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WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT

October 30, 2008

White Supremacist Will Stay Behind Bars in Roanoke

The Roanoke-based socialist party leader, William White has been indicted by a grand jury for trying to persuade others to do bodily harm to a federal juror in 2004. White tried to convince the court that most of his writings were an exaggeration. When asked about his threats to kill Roanoke citizens and officials, he said they were fantasy writings not to be taken seriously. According to the judge, free speech crosses the line when it becomes a threat. White will remain in the city jail without bond until federal marshals transport him to Chicago for trial.

Animal Rights Group Says Monkeys Mistreated at VCU

An animal welfare group has obtained lab records from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) that it alleges document the suffering of rhesus monkeys used in research. The Ohio-based Stop Animal Exploitation Now (S.A.E.N.) has released internal VCU documents that the group said showed the monkeys are subjected to severe stress and sometimes hurt themselves as a result of conditions at the lab. The group filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture asking it to investigate the welfare of the primates and the deaths of two of the monkeys. According to a VCU spokeswoman, the animal research program strictly complies with all federal standards and has been fully accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care since 1966.

Source: [Richmond Times Dispatch](#)

HLF Prosecution Offers Jurors a Guide to Evidence

A former fund raiser for the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF) has testified that money from the foundation went to Palestinian charities controlled by HAMAS. According to Mohamed Shorbaji, he made regular monetary contributions to the HLF on behalf of himself and others, knowing that HLF then supplied some or all of the money to HAMAS, including donations made after October 26, 2001. By sending the money to HLF, he said he felt he was helping an organization that was not corrupt unlike those run by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which ran the Palestinian Authority. Shorbaji agreed to testify for the government in hopes of reducing his seven-year prison sentence.

Source: [Investigative Project on Terrorism](#)

OPEN SOURCE

Bin Laden to Write Memoir

Al-Qa'ida's chief Usama bin Laden is reportedly writing a book on the struggle of his terrorist network that dispenses money, logistical support and training to radical groups in over 50 countries. The book will highlight the atrocities that are allegedly being committed on Muslims by the Western world, the medieval Crusades, the evolution of al-Qa'ida and the September 11 attacks on the U.S. The book will be written with the assistance of a young man with a Middle Eastern background who will later translate the text into English.

Source: [DNA India](#)

Catastrophic Wild Fires is New Terrorist Ploy

According to Western intelligence agencies, Islamic extremists are threatening an environmental disaster by sparking a series of wild fires. Deliberately lighting forest blazes in Europe, the U.S. and Australia would not only stretch emergency services, but would leave insurance companies facing billions in damage and would also create a pollution disaster. Internet chatter has been picked up by Western security services, which spells out in graphic terms the terrorists' thinking. One message warns: "Imagine if, after all the losses cause by such an event, a jihadist organization were to claim responsibility for the forest fires. You could hardly begin to imagine the level of fear that would take hold of people in the U.S., in Europe, in Russia and in Australia." While starting forest fires does not carry the promise of martyrdom as it does with suicide bombings, the strategy allows small cells to operate independently and create maximum disruption with little risk of detection.

Source: [Sunday Express](#)

Williamsburg Gang Verdict

Two Virginia men have been convicted on charges of assault, participating in a criminal street gang with a juvenile and recruiting a juvenile to participate in a criminal street gang. The charges stem from an incident on June 11, 2008 when three men approached a man who was walking home from work in Williamsburg. According to the victim, the men stated they had been dropped off from Richmond and needed directions on how to get home. After directing them to a William and Mary security officer, before turning to walk away, the victim said he heard one of the men say "Get him" while swinging a closed fist in his direction. The victim avoided being hit and kept the men at bay with a steak knife he carried for protection until he flagged down a Williamsburg Police officer in the area. In all, four men were arrested in connection with the attack.

Source: [Virginia Gazette](#)

Gangs Turning to Internet to Recruit and Threaten

The Internet is a rapidly growing area of gang activity, experts say, and Hampton police have now charged a 15-year-old with making gang threats online. Investigators report that the boy sent a message to a middle school student, which stated "watch yo ...head cuz im shooting head shots." The message, which has been posted on MySpace said that the 15-year-old heard the victim was a "Slobk" (a disrespectful name for a member of the Bloods gang). The 15-year-old has also been charged with recruitment of persons for a criminal street gang and for prohibited street gang participation. According to a regional manager, with the

Partnership on Youth Violence Prevention, which includes Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg, Poquoson and Gloucester, James and York counties, gang members are turning to the Internet for recruitment and communication as well as to make threats.

Source: [Daily Press](#)