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## **WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT**

### **November 6, 2008**

#### **Assessing White Supremacist Groups in the U.S.**

The Presidential candidacy of Senator Obama has spurred at least two assassination plots by white supremacists. The most recent involving two neo-Nazi skinheads accused of plotting to kill the Democratic presidential nominee as well as target black schoolchildren. White supremacist groups are using the candidacy of Barak Obama to rally their followers and lend credence to their claims that “Jews and blacks are coming out of urban areas are going to take over this white nation of ours.” The Obama candidacy has possibly also created a divide in the white supremacist movement between those who are viscerally against a black man running for president and those who see his election to President of the United States as a welcome catalyst to a race war and a general white revolution.

Source: [National Public Radio](#)

#### **Columbia Disrupts Drug Ring with Alleged Hizballah Ties**

Columbian officials have broken up an international drug and money laundering ring that stretched from South America east to Asia. Over 100 people were arrested in Columbia and overseas on charges they trafficked drugs and laundered money for the Norte del Valle cartel. These arrests included three people suspected of shipping funds to Hizballah. The criminal organization used routes through Venezuela, Panama, Guatemala, the Middle East, and Europe to sell drugs and launder money. The individuals accused of funneling money to Hizballah used front companies to send drug money overseas.

Source: [Reuters](#)

#### **Arrest in New York Narco-Terrorism Case**

An Afghani national has been charged with running an international drug trafficking organization that helped fund the Taliban to fight Americans. The indictment accused the Afghani national of conspiring to produce huge quantities of drugs in two southern Afghan provinces. According to prosecutors, his organization sold as much as 40 tons of morphine at one time and operated labs that produced refined heroin. Furthermore, the Taliban is able to finance the insurgency in part by drug traffickers who pay off the Taliban in exchange for protection for their drug routes.

Source: [Bloomberg](#)

**OPEN SOURCE**

### **Terrorist Suspects Posed as Students in U.K. to Enter Labs**

The British government has confirmed that MI5 and MI6 have intercepted up to 100 potential terrorists posing as post graduate students who may have attempted to access laboratories to gain materials and expertise to create chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRNE) weapons. This report follows warnings from several British government agencies that the al-Qa'ida network is actively recruiting scientists and university students with access to laboratories containing CBRNE technology. Extensive background checks along with a new vetting scheme have led to the rejection of overseas students believed to be intent on developing weapons.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

### **Blogging Site Could Become Terrorist Tool**

In a recent report, the U.S. Army has flagged a popular blogging service [Twitter](#) as a potential terrorist tool. According to the report, this service is being used by a broad spectrum of affinity and social activist groups to broadcast their message to broader audiences. Twitter has already been used to post and/or support extremist ideologies and perspectives. The blogging service has also demonstrated its viability as a quick form of communication by sending out messages faster than major news agencies.

Source: [AFP](#)

### **Reorganizing U.S. Domestic Intelligence**

One lesson of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks is that the signs of an impending attack by al-Qa'ida were not identified and acted upon by domestic law enforcement. In the wake of this failure, the Department of Homeland Security contracted with the RAND Corporation to study the feasibility of creating a counter terrorism intelligence agency separate from law enforcement. This study did not offer any specific recommendations but did demonstrate the benefits and possible pitfalls of such an agency. Among the key findings of the report:

- Creating a new agency might address some problems with current approaches to domestic intelligence. However, so might other approaches, such as reallocating resources, changing laws and regulations, and enhancing agency collaboration.
- Creating a new “agency within an agency” would involve less organizational disruption, but a stand-alone agency would likely have greater clarity of vision.
- “Break-even” analysis provides a systematic means of exploring the question of how much a new domestic intelligence agency would have to reduce terrorism risk— given a presumed level of threat and estimates of agency cost— to justify creating it.

Source: [RAND](#)

### **Federal Law Enforcement Targets Mongols Biker Gang**

An undercover investigation of the Mongols Motorcycle Club by federal law enforcement has ended with the arrest of gang members in six states. According to prosecutors, all echelons of the gang were targeted and charged. In all, 61 Mongol Motorcycle Club members were arrested and charged under a racketeering indictment. While the biker group claims it is a social club, prosecutors say it is a criminal gang involved in murder, torture, drug trafficking, and other crimes. Unidentified federal agents infiltrated the gang and were accepted as full members. Along with gaining the trust of top leaders

the law enforcement officers had to pass a lie detector test and a background test carried out by private detectives employed by the gang.

Source: [Associated Press](#)

### **Halloween Safe Despite Gang Rumors**

On Friday October 31, 2008, police officials received calls from residents stating they had either received a text or e-mail message relating that either the Bloods or the Crips would kill 31 women before midnight on Halloween. Authorities indicated that this message was nothing more than an urban myth circulating in several states. An Internet search revealed similar warnings in cities as far away as Yakima, Washington. Law enforcement has received similar warnings in the past claiming 13 women would be killed prior to midnight on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Source: [Rocky Mount Telegram](#)