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## **WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT**

### **October 16, 2008**

#### **Anti-Coal Group Trains Local Activists**

Wise Energy for Virginia, a coalition of environmentalist groups, is fighting the construction of a state-approved \$1.8 billion, 585-megawatt coal-fired power plant in southwestern Wise County. The group wants to halt construction of the current plant and prevent future ones from being approved. The same coalition launched the Wise Energy Tour, which stopped in Charlottesville Monday, October 6. The point of the tour is to transform the [fight against the Wise County plant](#) into “the largest grassroots effort Virginia’s ever seen to work on clean energy.” Wise Energy for Virginia regards coal plants as being particularly dirty because they emit fairly large amounts of pollution and could encourage mountaintop removal, a controversial coal mining technique. A study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and referred to by the coalition, suggests improving Virginia’s energy efficiency would save money and create more long-term jobs than building another power plant. Dominion counters that the plant will be one of the cleanest coal-burners in the country and that Virginia cannot meet its electricity needs from conservation alone, as it already imports more electricity than any state except California.

**Source:** [Charlottesville News and Arts](#)

#### **Give Capitalism the Creeps**

On October 18–November 5, 2008, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual International Earth Nights Call to Action will take place. The goal of the event is to encourage the dissolution of capitalism as well as encourage environmental activists to act against the destruction of the Earth. The flyer for the event encourages participants to “Give Capitalism the Creeps” and admonishes, “Be creative, be safe, be smart, be effective, be dangerous.”

**Source:** Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center Brief, October 15, 2008

#### **Al-Qaida Closes Top Three Internet Discussion Forums**

The NEFA Foundation has obtained and translated an Arabic-language statement from the Al-Fajr Media Center, the official online logistical network responsible for disseminating messages from various Al-Qaida military factions. The statement announces the sudden closure of three Internet discussion forums currently used by Al-Qaida: Al-Ekhlaas, Al-Firdaws, and Al-Boraq. According to the Al-Fajr Center, the chat forums were closed down “for technical reasons” and not, as reported in the “apostate media,” because “the offices of these websites had fallen into the hands of the enemy.” The statement also warned that the three Internet forums will likely remain offline for

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some time, and that former users should be careful to avoid fraudulent efforts by “untrustworthy sources” to prematurely resurrect them: “If the source of the link is not an official announcement from the [Al-Fajr Media] Center, then it has no credibility.”

**Source:** [NEFA Foundation.org](http://NEFA.Foundation.org)

### **HAMAS Launches AqsaTube**

A new file-sharing Internet site called “AqsaTube” was recently launched by HAMAS, enabling users to upload videos. The site is very similar to YouTube and was most likely inspired by the popular site. The HAMAS site, however, is devoted entirely to propaganda and agitation, stressing visual material as a way to reach wide audiences in the Arab-Muslim countries and in the West. AqsaTube is another example of how a terrorist organization exploits the information revolution to wage the battle of ideology.

**Source:** [Right Side News](http://RightSideNews.com)

### **U.S. Officials Fear Terrorist Links with Drug Lords**

U.S. officials announced there is a real danger that Islamic extremist groups such as al-Qa’ida and Hizballah could form alliances with wealthy and powerful Latin American drug lords in order to launch new terrorist attacks. Terrorist operatives could use well-established smuggling routes and drug profits to bring people or even weapons of mass destruction to the U.S. Latin American drug kingpins could also provide false documents, safe havens, and weapons, all of which are attractive to terrorists. Contributing to the possibility of collaboration between terrorists and drug lords is the common government corruption and weak government institutions in Central and South America.

**Source:** [Associated Press](http://AssociatedPress.com)

### **TSA Launches Simulated Bomb Tests of Jets**

Researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque have created the first computer model that simulates a bomb exploding in a passenger plane. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is hoping that it will be an improvement from the traditional method of testing airplanes by detonating actual bombs in retired planes. Testing on retired models is limited because of the high cost of purchase, and the layout of retired planes is not up-to-date with current models. Using computer modeling, current models of planes can be tested repeatedly and blasts can be simulated in all parts of the plane.

**Source:** [USA Today](http://USAToday.com)

### **Over 900 Gang Members Arrested Since 2005 in Prince William County**

The Regional Gang Task Force, founded in 2003, is a multi-jurisdictional partnership that combines area law enforcement divisions and federal agencies to combat gang activity in Northern Virginia. The Gang Task Force has arrested 941 gang members in the county since 2005. There are approximately 15 gangs currently active in the county, including MS-13 and SUR-13, the South Side Locos (SSL), and 18th Street. Members of the West Coast-based Crips and Bloods have also appeared in the area. MS-13 originated in Southern California in the early 1980s before migrating to locations in Central America, including El Salvador.

**Source:** [DC Examiner.com](http://DCExaminer.com)

### **Bloods Gang Member Convicted of Ordering Drug Related Murder**

A member of the Bloods street gang was found guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York of ordering a murder in the Bronx in May 2000. The victim had accompanied a friend from Virginia to the Bronx on the day of the murder for purposes of a drug transaction. According to the evidence presented at trial, the defendant, a member of the Bloods street gang and leader of the "Gangster Killer Bloods" (GKB), ordered two Bloods members to murder the victim and his friend, telling them they would get a share of \$20,000. The two Bloods members fired into the victim's vehicle, killing him. The second subject survived and testified at the trial. The Bloods members who committed the murder have pleaded guilty to murder in aid of racketeering and other charges. The leader of the Gangster Killer Bloods who ordered the homicide was convicted of one count of murder in aid of racketeering, one count of murder in furtherance of a drug trafficking conspiracy, and one count of murder committed with a firearm, and now faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

**Source:** United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York