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**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council**

**NEWSLETTER**

HOMELAND SECURITY  
ADVISORY SYSTEM

THREAT CONDITION  
**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACK

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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.*

## Romanian money laundering 'linked to Arab terrorism'



Romania's public prosecutor, Ilie Botos, (pictured) has stunned the country by announcing that "Arab sympathiser groups established in Romania" are providing cash to help finance terrorist activities in the West. The investigations are focusing on a Romanian wheeler-dealer from the southern town of Craiova and a number of resident Arab businessmen associated with his financial group. The FBI, Europol and Eurojust are also involved in the Romanian secret service investigations, and there have been a series of arrests. "The activities of the Arabs linked to the Boerica group have been carefully watched. We are trying, with the help of the state security apparatus, to monitor every aspect of the activities of these foreign citizens while in Romania in order to prevent the financing of certain terrorist actions [abroad].

What the investigations have established is this: large sums of money, obtained by businessmen of Arab nationality, have been regularly transferred to off-shore fiscal paradises where the paper trail goes cold." The Bucharest opposition daily Evenimentul Zilei claims it has come into the possession of secret service reports "listing those highly placed officials who have protected Genica Boerica and his Arab business friends. They include MPs, heads of key state offices, among them the Office for the Prevention of Money Laundering, the General Inspectorate of Police, courts, appeal courts and county police. On Boerica's payroll were also police generals, colonels, public prosecutors, judges and chief financial inspectors."

Full story: <http://www.sundayherald.com/45731>

## Smugglers become more aggressive as border security tightens

The crackdown on human smugglers is resulting in more violence along Southern Arizona's Border. The U.S. Border Patrol says smugglers are becoming more frustrated with increased patrols and are becoming extremely aggressive toward agents. "We saw a couple of shootings in the past couple of weeks where Border Patrol has had to defend their life," Border Patrol won't comment on the shootings, however, just last week a Mexican national was shot and killed after he was pulled over near the Arizona/New Mexico border. He had 17 illegal immigrants in his van.

Full story: <http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=2484971>

## Off-duty officers to patrol 24-7 against terrorists

The Federal Government calls on El Paso Police to help keep the country safe during the election and

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through early 2005. Beginning Wednesday, off-duty El Paso Police Officers will patrol potential terrorist sites around the clock. The US Department of Homeland security has given the El Paso Police Department a \$400,000 grant as part of an operation designed to keep the country safe through the election and holidays.

Full story: <http://www.kvia.com/Global/story.asp?S=2484053&nav=AbBzSQkN>



## Government begins tighter security checks on foreigners applying to U.S. flight schools

The federal government has begun conducting background checks on all foreigners seeking to attend U.S. flight schools, the Transportation Security Administration said Friday. The expanded security measures, aimed in part at preventing potential terrorists from taking pilot lessons here as some of the Sept. 11 hijackers did, now apply to any foreigner seeking flight training in the United States, not just those learning to fly larger aircraft.

Full story: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/nation/terror/20041022-1823-tsa-flightschools.html>

## US issues flurry of terror warnings for citizens abroad

The United States has in the past week issued a series of dire terrorism warnings for least eight countries, alerting US citizens to the potential for attacks directed at American citizens and interests there, according to the State Department. Since October 21, the US embassies in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Israel and Jordan have released terrorism advisories to Americans in those nations and the State Department in Washington has warned if possible attacks in Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Full story:

[http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20041028/pl\\_afp/us\\_attacks\\_travel\\_warn\\_041028160659](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20041028/pl_afp/us_attacks_travel_warn_041028160659)

### **Related reporting:**

**US, Germany issue terror warnings for Saudi Arabia**

<http://www.dawn.com/2004/10/29/top14.htm>

**US warns of possible terror attacks in Indonesia during Ramadan**

<http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=32116>

## Algeria's most-wanted militant taken into custody



One of North Africa's most wanted Islamic militant leaders, accused in the kidnapping of 32 European tourists last year, has been taken into custody in Algeria, authorities said on Thursday. "Amar Saifi was intercepted in Libya near the Chadian-Libyan border. He is wanted in Algeria for numerous terrorist crimes which he has committed or commanded since 1992," Saifi -- identified by authorities as the second-in-command of the al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) -- was first captured by Chadian rebels in northern Chad in March after fleeing neighboring countries.

Full story: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=6646949>

## Al-Qaeda threatens Azerbaijan with terror attacks

Al-Qaeda terror organization has threatened Azerbaijan to avenge for handing over two Egyptian terrorists to their country in 2002, local opposition "Yeni Musavat" daily said quoting the London-based Arab "Al-

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Guds al-Arabiyya" newspaper. The two terrorists are reported to have been members of the "Jamaati al Islamiyya" organization (Egyptian Islamic Jihad), a member of the Al-Qaeda group. According to the "Al-Guds al Arabiyya", the Egyptian court martial has sentenced 9 of 107 members of Al-Qaeda to life imprisonment.

Full story: <http://www.bakutoday.net/view.php?d=10811>

## Syrian behind train attack, Spain says



A Syrian jailed since 2001 and thought to be a major operative for Al Qaeda has been identified as the prime mover behind the March 11 terror attacks in Madrid, a high-ranking intelligence official told the Spanish Parliament on Monday. The Syrian, Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, also known as Abu Dahdah, represent the clearest statement of responsibility yet made by a senior investigator. "It is very clear to me, that if by mastermind we mean the person who has put the group together, prepared the group, trained it ideologically, sent them to Afghanistan to be prepared militarily for terrorism," the investigator, Rafael Gómez Menor, said, "that man is Abu Dahdah, without any doubt."

Full story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/26/international/europe/26spain.html?oref=login>

## Muslim recruiter's war of hate

As a follower of the Islamic movement called the Tabligh, he's been urging young Muslim men to leave France and fight. "We inform them that in a Muslim country there is an invasion, hence it is a cause," he says. "You have to go and combat the enemy and throw them out," Asked if that means teaching them to kill Americans among other things, he says, "Yes, of course, as the American's were taught to torture the Iraqi's in Abu Ghraib."

Full story: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/10/21/eveningnews/main650728.shtml>

## B.C. man confirmed killed in terror raid

A man killed by Russian security forces during anti-terrorist operations two weeks ago has been identified through photographs as Rudwan Khalil Abubaker, a Vancouver resident who travelled to the region last summer and disappeared. A 26-year-old Sudanese-born Canadian, Mr. Abubaker left Canada in the summer, ostensibly to visit family and attend a wedding in Azerbaijan. He was registered to begin college in Vancouver in September but never showed up. On Oct. 8, Russian forces said he had been killed in a raid.

Full story: <http://www.canada.com/national/nationalpost/news/story.html?id=392868e9-72ce-489a-be47-757175034d6a>

## 'Terrorist' leaflets on Metro



Police have detained 10 men for distributing leaflets linking several opposition politicians to Chechen terrorists, Interfax reported Wednesday. Moskovskiy Novosti posted the leaflet on its web site. It shows images of State Duma Deputy Vladimir Ryzhkov, former SPS leader Irina Khakamada, former Rodina co-leader Sergei Glazyev and Boris Berezovsky dressed in fatigues together with Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev. Khakamada is shown wearing a black headscarf similar to those worn by female suicide bombers during the Dubrovka crisis. The leaflet reads: "Participants in negotiations to destroy Russia."

Full story: <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2004/10/28/015.html>

### **Related reporting**

**Thousands protest Chechen war in central Moscow on Nord-Ost Anniversary**

<http://www.mosnews.com/news/2004/10/25/protest.shtml>

**Analysis: Russia -- Between Terror And Corruption**

<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2004/09/3cab44ec-da1d-4a9a-9366-d66c2381c27c.html>

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## 17 Injured in Chechnya Car Bombing

A car bomb exploded outside the Chechen capital's main hospital Sunday, injuring 17 people in an attack apparently targeting members of a Chechen security force bringing in wounded from an earlier explosion, officials said. The first blast struck a vehicle carrying the Chechen security troops on a highway in the outskirts of the capital, Grozny, Federal Security Service spokesman, Maj. Gen. Ilya Shabalkin, said on Russia's NTV television. As the injured were being taken into Grozny's hospital No. 9, a second car exploded outside the building, he said. Shabalkin blamed the attacks on a group led by rebel Yunadi Turchayev, whom he said coordinates rebel activities in Grozny and the surrounding region.

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13502-2004Oct31.html?nav=headlines>

## One killed, 19 injured in two terrorist attacks in Grozny

One man was killed and 19 others were injured in two terrorist attacks carried out in Grozny on Sunday, the Chechen Emergency Medicine Center told Interfax. A Chechen Interior Ministry source told Interfax that one man was killed and three others were wounded when a car was blasted on Staropromyslovskoye highway at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday. *When the victims were brought to Hospital No.9 and were being taken out of an ambulance, another car, parked about three meters from the entrance to the hospital, blew up, injuring another 16 people.*

Source: [http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/0/28.html?id\\_issue=10716321](http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/0/28.html?id_issue=10716321)

## NATO says no "firm evidence" of terrorist activity in Bosnia



NATO peacekeepers on Tuesday rejected claims by a top US analyst that terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden are using the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia as a training ground and gateway to Europe.

"As far as SFOR (NATO-led Stabilization Force) is concerned there remains no firm evidence of any terrorist organisation either operating or training in this country," SFOR spokesman Mark Hope said.

A statement came a day after Yossef Bodansky, director of the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare of the US Congress, told the Glas Srpske daily that terrorists responsible for the bombing of

the UN headquarters in Baghdad last year were trained near the central Bosnian town of Zenica.

Full story: <http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=31893>

### **Related reporting:**

**No indication of presence of FBI agents**

[http://www.fena.ba/uk/vijest.html?fena\\_id=FSA191422&rubrika=ES](http://www.fena.ba/uk/vijest.html?fena_id=FSA191422&rubrika=ES)

**European Muslims joining war against U.S. in Iraq**

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2004/10/25/news/islam.html>

**British Muslim charged with inciting to kill Jews**

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/news.php3?id=70740>

### **COMMENT:**

Claims of Bosnian *mujahideen* were inflated during the 1992-95 war, and the same may be true here, though the possibility that terrorist cells, of one form or another, are operating in Bosnia cannot be completely ruled out. Following the 11 September attacks, government officials raided the Saudi High Commission for Relief to Bosnia-Herzegovina, revealing a picture of Saudi-supported Wahabi jihad in the Balkans over the previous decade. The search also allegedly included a roster of original financiers for bin Laden's operations. A group of six Algerians who had Bosnian citizenship until 2001 were arrested in 2002 and deported to Guantanamo at the insistence of the U.S. Meanwhile, up to 400 Arab *mujahideen* are estimated to have settled in Bosnia after the war, acquiring citizenship and remaining primarily in rural areas. The arrests of the Algerians and the international community's failure to unite the country and facilitate the return of Muslim refugees to their homes have increased discontent among Bosnian Muslims. They reportedly control less than 28 percent of their former territory, and the Iraq war has only added to

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their agitation. Though there have been other claims of al Qaeda cells, most of them have appeared in Serbian-controlled media outlets and have been difficult to corroborate. But if Bodansky's claims are accurate, terrorists in Bosnia are less likely to pose an immediate threat to foreign workers in the country than to the surrounding regions (Jamestown Foundation).

## Arrests bring to light dark dealings on Web

**Albany man among 10 alleged members of crime network charged with credit card, ID fraud**

In the darkest reaches of the Internet, under assumed names like "Kingpin," "Dirty Harry" and "NotoriousCarder," a group of young men from the Shadowcrew crime syndicate traded millions in credit card information and fake IDs like cattle dealers. For years, federal authorities said many top members of the 4,000-strong electronic underworld eluded arrest by shielding any trace of their own identity as they typed their way through data links and computer networks like anonymous cars rolling down an interstate. For the accused, their payoffs came in untraceable cash withdrawals from ATM machines, credit card purchases and the sale of fraudulent documents." The defendants were, for the most part, senior members of Shadowcrew, an international criminal organization of approximately 4,000 members which promoted and facilitated a wide variety of criminal activities including ... electronic theft of personal identifying information, credit card and debit card fraud, and the production and sale of false identification documents," Since August 2002, Rettas stated, "Shadowcrew members collectively trafficked in and made unauthorized use of at least 1.5 million stolen credit card numbers, resulting in actual losses in excess of \$4 million to credit card companies, financial institutions, and credit card account holders."

Full story:

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=299349&category=ALBANY&BCCode=HOME&newsdate=10/28/2004>

**Related reporting:**

**28 Identity Theft Suspects Arrested in Transatlantic Sting**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7614-2004Oct28.html>

**Feds indict 19 on online ID theft charges**

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=207508>

## U.S.-Russian security cooperation after Beslan

On September 1, 2004, the first day of school, a multiethnic group of over 30 radical Islamist terrorists, including two female suicide bombers and some Chechens, took more than 1,000 children, teachers, and parents hostage in Beslan, North Ossetia. The terrorists deployed explosives around the school, hanging them from basketball hoops in the gym, where most of the children were held. This was the fifth massive hostage-taking event in Russia since 1995, and it ended in tragedy. Shamil Basaev, leader of the radical Islamist wing of the Chechen separatist movement, has taken responsibility for the massacre. In the aftermath of Beslan, the U.S. should emphasize to the Russian people, President Vladimir Putin, and the Russian government that the two countries are facing the same enemy. The U.S. should increase outreach in the battle for Russia's hearts and minds, paying particular attention to the younger generations of Russian citizens.

Full report from: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/RussiaandEurasia/bg1809.cfm>

**Related reporting:**

**Maskhadov, Basayev preparing new terrorist acts**

<http://www.tass.ru/eng/level2.html?NewsID=1397546&PageNum=0>

**Chechen rebels planning terrorist act similar to Beslan**

<http://www.gateway2russia.com/art.php?artid=255699&rubid=&parent=&grandparent>

## Kidnapper of Chinese claims Pakistan hotel blast

Abdullah Mehsud, a former Guantanamo Bay inmate who masterminded the kidnapping of two Chinese engineers, has claimed responsibility for a blast last week at Islamabad's Marriott Hotel, a journalist said on Monday. "We carried out the Marriott bomb blast," Yusufzai quoted him as saying. An explosion hit the Marriott Hotel on Thursday, injuring seven people, including a U.S. diplomat, two Italians and the Pakistani prime minister's chief security officer. The government and the hotel immediately said it was not

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a terrorist attack and was most probably caused by an electrical short circuit.

Full story: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ISL102060.htm>

**Related reporting:**

**US diplomat among seven injured in Pakistani Marriott hotel explosion**

<http://www.onlypunjab.com/fullstory1004-insight-US+diplomat+among+seven+injured-status-21-newsID-11091.html>

**Wanted militant claims Islamabad blast**

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/news/sw/details.cfm?id=10059>

**COMMENT:**



U.S. government sources said Oct. 29 that they believe the large explosion at the JW Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, Oct. 28 was likely caused by an improvised explosive device, not an electrical short circuit, as the Pakistani government has claimed. Pakistani government officials said initially that the explosion was caused by a short circuit and, early Oct. 29, said further investigations had confirmed that analysis. The Marriott hotel is usually very heavily guarded, as it is located close to the parliament as well as the Pakistani president, prime minister and other officials' residences. At least seven people were

injured, including three Italian businessmen and a U.S. diplomat, in the blast.

## Al-Qaeda may target British Military interests

A top-secret British military report published in September indicates that the military and its interests are a highly desired target of Al-Qaeda. The report, which was leaked to the public, was distributed to all British posts. It warned that both domestic and international facilities are at risk, particularly Horse Guards Parade, the Royal Guard Rooms and Wellington Barracks. The military advises all personnel to avoid wearing uniforms or other indicators while off-duty.

**COMMENT:**

There was nothing reported to indicate that the military had any specific information of planned attacks on its interests but rather this was a general warning of an overall threat.

## Foreign sources report on bin Laden's whereabouts



Afghani and Pakistani sources published a report that initially appeared in Kuwaiti newspaper *Al Rai Alaam* stating that Usama bin Laden was still hiding in Afghanistan, which may revive the ongoing speculation about his exact location. According to the latest reports, the al Qaeda leader is now "living in a safe place northeast of the Afghan capital under the protection of a tribe" (Afgha, Pak Tribune, International News Network). All the sources quoted an anonymous man who reportedly had contacts with both bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Omar, whom he met two and a half months ago and two weeks ago, respectively.

According to that unnamed source, "Sheikh Abu Abdullah [a name used for bin Laden] is in good health and has high morale. He lives along with four people in a safe place with an Afghan tribe that provides him with all means of comfort and safety." He added that "Sheikh Usama... closely follows the military actions of his followers." As for his top aide, Ayman al-Zawahiri, he reportedly lives in Afghanistan but in a different region "far away from where the al Qaeda leader is hiding." The source indicated that "the two leaders exchange information and coordinate through well-trusted men." He finally stated that "both the Taliban and al Qaeda are currently 'regrouping' in preparation to launch 'qualitative' attacks against U.S. forces in Afghanistan."

**COMMENT:**

Regional news reports about the possible location of the al Qaeda leadership have been very common in Pakistani, Indian, and Afghani news outlets. However, officials have thus far refrained from expressing themselves on this matter, thus letting the media and the population continue their speculation. The most recent declaration pertaining to this issue emanated on 19 October from Pakistani Lieutenant-General Safdar Hussain, commander of army forces in the North West Frontier Province, who simply declared that "al Qaeda leader Usama bin Laden was not in Pakistan's tribal territory bordering Afghanistan," leaving the

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possibility of his presence in Afghanistan very plausible. Regardless of the credibility of these recent reports on his whereabouts, his supporters are likely to put them in the context of the recent tape he sent to Arab network Al Jazeera, which they may view as evidence of his well-being despite years of an intense international search. Such a perception may embolden his supporters and agents around the world.

**Related reporting:**

**Osama may sneak into India: FBI official**

<http://news.newkerala.com/india-news/?action=fullnews&id=40325>

**Bin Laden spotted by Indian Air Force**

<http://nyjtimes.com/cover/11-01-04/OsamaBinLadenSpottedByIndianAirForce.htm>

**US media reports of sheltering bin Laden denied**

<http://www.iranmania.com/News/ArticleView/Default.asp?NewsCode=26578&NewsKind=Current%20Affairs>

## Attack kills Dutch filmmaker



A Dutch filmmaker who outraged members of the Muslim community with works attacking the treatment of women in Islamic society was gunned down and stabbed to death on an Amsterdam street yesterday morning. Witnesses said a gunman opened fire on Theo van Gogh, 47, as the filmmaker bicycled down Linnaeus Street in the eastern part of the city, then chased him on foot, shot him again and stabbed him. Some reports said the killer slit van Gogh's throat with a knife as the victim lay on the pavement.

Full story: [http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/artsentertainment/2002080424\\_vangogh03.html](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/artsentertainment/2002080424_vangogh03.html)

**Related Reporting:**

**Thousands make a racket at Van Gogh rally**

[http://www.expatica.com/source/site\\_article.asp?subchannel\\_id=19&story\\_id=13525&name=Thousands+make+'deafening'racket+at+Van+Gogh+rally](http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=19&story_id=13525&name=Thousands+make+'deafening'racket+at+Van+Gogh+rally)

**Controversial film-maker murdered in Amsterdam**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200411/s1233321.htm>

**I am on a mission. And it's only just begun**

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/26405.html>



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<http://www.twotigersonline.com/resources.html> - homeland-security-1

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