



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
Counterterrorism Analysis Section

22 June 2011

(U) Jihadist Web Forums Expand List of Government and Industry Targets

(U//FOUO) This intelligence bulletin is intended to provide information related to a potential threat to the United States, specifically toward US persons, from al-Qa'ida (AQ) and AQ-inspired individuals. While the FBI assesses this threat is aspirational, due to the lack of specific operational details, this bulletin is intended to support the activities of the FBI to assist federal, state, and local government counterterrorism and law enforcement officials, and private sector partners in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to terrorist attacks against the United States. This information may not be provided to members of the news media or general public without further authorization from FBI Headquarters.

(U//FOUO) This bulletin is an update to an intelligence bulletin titled “(U//FOUO) Jihadist Web Forums List Heads of Government, Industry, and Media as Targets,” dated 8 June 2011. While forum threats such as these are not uncommon, and the information published in the forums consists of data which is easily obtainable on the Internet, the FBI has initiated notification to individuals and organizations mentioned in the jihadist Web forums. Should the FBI become aware of specific and actionable threats on these forums, the FBI will notify identified companies or individuals through local FBI field offices.

(U//FOUO) Continued Targeting of Public Figures

(U//FOUO) Following the initial release on 3 June of a video featuring US person and senior AQ media propagandist Adam Gadahn encouraging individual acts of jihad, members of two extremist Web forums^a posted names of individuals, companies, and organizations to target for attack.¹

- (U//FOUO) In response to the original 5 June message proposing the creation of a target list, forum members posted the names and accompanying photographs of dozens of additional government and industry leaders as potential targets.
- (U//FOUO) On 7 June a forum member responded to the original discussion thread with a link to a defense industry Web page listing hundreds of known military contractors.^b The individual instructed forum members on how to find the names of the officers of the listed companies.
- (U//FOUO) On 8 June a forum member responded to the original posting calling for “the

^a (U//FOUO) Ansar al-Mujahideen and Shumukh al-Islam Arabic-language Web forums.

^b (U//FOUO) The poster believes each listed company supports the US military in some way. While each company provides military equipment or services, it is unconfirmed whether all companies provide work for the US military.

head” of an identified US military general.

(U) Outlook and Implications

(U//FOUO) Although there has been an increase in postings on extremist Web forums since the death of Usama bin Ladin on 2 May, these are the most target-specific examples, to date. The breadth of the list provided—which includes organizations ranging from US-based think tanks to US contractors supporting the US military—demonstrates the posters’ basic familiarity with defense and intelligence contractors, private sector support, and US Government agencies. However, these online postings consist of readily available information drawn from company and government Web sites and, thus far, have not contained any operational details that would lead the FBI to assess an immediate threat. It is unknown whether the threat will progress beyond discussion in the forums to actual operational plans.

- (U//FOUO) A March 2010 statement from Gadahn and several issues of al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula’s *Inspire* magazine have similarly called for small-scale attacks in the United States, although no US-based extremists have acted on this guidance.

(U//FOUO) The FBI assesses the Web postings will likely continue, and it will closely monitor the discussions and all available sources for any specific operational plotting.

(U) Intelligence Collection Requirements

(U//FOUO) This intelligence bulletin addresses the FBI National Standing Collection Requirements for TTR2005A.II.A.1.1, TTR2005A.II.A.1.3, and TTR2005A.II.A.1.6 contained in USA-TERR-CTD-SR-0042-10.

(U) Law Enforcement Response

(U//FOUO) The FBI has initiated notifications of individuals and organizations mentioned in the Web forums. Should the FBI become aware of specific and actionable threats to companies, executives, or government officials on these forums, the FBI will notify the companies or individuals named therein through local FBI field offices. Further, in this enhanced threat environment, the FBI encourages all recipients to remain vigilant about any potential threats.

(U) Handling Notice

(U) Recipients are reminded that FBI intelligence bulletins contain sensitive terrorism and counterterrorism information meant for use primarily within the law enforcement and homeland security communities. Such bulletins shall not be released in either written or oral form to members of the news media, the general public, or other personnel who do not have a valid need-to-know without prior approval from an authorized FBI official.

(U) Reporting Notice

(U) The FBI encourages recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. The FBI regional phone numbers can be found at <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm>. When available, each report submitted should include the date, time, location, type of activity, number of people and type of equipment used for the activity, the name of the submitting company or organization, and a designated point of contact.

(U) This intelligence bulletin was prepared by the Counterterrorism Analysis Section of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Section Chief at 202-324-3000 or via unclassified e-mail at FBI_CTAS@ic.fbi.gov.

(U) Endnotes

¹ (U//FOUO) DHS; DHS-OS-0655-11; 6 June 2011; early June 2011; “(U//FOUO) Additional Hit List of US Individuals and Organizations Posted to the Ansar Al-Mujahideen Arabic-Language Forum”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Source is open source reporting on Jihadist Web forums.