

A-2012-238



Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

THREAT

L A S E R

ALERT

11 / 260-E
2011 11 15

UNCLASSIFIED -
See Handling Instructions

"Anonymous" threatens Toronto with cyber attack

KEY POINTS

- On 2011 11 13, the international collective "Anonymous" posted a video on *YouTube* threatening cyber attacks against the City of Toronto if it follows through with plans to bring the Occupy protest movement "to a peaceful conclusion". In the video, "Anonymous" stated that Toronto would be "removed from the Internet" if the city fails to leave the protestors alone.
- As of 1400 hrs, 2011 11 15, media reporting indicates that Toronto city staff have given eviction notices to Occupy Toronto protestors, saying that protestors must leave the area immediately.

ANALYSIS

1) On 2011 11 13, the international collective "Anonymous" posted a video on *YouTube* threatening cyber attacks against the City of Toronto if it follows through with plans to bring the Occupy protest movement "to a peaceful conclusion". In the video, "Anonymous" stated that Toronto would be "removed from the Internet" if the city fails to leave the protestors alone.

2) "Anonymous" has conducted many successful cyber attacks. For example, in early 2010, the group attacked Australian government web sites with a large Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack. Further, open sources report that the Mayor of St. Louis, Missouri had his emails, political backers, as well as contact information posted online recently by a hacker who claimed to be a member of "Anonymous" after an eviction notice was served to that city's Occupy protestors. There have also been threats made by "Anonymous" that have not materialized, such as a recent claim by the group that they would "erase" the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) from the Internet.

3) During the summer of 2011, dozens of "Anonymous" members were arrested in several countries for their attacks on corporate and sensitive government web sites. The group gained notoriety for taking down PayPal and Visa for ceasing to conduct business with *WikiLeaks* after it released thousands of US diplomatic cables. "Anonymous" also took down the web site of Monsanto, a major biotech company, accusing it of being "corrupt, unethical and downright evil". The group has vowed to avenge the arrest of its members.

4) According to open information, in most cyber attacks, "Anonymous" uses a method referred to as DDoS, which consists of directing a large traffic surge to a web site until it becomes overwhelmed and cannot operate efficiently. Depending on the design and capacity of a web site, DDoS attack consequences can range from a slow-down or speed-up to a potential crash of the site. "Anonymous" also uses a hacking tool known as structured query language injection attack, which consists of exploiting a vulnerable code on a computer system. This allows the hacker to bypass security measures, obtain access to the network and steal information.

5) On 2011 10 18, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Cyber-security and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), was quoted as saying that the information available on "Anonymous" suggests they currently have a limited ability to conduct attacks targeting Industrial Control Systems (ICS). However, experienced and skilled members could develop capabilities to gain access and trespass on control system networks very quickly. Moreover, free educational opportunities (conferences, classes), presentations at hacker conferences and other high profile events / media coverage have raised awareness to ICS vulnerabilities and have likely shortened the time needed to develop sufficient tactics, techniques and procedures to disrupt ICS.

7) Social media indicates that one means of identifying "Anonymous" individuals or sympathisers may be the wearing of Guy Fawkes masks.

8) ITAC continues to monitor the situation and will provide updates as necessary.

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Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

MENACE

L A S E R

ALERTE

11 / 260-F
2011 11 15

**NON-CLASSIFIÉ -
Voir manipulation de renseignements**

Le groupe Anonymous menace de commettre des cyberattaques contre Toronto

FAITS SAILLANTS

- Le 2011 11 13, le groupe international Anonymous a diffusé une vidéo sur *YouTube* dans laquelle il menace la municipalité de Toronto de cyberattaques si elle met fin pacifiquement au mouvement d'occupation comme elle entend le faire. Dans la vidéo, Anonymous affirme que Toronto disparaîtra d'Internet si elle s'oppose aux manifestants.
- À compter de 1400 hrs, le 2011 11 15, les médias annoncent que des employés de la ville de Toronto ont donné des avis d'expulsion aux démonstrateurs du mouvement d'occupation indiquant que ceux-ci doivent quitter les lieux immédiatement.

ANALYSE

1) Le 2011 11 13, le groupe international Anonymous a diffusé une vidéo sur *YouTube* dans laquelle il menace la municipalité de Toronto de cyberattaques si elle met fin pacifiquement au mouvement d'occupation comme elle entend le faire. Dans la vidéo, Anonymous affirme que Toronto disparaîtra d'Internet si elle s'oppose aux manifestants.

2) Le groupe Anonymous a réussi de nombreuses cyberattaques. Par exemple, au début de 2010, il a effectué une importante attaque par saturation contre des sites Web du gouvernement de l'Australie. De plus, selon des sources ouvertes, un pirate affirmant être membre d'Anonymous a récemment diffusé en ligne les courriels et des informations sur les bailleurs de fonds et les contacts du maire de St. Louis (Missouri) après que la municipalité a envoyé un avis d'expulsion aux participants du mouvement d'occupation. Toutefois, certaines menaces du groupe ne se sont pas réalisées, par exemple, celle de faire disparaître la Bourse de Toronto de sur Internet.

3) Au cours de l'été 2011, des dizaines de membres du groupe Anonymous ont été arrêtés dans différents pays pour avoir perpétré des attaques contre des sites Web gouvernementaux sensibles et des sites Web commerciaux. Le groupe a gagné en notoriété lorsqu'il a paralysé les systèmes de PayPal et de Visa, des entreprises qui ont cessé de faire des affaires avec *WikiLeaks* après la publication de milliers de câbles diplomatiques américains. Le groupe Anonymous a aussi paralysé le site Web de Monsanto, une importante société du secteur des biotechnologies, qu'il a qualifiée de corrompue et d'immorale et, somme toute, d'être le Mal incarné. Anonymous a juré de venger l'arrestation de ses membres.

4) Selon des informations de sources ouvertes, Anonymous recourt à l'attaque par saturation pour commettre la plupart de ses méfaits. Cette technique consiste à soudainement envoyer de grandes quantités d'informations aux serveurs d'un site Web jusqu'à ce que, saturés, ils ne puissent plus fonctionner efficacement. L'attaque par saturation peut provoquer le ralentissement et même le plantage d'un site Web, selon les ressources et la technologie sur lesquels est fondé le système. Le groupe utilise aussi une technique de piratage connue sous le nom d'injection SQL, laquelle consiste à exploiter une faille dans la programmation d'un ordinateur. Cette technique permet de contourner les mesures de sécurité, d'accéder à un réseau et de voler des informations.

5) Le National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center du Department of Homeland Security des États-Unis a indiqué le 2011 10 18 que les informations dont il dispose sur Anonymous donnent à penser que le groupe ne possède que des moyens limités pour effectuer des cyberattaques contre les systèmes de contrôle industriels. Toutefois, les membres habiles et chevronnés du groupe pourraient rapidement trouver des moyens d'accéder aux réseaux de ces systèmes. Qui plus est, la possibilité de s'instruire gratuitement (conférences, cours), les présentations données lors de conférences sur le piratage et les reportages des médias, entre autres, ont fait connaître la vulnérabilité des systèmes industriels et probablement raccourci le temps nécessaire pour mettre au point des tactiques, des techniques et des procédures qui permettront d'en perturber le fonctionnement.

- 7) Selon les médias sociaux, il pourrait, entre autres, être possible d'identifier les membres ou les sympathisants du groupe Anonymous par le port d'un masque à l'effigie de Guy Fawkes.
- 8) Le CIET continue de surveiller la situation et fera le point au besoin.

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Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

THREAT

L A S E R

ALERT

11 / 143-E
2011 07 15

UNCLASSIFIED - For Official Use Only

"Hacktivist" collective threatens Alberta's Oil Sands

KEY POINTS

- On 2011 07 13, Operation Green Rights, self-identified as a project of the "Hacktivist" collective known as Anonymous, published a press release on *YouTube* announcing the beginning of a cyber campaign targeting companies involved in the oil sands industry. The group indicated its solidarity with direct action activists gathered along US Highway 12 in Montana to protest against the transport of refinery equipment to the Alberta, Canada oil sands, and listed various entities against whom it intends to "fight".
- Anonymous has demonstrated that it can effectively mount cyber attacks with the potential to disrupt corporate or government operations. Authorities in Alberta, as well as the RCMP, are aware of the situation.
- ITAC is providing this report to our stakeholders for awareness purposes.

ANALYSIS

1) On 2011 07 13, Operation Green Rights, self-identified as a project of the "Hacktivist" collective known as Anonymous, published a press release on *YouTube* announcing the beginning of a cyber campaign targeting companies involved in the oil sands industry. The group indicated its solidarity with direct action activists gathered along US Highway 12 in Montana to protest against the transport of refinery equipment to the Alberta, Canada oil sands, and listed various entities against whom it intends to "fight". Those entities included "Exxon Mobile, Conoco Phillips, Canadian Oil Sands, Imperial Oil and the Royal Bank of Scotland".

2) The same day, 2011 07 13, Monsanto, a multi-national biotechnology corporation, confirmed it had been the victim of a cyber attack. Anonymous claimed that it took down the company's web site and compromised corporate mail servers, releasing the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of 2500 Monsanto alleged employees.

3) Anonymous gained a high profile beginning in 2010 when the group coordinated a series of attacks against MasterCard, Visa and PayPal following a decision by those companies to cease conducting business with *WikiLeaks* after the publication of thousands of US diplomatic cables. In the same series of attacks, Anonymous also attacked Amazon, but was unsuccessful due to the company's robust online infrastructure.

4) According to open information, in most cyber attacks, Anonymous uses a method referred to as Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), which consists of directing a large traffic surge to a web site until it becomes overwhelmed and cannot operate efficiently. Depending on the design and capacity of a web site, DDoS attack consequences can range from a slowdown, or speed up to a potential crash of the site. Anonymous also uses a hacking tool known as SQL injection, which consists of exploiting a vulnerable code on a computer system. This allows the hacker to bypass security measures, obtain access to the network and steal information.

5) Authorities in Alberta, as well as the RCMP, are aware of the situation.

6) ITAC is providing this report to our stakeholders for awareness purposes.

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Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

THREAT

L A S E R

ALERT

11 / 120-E
2011 06 21

SECRET

Proposed creation of an electronic e-jihad centre

KEY POINTS

- an individual posting to the *Al Shumukh* jihadist web forum proposed the creation of an electronic e-jihad centre, the focus of which would be cyber attacks specifically targeting the SCADA systems of the United States, the United Kingdom and France.
- ITAC is providing this report for situational awareness purposes.

ANALYSIS

- 1) an individual posting to the *Al Shumukh* jihadist web forum proposed the creation of an electronic e-jihad centre, the focus of which would be cyber attacks specifically targeting the United States, the United Kingdom and France.
- 2) The following were identified as potential cyber targets to be attacked:
 - The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) central command networks which control electricity, gas, water, airports, trains and subways;
 - Control systems of general financial sites, such as central data storage systems, central archives, stock exchanges and large banks; and,
 - Sites and data of large financial companies that lead the economies of these countries.

3) The posting provided specific pre-requisites and technical qualifications for prospective members of the e-jihad centre, indicating that prospective members should have advanced knowledge of hacking techniques. Additionally, prospective members should be proficient in languages, preferably Chinese, English, French or Russian.

6) ITAC is providing this report for situational awareness purposes.

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Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

MENACE

L A S E R

ALERTE

11 / 120-F
2011 06 21

SECRET

Projet de création d'un cybercentre pour le jihad électronique

FAITS SAILLANTS

- un individu a publié un message sur le forum jihadiste en ligne *Al Shumukh* dans lequel il proposait la création d'un cybercentre pour le jihad électronique qui se concentrerait sur la perpétration de cyberattaques plus particulièrement les systèmes d'acquisition et de contrôle des données (SCADA) des États-Unis, du Royaume-Uni et de la France.

- Le CIET fournit le présent rapport à titre informatif.

ANALYSE

1) un individu a publié un message sur le forum jihadiste en ligne *Al Shumukh* dans lequel il proposait la création d'un cybercentre pour le jihad électronique qui se concentrerait sur la perpétration de cyberattaques plus particulièrement les États-Unis, le Royaume-Uni et la France.

2) Voici des cibles qui sont susceptibles d'être visées par des cyberattaques :

- Les réseaux du poste de commande du système SCADA qui gèrent l'électricité, le gaz, l'eau, les aéroports, les trains et les métros;
- Les systèmes de contrôle des sites financiers généraux comme les systèmes centraux de stockage des données et d'archivage, ainsi que les systèmes des bourses et des grandes banques;

- Les sites et les données des grandes sociétés financières qui gèrent l'économie de ces pays.

3) Dans le message, il y a une description des conditions préalables et des compétences techniques que doivent posséder les membres éventuels du cybercentre pour le jihad électronique. Ces derniers doivent aussi avoir une connaissance poussée des techniques de piratage et maîtriser certaines langues, de préférence le chinois, l'anglais, le français ou le russe.

6) Le CIET fournit le présent rapport à titre informatif.

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

CANADA: BIENNIAL UPDATE ON TERRORIST AND EXTREMIST THREATS

Objective

1. This biennial update provides an overview of terrorist and extremist threats to Canadians and Canadian interests at home and abroad. Since the last update (ITAC 11/82) was issued on 2011 08 31, the terrorist threat environment has not significantly changed. The intelligence cut-off date for this update is 2012 04 01.

- the most significant threat to Canadians and Canadian interests at home and abroad over the next six months continues to be posed by AQ-inspired terrorists. The threat against the West has diversified as the global jihad is increasingly being driven by violent home-grown extremists and AQ affiliates. Recent jihadist messaging and attack plotting indicate a move away from complex plots or, at minimum, augmenting these plots with smaller-scale attacks against a broader range of targets.
- much of Al Qaeda (AQ) Core's daily attention is now firmly focussed on survival, and that AQ Core is increasingly likely to rely on attacks undertaken by lone actors and AQ affiliates. These attacks, combined with a steady stream of AQ media propaganda, are designed to maintain AQ's position at the forefront of the global jihad movement.
- AQ affiliates Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Al Shabaab (AS) continue to represent elevated terrorist threats. Recent jihadist messaging and attack plotting indicate a move away from complex plots or, at minimum, augmenting these plots with smaller-scale attacks against a broader range of targets.
- The threat implications of the "Arab Spring" in North Africa and the Middle East remain a concern, as terrorist groups attempt to take advantage of political unrest and replace current regimes with one sympathetic to an extremist alternative.

- some Canadian and Western youth continue to be at risk of radicalization through their travel abroad in particular to Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Pakistan. While some individuals may seek to fight in various ‘jihad’ abroad, others may seek to acquire training and fighting experience to return to Western countries and carry out terrorist attacks at home.
- terrorist attacks will continue to be aimed at targets

Assessment Note: This assessment primarily draws upon a body of unclassified information and media reporting. It strongly relies on historical incidents as indicators of future terrorist threats in the near to medium term.

Any use of the term jihad in this document should be interpreted as referring to violent action undertaken by extremist Islamists, primarily inspired by AQ’s “single narrative”, which states that Sunni Islam is under threat from the West and that it is the duty of all Muslims to take action, including violence, to defend the faith.

Canadian Connections

2. Fall 2011 marked the 10-year anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, in which 24 Canadians died, reminding us that Canada is not immune to terrorism. More recently, in April 2011, a couple from Montreal were amongst the 17 dead after a suicide bombing at a popular tourist café in Marrakech, Morocco. Canadians, including Robert Fowler, Louis Guay, Amanda Lindhout and Colin Rutherford, have also been the victims of several high-profile kidnappings by terrorist groups since 2008.
3. At home, terrorism and extremism remain ongoing concerns, as demonstrated by various recent terrorism-related arrests and convictions. For example, Pakistani-Canadian Tahawwur Rana was convicted on 2011 06 09 in a Chicago court of providing material support to Pakistani-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT). Tahir Sharif, an Edmonton-based man of Kurdish descent, was arrested in January 2011 for alleged facilitation activities in support of AQ in Iraq. Sharif’s hearing is set for May 2012 and he is facing extradition to the US for terrorism-related charges.
4. On 2011 03 29, Mohamed Hassan Hersi, a 25 year-old Somali-Canadian was arrested at Pearson Airport in Toronto on terrorism-related charges. It is alleged that he was leaving Canada to join Somalia-based Al-Shabaab (AS), a listed terrorist entity.
5. Three individuals, Hiva Mohammad Alizadeh, Misbahuddin Ahmed and Khurram Syed Sher were arrested in Ottawa and London, Ontario, on terrorism-related charges in August 2010. The pre-trial dates for Ahmed and Sher, accused of plotting terrorist attacks in Canada, are June 18 to

July 13, 2012. Alizadeh and Ahmed are also accused of possessing and making explosives for a terrorist group.

6. In December 2011, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) revoked the charitable status of the Canadian Foundation for Tamil Refugee Rehabilitation (CFTRR). The CRA found the CFTRR was funding organizations which the CRA believes operate as part of a support network for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a listed terrorist entity in Canada.

7. It is also notable that in its *2011-2012 Reports on Plans and Priorities*, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) stated that it expected to either make arrests or disrupt at least six suspected terrorist and other national security threats in upcoming months.

CANADIAN TERRORIST-RELATED DEATHS

194 Canadians (36 civilians and 158 military members) have been killed by terrorists or while combatting terrorism since September 2001 (totals include Canada's Afghanistan Mission).

Canadian civilians killed:

- 2001: Twenty-four Canadians were killed in the September 11th attacks
- 2002: Two Canadians were killed in the Bali, Indonesia bombings
- 2003: Two Canadians were killed in the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2006: A Canadian diplomat was killed in an attack on a Canadian convoy in Afghanistan
- 2008: Two Canadians were killed in the Mumbai, India attacks
- 2008: In Afghanistan, the Taliban ambushed and killed two Canadian aid workers
- 2009: An explosion in Kandahar City, Afghanistan claimed the life a Canadian journalist
- 2011: In a café attack in Marrakech, Morocco, two Canadian residents were killed

Soldiers killed serving in Canada's Afghanistan mission

- 158 members of the Canadian Forces have been killed serving in the Afghanistan mission.

Canada Confirmed as Key Terrorist Target

8. Canada's international profile as a potential terrorist target has been confirmed through an analysis of files captured during the 2011-05 02 raid on Usama bin Laden's (UBL) Abbottabad, Pakistan compound. Canada is specifically named in the files, along with the US, Britain, Israel, Germany and Spain, as targets for terror strikes. Canada remains a viable target of Islamist terrorism mainly because of its participation in Western military and political alliances, its involvement in Coalition forces in Afghanistan, its support for Israel and the United States, and its geographic proximity to the latter.

Where Does the Threat Come From?

9. Over the past year, Canadians and Canadian interests have faced a more diverse and complex terrorist threat, both at home and abroad.

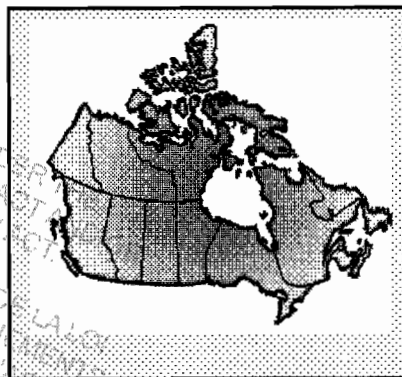
Terrorist threats to Canadians and Canadian interests emanate from four principal sources: AQ-inspired domestic extremists; AQ and its affiliates; other international terrorist groups; and issue-based domestic extremists.

Domestic AQ-Inspired Extremism: the Greatest Threat Within Canada

10. Domestic extremists who subscribe to the AQ ideology pose the most serious threat within Canada. Western Islamists – including converts to radical Islam –

They understand Western culture, speak its languages and can move easily within its societies.

11. Motivated by ideas that Islam is threatened by Western policies and culture, these Islamists support the use of violence against their home or adopted countries. Some are attracted to jihad abroad, while others are radicalized or inspired by AQ ideology, but do not travel to fight abroad. Recent jihadist propaganda, such as AQAP's *Inspire* magazine, encourages adherents not to travel abroad and provides easy and simple guidelines on how to carry out opportunistic terrorist attacks at home. Previously disrupted plots demonstrate the existence of AQ-inspired extremists in Canada, the United States, Europe and elsewhere.



Role of the Internet

12. AQ and affiliated groups continue to pursue the radicalization, recruitment and training of Westerners, including Canadians, through increasingly accessible and sophisticated online propaganda. The growth of internet forums and the use of social media, as well as the professional quality of jihadist propaganda, have played a significant role in spreading the jihadist ideology on the Internet. The Internet allows jihadists to share ideas and sermons about violent jihad, as well as access professionally designed online teaching manuals on bomb-making and related terrorist tradecraft.

13. Interestingly, the presence of jihadi groups on social media sites has increased following the deaths of UBL and AQAP radical ideologue Anwar Al-Awlaki, as numerous video clips devoted to both AQ figures have been posted. Organizations "tweeting" on the social media site Twitter now include the Taliban, Al-Shabaab, Hizballah and others.



Prison Radicalization

14. Studies have identified that Islamist extremists have been further radicalized in prisons in countries such as Canada, the United States, Britain, France and Spain.

Globally, AQ Core, AQ Affiliates and Like-Minded Groups Remain the Primary Threat

15.

The primary threat remains Islamist terrorists, in particular AQ and its affiliates based in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Middle East and Africa.

Al Qaeda (AQ) Core

16. AQ Core is under sustained counter-terrorism pressure in Pakistan from both Pakistani and US forces and much of AQ Core's daily attention is now firmly focussed on survival. The killing of AQ senior leader Usama bin Laden (UBL) by US Special Forces on 2011 05 02, as well as the deaths of general manager Atiyah abd al-Rahman, operational commander Ilyas Kashmiri and many other operatives, has seriously weakened AQ Core.

17. AQ Core still leads the global jihad movement by providing ideological cohesion, inspiration and direction to its affiliates, like-minded groups and individual extremists. In June 2011, AQ Core's senior leaders released a video emphasizing the importance of individual jihad in the West and in February 2012, AQ senior leader al-Zawahiri released a video message in support of the Syrian uprisings.

18. AQ Core has traditionally focussed on conducting high-profile, mass-casualty terrorist attacks against the West, with significant direction and expertise for these attacks provided by operational commanders in the Afghanistan-Pakistan theatre. However, AQ commanders in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region are no longer the primary drivers behind plots targeting the West. The threat against the West has diversified as the global jihad is increasingly being driven by violent home-grown extremists and AQ affiliates. Recent jihadist messaging and attack plotting indicate a move away from complex plots or, at minimum, augmenting these plots with smaller-scale attacks against a broader range of targets.



AQ in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

19. Yemen-based AQAP is a capable and innovative group that has adopted a multi-pronged strategy, balancing local, regional, and international agendas. As such, the group is dedicated to mounting attacks both within Yemen, in neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Gulf states, and against the West. The group has attempted two attacks against Western aviation (the Christmas day "underwear bomber" in 2009, and the cargo printers plot in October 2010) and remains focussed on targeting the aviation sector.

20. In the fall of 2011, AQAP radical ideologue Anwar Awlaki was killed in a targeted air strike.



21. Since the spring of 2011, Yemen has been experiencing a serious political crisis

22. AQAP has successfully exploited the political instability and has taken and held new territory in Yemen.

Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

23.

Kidnapping foreigners for ransom is AQIM's most profitable activity, bringing in millions of dollars in revenue.

24. Before his death, UBL demanded that France withdraw its troops from Afghanistan in exchange for the release of four French hostages who were kidnapped in northern Niger in September 2010. Similarly, in January 2012, AQIM warned the French, British, Swedish and Dutch governments that any operation against them would result in the death of hostages.

25. AQIM is taking advantage of unrest to acquire weapons and expand its influence
AQIM has also identified

Nigeria as a country of interest and has promised to assist and train Boko Haram, a Nigerian Islamist extremist group.

Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)

26. In 2004, Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) was founded by Jordanian Abu Mosab Zarqawi with the goal of conducting attacks in Iraq as a precursor to eventual international attacks aimed at advancing AQ's broader goal of establishing a global Islamist caliphate. AQI leaders remain faithful to this vision, conducting attacks throughout Iraq, including several sophisticated multiple Improvised Explosive Device attacks in Baghdad in late 2011, while indicating a sustained interest in activities outside Iraq's borders. Recent public statements continue to suggest an ongoing AQI focus on attack planning against Western countries. Further AQI propaganda issued in January 2012 declared victory over the US military in Iraq, stating, "we will come to you from all over...you will hear our footsteps on the ground," a possible reference to future attacks against the US.

Al Shabaab (AS)

27. In August 2011, AS withdrew its fighters from the Somali capital, Mogadishu. However, on 2011 10 04 AS dramatically reasserted itself into Mogadishu by carrying out the group's most deadly suicide-bombing ever. Over 100 were killed, the majority being young Somali students waiting in line to receive examination results from the Somali Education Ministry. In October and November 2011, Kenyan and Ethiopian forces moved into Somalia in pursuit of AS and to bring security to the areas of Somalia that border their respective countries. This military incursion caused AS to lose control over significant amounts of territory and the group vowed to respond. Grenade attacks conducted across Kenya in the fall of 2011 were believed to have been conducted by AS in retaliation for the Kenyan military operation in Somalia.

28. Western interests are believed to be priority targets for AS. It is notable that Canada was specifically identified as one of several countries targeted for attack in the martyrdom message of an American citizen and AS member who conducted a deadly suicide bombing in Somalia on 2011 10 30. Unclassified reporting indicates that approximately 20 Somali-Canadians are believed to have travelled to Somalia to engage in violent jihad as foreign fighters. On 2012 02 09, AS declared its affiliation with AQ. The combination of this declaration, along with the deteriorating AS situation in Somalia, raise concern that foreign fighters may disengage from Somalia to continue their violent jihad internationally, and potentially target their home countries, including Canada.

Boko Haram (BH)

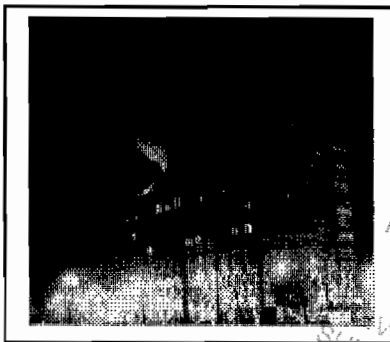
29. Boko Haram (BH), a northern Nigerian extremist group, also known as Nigeria's "Taliban", gained notoriety in 2009 following a series of clashes with the government of Nigeria that led to the death of the group's leader. Meaning "western education is a sin" in the Hausa language, BH's goal is to establish an Islamic Caliphate throughout Nigeria. Nigeria has been identified by

AQ as a country of focus due to its large Muslim population and numerous Western, including Canadian, interests.

30. The majority of BH operations have been confined to northern Nigerian states and have targeted government, military, police and Christian entities. However, in December 2010, BH carried out a bomb attack outside its zone in the central Plateau State. In August 2011, BH further departed from its domestic targeting pattern when it bombed the UN headquarters in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, killing at least 24 people.

31. BH is not an official AQ affiliate but is closely associated with AQIM.

BH attacks have increased in frequency and sophistication since 2011 including fighting alongside AQIM in the Touareg rebellion in Mali,



Other International Terrorist Groups and Regions of Concern

32. While Canadian authorities have long focused on groups such as Hizballah and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), new groups and regions of concern continue to develop as extremists take advantage of the ongoing political instability in the Middle East and North Africa to increase their influence and mount operations.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

33.

LTTE continues fundraising activities within Canada, but at a reduced capacity. The Canadian government is actively working to reduce the possibility of further maritime migrant smuggling with potential links to the LTTE, as demonstrated by the 2011 06 14 arrests of four Sri Lankans on human smuggling charges. The individuals were crew members of the *MV Ocean Lady*, the vessel that arrived on Canada's west coast in 2009.

Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT)

34. Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) is a highly capable extremist organization which has been implicated in a number of terrorist strikes in India, including the November 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed over 160 people, including two Canadians.

35. The area of operations for LeT has traditionally been limited to South Asia. However, in 2009, LeT was implicated in a planned attack against the offices of a Danish newspaper responsible for publishing a cartoon depicting the prophet Mohammed. The Danish plot represents a rare foray into international attack operations and the organization is not known to

have carried out a successful operation outside of South Asia.

Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)

36. Based in the Philippines, the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) has been actively involved in several kidnap-for-ransom operations. It has also bombed several religious sites as well as 'soft' targets such as restaurants and commuter buses. Travel advisories for Canada and the US specify that tourists should avoid all travel to the Sulu Archipelago and Mindanao in the Philippines. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) further advises caution in Manila, as terrorist groups tend to target tourist attractions, shopping malls and convention centres. The ASG is known to operate in concert with other terrorist groups in the Philippines, namely, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, currently in peace negotiations with the Philippine government.

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

37. Canada listed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as a terrorist entity on July 5, 2011. The TTP aims to overthrow the Pakistani government, to create a Taliban-style Islamic emirate ruled by Shariah law, and to force NATO troops out of Afghanistan. The TTP has increasingly used suicide bombers, enabling the group to strike political, military, and law enforcement targets across Pakistan. The TTP also claims to have trained failed New York City Times Square bomber, Faisal Shahzad in Pakistan in 2009-10.

Hizballah

38. Hizballah has had a presence in Canada

Hizballah supporters conduct fundraising, procurement and intelligence activities in Canada, and are involved in organized crime, including fraud. Hizballah continues to threaten retaliation against Israeli interests worldwide for the killing of key individuals in the past two years.

39. The Arab Spring and the unpredictable nature of the current situation in the Middle East,

Syria

40.

In

2011 10, Canada expanded sanctions against Syria by freezing Assad regime assets and prohibiting dealings on designated individuals and entities associated with the regime.

41. On 2012 01 23, a Syria-based jihadist group calling itself the Al Nusrah Front announced its formation in a video statement, claiming “we will be a firm shield and a striking hand to repel the attacks of this criminal Al Asad army...” The Al Nusrah Front has since utilized AQ-affiliated jihadist websites to claim credit for a series of attacks in Syria, including two bombings in Damascus on 2012 03 17 that killed 27 people and wounded more than 100.

Iran

42. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said that Iran poses the “world’s most serious threat to international peace and security” because of its nuclear ambitions. On 2012 01 31, Canada expanded sanctions against Iran, freezing the assets of five entities and three individuals in response to proliferation activities undertaken by Iranian authorities.

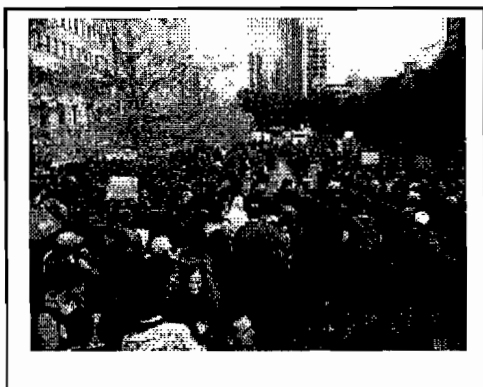
43. Iran's support for terrorism is considered an important means of furthering its national interests and of exporting the “Islamic Revolution”; Iran has been linked to AQ, Hizballah, Hamas, TTP and other groups. On 2012 02 16, the US Treasury Department designated the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) for its support to terrorist groups and its role in perpetrating human rights abuses. According to the Treasury, MOIS facilitated the movement of AQ operatives in Iran and provided weapons and money to AQI. The US has also designated Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps- Qods Force (IRGC-QF) as a banned terrorist entity for its active role in terrorism, its involvement in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and its support for the Taliban in Afghanistan. In October 2011 the Qods Force was implicated in the plot to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador in Washington D.C. Two men, one of which is an alleged IRGC-QF member, were arrested and charged with conspiring to kill Adel Al-Jubeir while he dined at his favourite restaurant.

The Sinai

44. On 2011 08 18, attacks carried out by Sinai-based extremists near the Israeli city of Eilat left 8 Israelis killed and thirty-one injured. In August 2011, a proclamation announcing the alleged establishment of an AQ “Emirate of the Sinai Peninsula” appeared on AQ-affiliated websites but was quickly removed. However, in December 2011, another Sinai-based group calling itself *Ansar al-Jihad* issued an online manifesto announcing its formation and pledging allegiance to AQ.

Domestic Issue-based Extremism: An Ongoing Security Concern

45. Domestic issue-based extremism, while a lesser threat, remains an ongoing security concern. A small number of domestic extremists continue to be associated with issue-based causes such as environmentalism, anti-capitalism, anti-globalization and far-right racism.



46. While protest activities in Canada are generally peaceful, a small number of issue-based extremists have targeted international events in Canada to engage in activities that have extended beyond lawful protest, as evidenced during the G8/G20 Summits in Ontario in late June 2010. These extremists continue to confront law enforcement and vandalize property by employing direct-action tactics (e.g. roadblocks, breach of security perimeters, assault against security personnel) in order to achieve their objectives.

47. The Freeman on the Land is a growing anti-government movement in Canada that includes adherents from both the left and the right wings of the political spectrum. At the core of the movement's beliefs is the idea that the government operates outside of its legal jurisdiction and therefore Freeman members do not recognize the authority of national, provincial, or municipal laws, policies or regulations. Freeman members now constitute a major policing problem in several provinces and have occasionally engaged in acts of violence against the police.

48. In November 2011, German authorities linked a series of race-related murders conducted between 2000 and 2006, as well as the 2007 killing of a German police officer, to a neo-Nazi terror cell. The cell had been operating in the eastern part of the country for over 10 years and appears to be part of a broader network.

In Canada, isolated cases of right-wing extremist violence against minority groups or properties have been reported

49. Aboriginal communities across Canada remain focussed on key issues such as sovereignty and outstanding land claims. At times more radical members of Aboriginal warrior societies advocate violence as a means of drawing attention to these issues.

Potential Targets of Terrorist Attacks: A Broadening Array

50. Disrupted and failed terrorist plots indicate that AQ and affiliated groups continue to focus on highly symbolic targets in attack planning against the United States, Israel and their Western allies. Wherever possible, AQ aims to attack targets which would generate worldwide media coverage.

The Olympic Games

51. The terrorist threat in the UK recent domestic
counter-terrorism successes and the deaths of key AQ figures in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

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Critical Infrastructure

53. AQ has long prioritized attacks against Western financial, economic and business interests globally, as well as oil interests in the Middle East. Analysis of material extracted from the UBL compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, revealed that UBL and his associates were very interested in mounting attacks on “infrastructure targets”, specifically critical transportation infrastructure in large cities. The UBL compound information also emphasized that priority was placed on conducting attacks intended to bring Western “economies to their knees”.

Transportation

54. The global transportation network continues to remain a prominent target for transnational terrorist organizations seeking to inflict civilian casualties. While mass-casualty attacks targeting the transportation sector have traditionally been associated with commercial aviation, reporting from the UBL compound indicates that AQ senior leadership was considering attacking rail infrastructure to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Another notable example was the previous AQAP attempt to bomb a cargo flight in October 2010, while in February 2012, a jihadist poster in a web forum posted ideas on how to repeat the 9/11 attacks. These incidents demonstrate that transnational terrorist organizations remain committed to exploiting potential transportation security vulnerabilities to stage mass-casualty attacks against high-value transportation targets.

55. In addition to inflicting civilian mass casualties, attacks against the global transportation network may also be motivated by economic factors. As demonstrated by AQ’s continued interest in attacking oil tankers, terrorist organizations are willing to directly attack the transportation sector for economic reasons if they believe damaging the global economy will advance their agenda.

Energy and Utilities

56. Canadian-based energy companies operate worldwide and have previously been targeted by Islamist extremists. AQ has reaffirmed its intention to target oil infrastructure on many occasions, and the group has indicated a particular interest in striking against those involved in exporting Middle Eastern oil resources to the West. employees and assets of

various Canadian-based energy companies continue to face a real threat from AQ and affiliated groups, such as AQAP and AQIM, in global regions of conflict and instability, including the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa.

Communications and Information Technology Infrastructure

57. Terrorists and extremists continue to rely on computer networks to engage in operational support for terrorist activities, including communication, radicalization, recruitment, financing, training,

58. The threat of cyber attacks on critical infrastructure sectors is also a growing security concern, especially in the sectors of energy, finance, telecommunications and government sectors.

Other Potential Targets

Commercial Interests

60. AQ and its affiliates have attacked various business interests, and hotel chains and luxury hotels catering to Westerners in Muslim countries continue to be targeted. Notable hotel attacks include the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan (2011), the Pearl Continental, Peshawar, Pakistan (2009), the Taj and Oberoi, Mumbai, India (2008), the J.W. Marriott, Jakarta, Indonesia (2007), and the Hyatt, Radisson and Days Inn, Amman, Jordan (2005).

61. Issue-based extremists also target commercial interests, especially companies that sponsor events or products singled out due to a grievance associated with an environmental or other special interest cause. A self-proclaimed anarchist group calling itself FFFC-Ottawa claimed responsibility for a firebombing at the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) branch in Ottawa on 2010 05 18. In a message released following the incident, the group stated it targeted RBC because of its corporate sponsorship of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and for being a major financier of Alberta's oil-sands project.



Western Economies and Terrorist Resourcing/Financing



62. Documents obtained in the May 2011 UBL compound raid revealed that one of the main priorities of UBL and AQ was to cause significant harm to the economy of the US and other Western countries. Many studies have concluded that major terrorist attacks have had a multi-billion dollar negative economic impact on many Western countries.

63. Conversely, terrorists require funds to facilitate their radicalization, recruitment, training and attack planning activities. While terrorists persistently find new means of obtaining and transferring funds to support their operations, traditional methods are also used. For example, terrorists continue to collect money for their activities through fundraising within local diaspora communities in developed countries (including through coercion and so-called diaspora “taxes”), seeking donations from rich or sympathetic governments, and through criminal activities such as fraud, drug trafficking, or kidnapping for ransom.

64. According to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) 2011 annual report, 103 cases of possible terrorist activity financing and threats to Canada’s security were detected and shared with partners, compared to 73 cases in 2010. In December 2011, the charitable status of the Canadian Foundation for Tamil Refugee Rehabilitation (CFTRR) was revoked after CRA determined CFTRR was funding organizations believed to operate as part of the terrorist LTTE support network.

Terrorist Tactics

65. Tactics employed by terrorists vary widely, depending on the intent and capability of each threat actor, target vulnerabilities, situational opportunities and risks. Terrorist attacks can be planned over long periods by several individuals, be spontaneous acts by lone actors or any number of variations in between.

66.

67. AQ Core has traditionally focussed on high-profile mass-casualty terrorist attacks against the West,

67.

Favoured terrorist tactics include person and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs), armed assault using firearms, and attempted airline bombings. Multiple concurrent or sequential attacks using varied tactics provide greater impact as well as the possibility of targeting first responders reacting to the initial attack.

68. A number of small-arms attacks occurred in 2010 and 2011. In general, such attacks remain relatively rare in spite of the tactical advantages they offer to assailants. The November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, involved ten gunmen and multiple targets, lasting over two days and capturing global media attention. The Mumbai attacks demonstrate the potential lethality of well-planned coordinated attacks against soft targets using multiple tactics, including commercially available small arms.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)

70. On 2011 10 27, Alaska resident and member of the Alaska Peacemaker Militia, Mary Morgan was apprehended by Canadian authorities at a Yukon-Alaska Canadian port of entry. Morgan was subsequently turned over to American authorities and indicted in the US on charges, including being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to US government court documents, at the time of her attempted border crossing, Morgan was had numerous documents, including background information downloaded from the internet on ricin, directions on how to build pipe bombs, make salt into an explosive, and a list of common household poisons and a reference to a “poisonous plants database” (which includes the castor plant from which ricin is derived). and the case remains before US courts.

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Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

WEEKLY THREAT REVIEW

12/16-E
2012 04 16

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5. USA/MEXICO: Congressmen want Mexican cartels designated as terrorist organizations
Texas Congressman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) has introduced a bill co-sponsored by Congressman Connie Mack (R-Florida) (H.R. 4303) to designate seven Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. McCaul and Mack introduced a similar bill (H.R. 1270) in June 2011, but it went no further than the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. H.R. 4303 was referred to the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs committees on 2012 03 29. Most bills never make it past this point to be debated in the House.

Other ITAC Products

What follows is a list of other ITAC products that were published from April 11 to April 17 2012.

Threat Assessments

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Lasers

Laser 12/83 Threat to Jewish festival in Tunisia

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WEEKLY THREAT REVIEW

12/32-E
2012 08 09

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Other ITAC Products

Canada-Related

1. EGYPT: Jihadist group threatens UN Peacekeepers in Sinai

A newly emerged, jihadist group calling itself Jund al Sharia - the Soldiers of Islamic Law - has announced itself on jihadist web forums. The Sinai-based group opposes the current political process in Egypt and seeks to impose Islamic law throughout the country. On 2012 07 30, Jund al Sharia issued five demands which included; establishing Islamic law throughout Egypt, beginning in the Sinai, release of Muslim sisters from monasteries of the Crusaders, and withdrawal of US peacekeeping forces in the Sinai.

Americas/Europe

2. US: Gunman attack in Wisconsin

According to media reports, a lone gunman, Wade Michael Page, killed six people and wounded three at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin on 2012 08 04. He was reported to be a longstanding white-supremacist. Page's activities were tracked by the US Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) for over a decade. The FBI believes that Page acted alone and has not yet revealed a motive. Page died from a self-inflicted wound following a shootout with police.

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4. TURKEY/SYRIA/IRAQ: Turkish military escalates fight against Kurdish Kongra Gel
Recent media reports indicate that Turkey's military has escalated its offensive against Kongra Gel (KGK) a.k.a. Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) targets in the mountainous region of southeastern Turkey. Separately, the Kurds in northern Syria are reported to have taken control of local towns amid the rebellion against President Bashar al-Assad. The media reports Ankara is concerned that a Kurdish-controlled region in Syria could become a base for the KGK. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened further military action should this happen.

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Other ITAC Products

What follows is a list of other ITAC products that were published from 01 August to 07 August 2012.

Threat Assessments

ITAC 12/81 - ITAC 12/82
LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC and PARALYMPIC GAMES DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - 2012 08 02

ITAC 12/84 - ITAC 12/85
LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC and PARALYMPIC GAMES DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - 2012 08 03

ITAC 12/88
LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC and PARALYMPIC GAMES DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - 2012 08 04

ITAC 12/89 - ITAC 12/90
LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC and PARALYMPIC GAMES DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - 2012 08 05

ITAC 12/91 - ITAC 12/92
LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC and PARALYMPIC GAMES DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - 2012 08 06

ITAC 12/93 - ITAC 12/94
LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC and PARALYMPIC GAMES DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - 2012 08 07

Lasers

Laser 12/164 Prime Minister HARPER to attend the 24th APEC Summit in Vladivostok, Russia

Laser 12/165 Canada's Chief of Defence Staff to visit Romania and Turkey, September 2012

Laser 12/166 The First Annual Global Counter-Jihad Rally to be held in Stockholm

Laser 12/167 Minister BAIRD to travel to Lebanon, and Jordan

Laser 12/168 Arrest of three suspected Al Qaeda members in Spain

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Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

WEEKLY THREAT REVIEW

12/40-E
2012 10 04

TOP SECRET

All information and intelligence contained in the WTR is presented in the language in which it was originally transmitted to ITAC. All ITAC comments and analyses contained herein are available in both official languages.

Veuillez noter que les informations et les renseignements figurant dans le présent Examen hebdomadaire de la menace ne sont présentés que dans la langue dans laquelle ils ont été transmis au CIET. Par contre, les remarques et les analyses du CIET sont présentées dans les deux langues officielles.

Week: 2012 09 26 to 2012 10 02

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Other ITAC Products

Other ITAC Products

What follows is a list of other ITAC products that were published from 26 September to 2 October 2012.

Threat Assessments

ITAC 12/131 - Two More European Magazines Publish Controversial Muhammad Cartoons
This assessment highlights the potential for further perceived insults to Islam from Western sources to turn violent,

Lasers

Laser 12/213 Terry JONES to visit Toronto, October 2012

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