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WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT

March 5, 2009

Extremist Attacks on Global Food Chain Increase

According to the Animal Agriculture Alliance, attacks on the global food chain from animal rights and environmental extremists have increased from 155 in 2007 to 220 in 2008. In particular, claimed attacks on food retailers such as McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, and Hardee's in the U.S. from groups like the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) increased 377%. Further, the Alliance indicated that *Bite Back* magazine was its main source for compiling data on terrorist acts claimed by ALF, Earth Liberation Front (ELF), and other animal rights terrorist groups. Destruction or defacement of property, especially smashing windows, etching windows, and painting (or paint bombing) windows, buildings, vans, and billboards were the most frequently used techniques by extremist groups in their attempts to intimidate food chain businesses to shut down. The groups also adopted a new technique this year, which involves using sponges to block toilets and urinals to cause expensive flooding and extensive clean-up.

Source: [Animal Agriculture Alliance](#)

Hate Group Numbers Increase

Approximately 926 active hate groups in 2008 have been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in their "Year in Hate" Intelligence Report. This number is up more than four percent from 2007 and far above the 602 groups documented in 2000. The faltering economy and the successful campaign of President Obama may be partly attributed to this increase. The hate groups listed in the SPLC's most recent issue include neo-Nazis, white nationalists, neo-Confederates, racist skinheads, Klansmen, and black separatists. Other groups target gays or immigrants, and some specialize in producing racist music or propaganda denying the Holocaust.

Source: [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

Court Rules Against Virginia Al-Qa'ida Member

On Monday, the Supreme Court stated that it will leave undisturbed the conviction of Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, a Virginia man accused of joining al-Qa'ida and plotting to assassinate then-President George Bush. Despite an appeals court finding that his constitutional rights were violated, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond determined that the error made no difference to the outcome of the trial. Abu Ali has challenged various aspects of the legal process, including that he was tortured by

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interrogators in Saudi Arabia. Federal courts have denied all his appeals and he has been sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Source: [Associated Press](#)

Electronic Tools Could be Exploited by Extremists

According to a national counterintelligence executive, a cell phone or BlackBerry could be tagged, tracked, monitored, and exploited by a foreign intelligence service. At a conference on information sharing sponsored by the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement, the executive emphasized that while these are great devices for sharing information, the microphone could be turned on when it is believed to be off. Also, an iPod's ear buds may be converted to a recording device when they are not being used as a listening mechanism. It was further indicated that these vulnerabilities are increasingly exploited in the intelligence world as demand increases for the sharing of collected information and the resulting analysis.

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Potential Terrorist Threat to U.S. Emanating from Canada

Military officials believe Canadian immigration policies are creating a favorable environment for what the U.S. government deems to be potential terrorists seeking entry into the U.S. from the North. Reportedly, officials at the Joint Task Force-North (JTF-North) believe that a large population of special-interest aliens (SIAs) in Eastern Canada presents the greatest potential for foreign terrorists to access the U.S., according to a January briefing posted on the organization's website. In particular, U.S. military officials are concerned about SIAs from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Egypt who could find a favorable environment in the Canadian immigration system.

Source: [The Insider](#)

DHS Will Not Meet Cargo Program Deadline

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will not meet a deadline of 2012 that requires DHS to scan all cargo bound for U.S. seaports with non-intrusive imaging and radiation detection equipment before the cargo leaves for the U.S. The 100 percent scanning requirement has raised logistical, technological, and diplomatic concerns from shippers, carriers, port and terminal operators, and foreign governments. The requirement was part of a 2007 law that allows the homeland security secretary to extend that deadline.

Source: [Federal Computer Weekly](#)

New Jersey Bloods Gang Member Arrested in Roanoke

A man wanted in New Jersey for two counts of criminal attempted homicide, aggravated assault, and weapons offenses has been arrested by members of the U.S. Marshals Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF). On November 8, 2008, the subject allegedly shot two female victims as they sat on the porch of a residence in the city of Trenton. The individual, a known Bloods street gang member with a lengthy history of violent offenses, was considered armed and extremely dangerous. Based on a lead from the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force, U.S. Marshals and Roanoke Police tracked the subject to Roanoke, Virginia. The subject was arrested without incident and transported to the Roanoke City Jail where he was turned over to

state authorities to await extradition proceedings for his return to New Jersey to answer to the charges.

Source: [U.S. Marshals](#)

NC Murder Trial Tied to Virginia Westside Bounty Hunters

In North Carolina, more than half a dozen teenagers have taken the witness stand in the murder trial of a gang member accused of killing an elderly church deacon. According to a 16-year-old member of a rival set of the Bloods gang, the subject told him before the killing that he wanted to "Peter Roll," or kill, someone in order to rise up in the gang. A 14-year-old reluctantly told jurors that the subject bragged about killing the deacon, who was shot four times while trying to pick up his mail at his apartment complex. Another teen described how he was approached to buy a "Deuce Deuce," or a .22 revolver, but turned down the offer after he heard it had been used to kill the deacon. A fellow member of the same Bloods set alleges that the subject is a member of the Westside Bounty Hunters based in Virginia.

Source: [News & Observer](#)