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WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT

August 14, 2008

FBI Raids SC Home in Firebomb Investigation

On Thursday August 8, the FBI and the Santa Cruz Police Department raided a house in Santa Cruz, California to search for evidence in connection with two firebombing attacks against University of California, Santa Cruz researchers. These attacks, which authorities have classified as domestic terrorism, were the largest in the history of Santa Cruz. Authorities have stated that the firebombs used in the most recent attack are similar to firebombs used by environmental domestic terrorists in past attacks. Law enforcement authorities are concerned that someone not involved in animal research may be targeted. Authorities have not named any suspects at this time. The FBI is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any of the people responsible for the firebombs.

Source: [ABC 7 Santa Cruz](#)

Homegrown Terrorist Threat Seen as Increasing

According to the U.S. government, in the last 18 months there has been more than a half-dozen terror plots thwarted in the U.S. Some homegrown extremists have used their status as U.S. citizens to travel overseas to try to launch attacks. However, there have been numerous cases of homegrown extremists who have planned attacks in the United States. Some experts claim that the Internet is playing a key tool for the training and recruitment of terrorists. The Internet may be replacing traditional terrorist training with cyber training. This may make it easier to recruit homegrown terrorists.

Source: [Fox News](#)

Canadian Man Sentenced in U.S. on Terrorism Charge

A Canadian man has been sentenced in the United States to 13 years in prison for plotting to blow up the Trans-Alaskan oil pipeline in January 2000. The man had planned to acquire explosives and sought to plant 14 time bombs at three points along the pipeline in an attempt to disrupt energy supplies. The man had solicited the help of a U.S. citizen in the plot. The attack may have been financially motivated as the man had planned to profit by buying energy securities low and then selling them high. The man was arrested in August 1999 in a joint operation by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Source: [Canada.com](#)

OPEN SOURCE

Ex-Professor's Terror Case Put on Hold

On Friday August 8th, U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema postponed the trial of computer science professor Sami Al-Arian indefinitely. Al-Arian, who is a former University of South Florida computer science professor, is accused of being a leading of a Palestinian terrorist. The judge raised concerns about whether prosecutors have been overzealous. Al-Arian is accused of criminal contempt after refusing to testify to a federal grand jury about a cluster of Muslim organizations in northern Virginia. Al-Arian agreed to a plea bargain and pleaded guilty to conspiring to aid the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Source: [Sun-Sentinel](#)

DHS Border Policy Allows Guards to Search Electronic Storage Devices

A U. S. Department of Homeland Security border policy allows for detention of electronic devices at the U. S. border for an indeterminate time and without cause so that officers can search through the data. The searches are designed to prevent terrorism, drug smuggling, child pornography and copyright or trademark violations as justification for the searches. Authorities state that the searches are conducted discretely and unobtrusively, and appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent abuse.

Source: [The Sault Star](#)

Small Aircraft Security Comes Under Question

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) wants to toughen security rules for small airports and thousands of private planes. The increase in security comes after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) raised concerns of terrorists loading private planes with explosives. It is estimated that there are now 15,000 private and corporate jets operating out of small airports and terminals. Some of these terminals have little to no security. Currently there are voluntary security measures for the private terminals, but there are plans for mandatory security practices. Some of the mandatory changes proposed by the TSA include background checks on flight crews, secure aircraft parking areas, and increase ramp inspections. According to DHS estimates the increased security measures are about a year away from being implemented. Until that time DHS is encouraging the general aviation businesses to increase security on their own.

Source: [ABC KGO](#)

Gang Leaders Travel to Virginia

Three leaders of one of the nation's most notorious gangs, La Mara Salvatrucha, also known as MS-13, pleaded guilty in federal court in Tennessee to racketeering charges. In 2002, members of the Tennessee MS-13 traveled to Virginia to meet with regional leaders of MS-13. This visit was to discuss gang rules and business and to promote gang unity. The Tennessee MS-13 clique was responsible for multiple assaults, murders and threatened confidential informants.

Source: [The Tennessean](#)

YouTube Being Used By Scottish Gangs

Scotland discovered approximately 100 videos with gang affiliated content on YouTube, most of which were uploaded within the past year. Gang members are using the video-sharing website to taunt rival gangs and to display weapons, drugs, and alcohol. This is particularly detrimental for youth who observe older peers enjoying the gang lifestyle

glamorized in the videos. The clips, which feature children as young as age nine, can be recorded on a mobile phone video camera and uploaded to video-sharing sites. Disdain for authority, especially emergency services personnel, is a common element in the videos; many of the gang members make little or no attempt to conceal their identity as they participate in race attacks, criminal activity, and rival challenges.

Source: [UK Daily Record](#)