, including spying on major South Korean organizations, both private and public, and attempting to infiltrate the country. Such activities have increased sharply every year. According to an army report submitted to GNP lawmaker Kwon Kyung-seok for the ongoing parliamentary audit, the number of confirmed incidences of terrorist espionages in the country increased by 35.7 percent from 56 in 2002 to 76 in 2003. This year alone, organizations such as the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Incheon International Airport, the U.S. Embassy in Korea, the Korea Train Express and Asia Development Bank (ADB) were targets of terrorist espionage a total of 67 times by July, a 51.3 percent increase from the same period last year.

Source: <http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200410/200410080024.html>

Six Al-Qaeda-linked Militants Charged with Ferry Bombing



Philippine President Gloria Arroyo announced Oct. 11 that six Al-Qaeda-linked militants have been charged with the recent ferry bombing in which more than 100 people died. Authorities said the militants are all members of the Abu Sayyaf and have been charged in the Feb. 27 attack on Superferry 14 in Manila Bay. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/3491206.stm>) The two men accused of planting the bomb - Habil Delloso and Alhamser Manatad Limbonghave - have been arrested. Four others, including the two suspected masterminds, remain at large.

Also see:

Ferries could be watched as possible terrorist target

<http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/washingtonstate/index.ssf?/base/news-9/1097452446142821.xml&storylist=orwashington>

ANALYSIS:



Initially, investigators downplayed Abu Sayyaf claims of being behind the ferry fire, but now have concluded that the fire that struck the ship was caused by a bomb. Authorities say that prior to the bombing, the ferry owners "received an extortion letter demanding payment of one million dollars for the unhampered use of the waters of Mindanao." The letter was signed by Abu Bakar Janjalani, believed to be the alias of Abu Sayyaf's leader Khadaffy Janjalani, who is one of the four suspects still wanted in the attack (the others are Abu Solaiman, Garnal Baharon and Kashmir Doe). Abu Sayyaf has been engaged in bombing and kidnapping-for-ransom attacks against Christians and foreigners in the southern Philippines since the early 1990s. Police officials say they have implemented security measures on ferries to prevent similar attacks.

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Also see:

Inside the Abu Sayyaf

http://www.inq7.net/specials/inside_abusayyaf/2001/photo/photo_01.htm

After school siege, Russians' grief turns to anger

More than five weeks after hundreds perished in the seizure of School No. 1 by Chechen separatists, Beslan remains a town reeling from grief, shock, rage and disbelief, a town whose suffering seems only compounded by the day. Dozens of burned bodies remain unidentified. Many believe the government is covering up the real death toll. Millions of dollars in donations have not reached the victims. And as the traditional Orthodox Christian mourning period ends this week, there are renewed fears of violent reprisals fueled by ethnic animosity

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25439-2004Oct11.html>

Related reporting:

Russian Town Marks Formal End of Mourning

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26544-2004Oct12.html?nav=headlines>

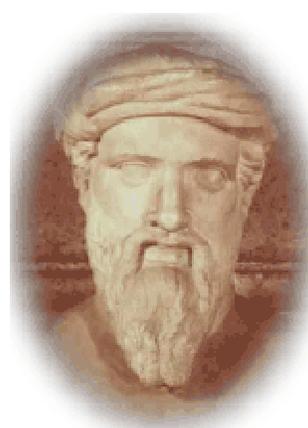
Ossetians Form "Ku Klux Klan" to Avenge Beslan Tragedy — Newspaper

<http://www.mosnews.com/news/2004/10/12/ossetianklan.shtml>

New worry about spread of terrorism in republics of southern Russia

<http://www.realcities.com/mld/kwashington/9893169.htm>

Mathematicians aid war on terror



You don't need political influence, military might or economic resources to plant bombs or take hostages but, without brains, terrorism is nothing more than random violence. Consider al-Qaida's attack on New York City and Washington, D.C., three years ago. It required a force of only 20 men armed with box cutters, yet it was so brilliantly conceived, meticulously planned and keenly attuned to global politics that it changed the world. "Terrorism is a thinking man's game," said terror expert Gordon Woo. Which is why a small group of thinking men and women convened at Rutgers University last month to consider how order theory - a branch of abstract mathematics that deals with hierarchical relationships - could be applied to the war on terror. Stefan Schmidt, a New Mexico State University researcher who has worked with Lefebvre, offered a hypothetical example. Suppose, he said, terrorists were considering three points of entry into the United States - one in the Pacific Northwest, one in the Southwest and one in the Northeast. Looking at the level of security on the various borders, and considering other factors such as remoteness, terrorists might decide on the Southwest as the best place

to cross. Assume that border agents, on the other hand, are heavily guarding the Northeast border. They would benefit by making the Southwest seem more heavily patrolled than it really is, and the Northeast appear relatively unprotected. If they did a credible job, the terrorists would incorrectly choose the most secure border as their best bet and run a much higher chance of being caught.

Full story: <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Science/2004/10/06/658384-ap.html>

U.S. Spies on Chat Rooms

Amid the torrent of jabber in internet chat rooms -- flirting by QTpie and BoogieBoy, arguments about politics and horror flicks -- are terrorists plotting their next move? The government certainly isn't discounting the possibility. It's taking the idea seriously enough to fund a yearlong study on chat room surveillance under an anti-terrorism program Security officials know al-Qaida and other terrorist groups use the internet for everything from propaganda to offering tips on kidnapping. But it's not clear if terrorists rely much on chat rooms for planning and coordination.

Full story: <http://www.wired.com/news/privacy/0,1848,65305,00.html>

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Militants force local women to wed foreign fighters

A "brides for jihad" campaign has been launched by Islamic militants in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, intimidating local families into offering their daughters to foreign fighters waging war on America and its allies. "We ask each honest father that lives in Mosul city to support the project in order to be a real Muslim and achieve the glory of the holy Koran." Local police say they are aware of the forced marriages but are unable to tackle the problem because of the culture of fear perpetuated by the foreign jihadists.

Full story: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/10/10/wirq110.xml>

Ramadan terror concerns?

As more than one billion Muslims prepare to celebrate Ramadan, terror experts are mixed about whether the holy month is a tool for recruiting terrorists. "It's a time which can be exploited by radical clerics to motivate individuals into taking action on the basis they are somehow serving their religion,"

Full story: <http://edition.cnn.com/2004/US/10/06/ramadan.concerns/index.html>

Featured Internet Site

(This week also a *Featured Story*)



SpaceShipOne rockets to success

“...the beginning of the personal space flight revolution...”

A red, white and blue rocket plane zoomed into space Monday, winning a \$10 million prize as the world's first privately built reusable spacecraft and heralding the future of commercial space travel. SpaceShipOne designer Burt Rutan is already turning his energy toward SpaceShipTwo, which a flamboyant British tycoon wants to develop to carry passengers by decade's end.



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