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## Global Terrorism Still A Threat To The Supply Chain

*The threat of terrorism, along with crime, natural catastrophes and pandemics remains a tremendous risk to the supply chain in this era of globalization. The world continues to be a dangerous place and those charged with global security responsibilities, now more than ever, must be aware of worldwide developments that could have an impact on their company's ability to operate in global markets. This issue of The Lipman Report<sup>®</sup> will review recent international developments in the world of terrorism and how they may impact our safety and productivity, both here and abroad.*

### **Terrorism Developments in Europe, Middle East and Africa**

The post-September 11, 2001, "war on terrorism" and the war in Iraq have brought another type and level of terrorism threat to Europe, and to the North African countries of Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. The presence of large, non-integrated immigrant populations and of independent Islamic Fundamentalist groups accentuates the threat. Reports published concerning terrorist acts carried out and/or aborted by law enforcement and intelligence authorities in the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia suggest that some of the participants had direct connections to the al Qaeda leadership, while others were inspired by information and radical Islamic writings and propaganda on the Internet and acted independently.

In planning the attacks of 9/11, al Qaeda recruited and trained the hijackers abroad before sending them to the United States for the operation, thus indoctrinating them into the violent Islamist mindset long before they set foot in the United States. There is now, however, a serious concern that because of widespread Internet use, radicalization is no longer confined to training camps in Afghanistan or other locations far from our shores, but is occurring right here in the United States. For the most part, America's diverse Muslim communities are well integrated into our societies and aim to raise their families in safe and peaceful communities; unlike some countries in Europe and elsewhere, the longstanding tradition of absorbing varied diaspora populations has served to slow the radicalization process at home. Nevertheless, the recent acts of homegrown terrorism, of planning and plotting within the United States may be an early warning that domestic radicalization inspired by violent Islamist ideology has become a greater possibility on American soil. A primary engine of this new threat is the heightened use of the Internet to enlist

individuals or groups to join a cause without ever affiliating with a terrorist organization. This is also a major concern of many other countries throughout the world, as witnessed recently in London, Madrid, Mumbai and the thwarted efforts in the Netherlands, France and Spain.

In a recent statement to the Washington Post, CIA Director Michael V. Hayden cautioned that al Qaeda remains a serious threat, but portrayed the movement as essentially defeated in Iraq and Saudi Arabia and as on the defensive throughout most of the rest of the world. Hayden claimed that bin Laden was losing the hearts and minds in the Islamic world and had forfeited his ability to exploit the Iraq war as a recruitment tool. At the same time, United States counterterrorism experts Bruce Hoffman, author of *Inside Terrorism*, and Marc Sageman, author of *Leaderless Jihad*, have voiced opposing views on the origin and nature of the threat. Hoffman believes that al Qaeda is alive, well, resurgent and ever more dangerous; Sageman opines that the new threat no longer comes from al Qaeda as an organization, but rather from radicalized individuals and groups who meet and plot in their neighborhoods and on the Internet. This debate represents the current divergence of opinion in the United States concerning the nature of the terrorist threat and has crystallized supporters and detractors, including law enforcement, government intelligence agencies and academics into two factions. The Europeans say that for them, the argument is not theoretical. Somewhere in Europe almost every week, a terrorist plot is uncovered and arrests are made.

Neither line of thought diminishes the threat of terrorism. However, it has a strong influence on the methods used to disrupt a terrorist plot. Sageman's point of view is particularly pertinent to the United States. In view of the strong counterterrorism initiatives implemented since 9/11 it would be very difficult for another al Qaeda team to enter the United States; consequently the bigger threat would come from "Lone Wolves." As opposed to sleepers "Lone Wolves" is a phenomenon whereby homegrown terrorists are influenced and radicalized, especially by the Internet. The FBI Director recently testified that the FBI is particularly concerned about such "lone wolf actors" not tied in with any specific group overseas. The emergence of these self-generated violent Islamist extremists who are radicalized online presents a challenge for law enforcement because "Lone Wolves" are less likely to come to the attention of law enforcement. Sageman's

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model of terrorism is a greater threat because it is much more difficult for law enforcement to counter this threat.

This academic discussion is met with disinterest by some in Europe, who feel that the radical fundamentalist Islamic threat is present regardless of whether it is coming from individual cells or al Qaeda organized plots using subrogate groups. Leading Spanish counterterrorism magistrate Baltazar Garzon indicated that the “danger of this ‘either-or’ argument could lead us to the mistakes of the past...in the 90s, we saw atomized cells as everything, and then al Qaeda came along, and now we look at al Qaeda and say it is no longer the threat,” adding that we could very well make the same mistake again. United States Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, a former Director of Central Intelligence, recently stated that he sees merit in both sides of the debate, and reiterated that al Qaeda is training European and possibly American recruits.

While the aforementioned debate is taking place in the United States, France is conducting a re-evaluation of the estimates and analysis that initially followed the 2005 arrest of members of an Islamic cell charged with recruiting and sending insurgents to fight in Iraq. The seven members of this cell were tried in May 2008, receiving prison sentences of 18 months to seven years. The initial analysis indicated that Iraq had become the “cause célèbre” that was luring young European Muslims to commit Jihad — as in the 1990s when thousands were recruited and, through organized networks in England, sent to training camps and to fight in Afghanistan and Chechnya. According to French intelligence, however, the number of recruits going to Iraq has been relatively small compared with previous assessments. Some of the reasons for this decline may be the logistical challenges and expense of the trip, the elimination of open support networks that existed in England prior to 9/11, the Muslim (Sunni) vs. Muslim (Shiite) civil war and the fact that Iraqi insurgents do not welcome European Muslims unless they are willing to become candidates for suicide missions.

Nonetheless, senior French, Italian and Spanish counterterrorism magistrates and intelligence services believe that Iraq continues to fuel hatred, extremism and the potential for insurgents returning from Iraq to carry out a terrorist attack in Europe. French intelligence services believe that the current major threat to Europe is coming from Pakistan and Afghanistan and from al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb countries of Algeria,

Morocco, Tunisia and Libya. The well known judge, Jean-Louis Bruguiere, a former senior French counterterrorism magistrate, believes that in countries like France, Spain and Italy, effective legal authorizations to surveil, wiretap, make preventive arrests, hold terrorist suspects for extended periods of time and win convictions for an association with a terrorist enterprise has allowed authorities to take preventive action and counteract terrorist plots.

In a testimony last year, U.S. Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell asserted that terrorism remained the top threat to U.S. security and that al Qaeda was rebuilding ties to affiliate groups in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. He also stated that al Qaeda was recruiting Europeans because of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. This conclusion has resulted in an unprecedented Homeland Security regulation, effective January 2009, which requires residents of 27 countries who were previously not required to have a visa to register online at least 72 hours before their travel to the U.S. The new regulation has raised objections from the European Union, demanding clarifications and threatening to retaliate against U.S. travelers.

In April 2008, a tape released by Ayman Al-Zawahiri, second in command of al Qaeda, suggested that future attacks could be carried out in Denmark, Japan, Norway, Sweden and any country that joined the United States in the invasion and war in Iraq. British and Dutch leaders expressed a simultaneous concern about the increasing level of terrorist activity they had observed. That same month, Commissioner Ian Blair, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick, Scotland Yard’s Anti-Terrorism Chief, testified in front of a parliamentary committee that 15 terrorist plots had been foiled since the London bombings — strongly suggesting that some of the planned attacks were “very recent.” Commissioner Blair, who was knighted for his successful law enforcement career, claimed that the risks of terrorist attacks in France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Britain in particular, compared with America, were higher. Sir Ian stated, “We (Britain) appear to face the most radical and escalating threat of these countries in terms of the number of people involved and plots going on and that are happening now.” Jacqui Smith, Britain’s Home Secretary, concurred, “we now face a threat level that is severe...it’s not getting any less, it’s actually growing.”

Recent successes have been attributed to the close

cooperation of European police and intelligence agencies. Last summer's terrorist plots in Denmark and Germany, linked to al Qaeda, were disrupted based on intelligence developed by the Dutch. The Dutch, as demonstrated by past Islamic terrorist plots, the recent suicide bombing against the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, and 2007 and 2008 arrests in the Netherlands, are at the center of the storm. Just days after the suicide bombing, Pakistani authorities seized three explosive-laden vehicles and arrested three suicide bombers. Al Qaeda is seeking revenge for the presentation earlier this year of a film produced by a Dutch lawmaker that suggested that the Koran inspired violence and for other recent films criticizing Islamic treatment of women and also for the re-publications of cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad, originally printed in Danish newspapers and reprinted in Dutch newspapers in 2006.

In North Africa on September 11, 2006, the Salafist Group for the Call and Combat (GSPC) and the Moroccan Islamic Fighters Group (MIFG) changed their name to al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). On November 3, 2007, the Libyan Islamic Fighters Group (LIFG) also declared its allegiance to al Qaeda. These alignments increase the threat to European and North African societies, political institutions and U.S. interests in the region. While AQIM has continued to concentrate its focus on Algerian government targets, since 2006 it has expanded its attacks against U.S. and United Nations entities. Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's right-hand man, has exhorted North African Muslims to declare "jihad" against American, French, Spanish and other European interests. He has also called for the overthrow of Libyan, Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian governments, whose leaders he considers as "slaves of the west."

Furthermore, persistent insecurity in Nigeria's oil producing region continues to pose a direct threat to U.S. and European interests in sub-Saharan Africa. Crisis, political and economic instability and corruption in Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Zimbabwe render this portion of the continent fragile and ripe for civil unrest, as well as vulnerable to recruitment by Islamic fanatic groups like al Qaeda. Law enforcement and intelligence authorities, as well as private security companies and the general public, have to be prepared to confront and neutralize these threats for their survival.

### **Terrorism in the Asia-Pacific Region**

While al Qaeda and its Asian affiliate Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) continue to be serious threats in the Asia-Pacific region, significant intelligence inroads and countermeasures by local government security agencies have had success over the past several months. Asian countries with serious JI threats have been assisted, quietly, by other nations with expertise, training, technology, equipment, operational and structural advice. As a result, JI leaders have been apprehended or neutralized, and their operations thwarted. Little publicity has been given to these successes, as well as to the significant role of the advising nations — which makes this stealth assistance more palatable because it protects the advising nations from exposure to retaliation. Unfortunately, Islamic extremist terrorism shows no end in sight, and thus these successes may not be publicized for years to come, if ever.

The cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China have dominated the news from Asia-Pacific and reduced, to some extent, the ongoing and exhaustive coverage of the ever-present threat of terrorism in the region. Major incidents are of course reported, such as the bombing of the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan that killed at least 6 people, all Pakistanis.

In Sri Lanka, the 25-year-old on-again, off-again insurrection to establish a separate Tamil state resulted in the bombing of a commuter train by the rebel Tamil Tigers, injuring 18 passengers. The Tigers would call this "war," not "terrorism," but like the death tolls inflicted at the Danish Embassy and in the murder of Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan by a suicide bomber, the victims are predominantly innocent civilians. Since yet another truce was cancelled in January in Sri Lanka, allegedly 4,068 rebels and 335 government troops have been killed — not to mention an untold number of innocent civilians.

There have been a number of disturbances in this region during recent weeks, some amounting to riots, and some of which are political in their causes. These should not, however, be confused with political terrorist activity. The disturbances in Tibet are just another, larger, manifestation of the Tibetans' grievances with China's administration of the province. Disturbances in Indonesia were caused by increasing gasoline prices and by religious intolerance between Muslim sects, in Pakistan by electricity shortages and by inflammatory demands that the president step down, in Thailand also by demands that the prime minister step down, in Korea

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by the resumption of U.S. beef imports concerning “mad cow disease” fears, and in Nepal by the demands that the king leave his palace following parliament’s abolishment of the 240-year-old Shah dynasty. Several of these disturbances have resulted in deaths, injuries and significant property damage, but are not deemed “terrorist” activity, except perhaps by the political targets.

The Islamic separatist movement in southern Thailand, primarily a domestic political issue despite aid from outside supporters, has been quiet in recent weeks; however, the political dissatisfaction remains and violence will in all likelihood reoccur.

A great deal of coverage, both in Asia Pacific and abroad, has been given to the escape of Mas Selamat from internal security detention in Singapore. Mas Selamat is an al Qaeda associate renowned for his expertise in the manufacturing of explosives, detained because of his threat to bomb the national airport. Singapore, though highly embarrassed — especially in the face of its vaunted reputation for efficiency and effectiveness in these areas of security and law enforcement — approached the incident in a manner similar to how it addressed the SARS episode, with much publicity, admission of error, tremendous resources, and remedial action. Mas has not been recaptured.

An interesting piece of the report noted that over the past year and a half, Singapore Police districts have computer-logged all unoccupied buildings in their area of responsibility for both security and law enforcement purposes. All of these premises were searched in the earliest hours after Mas’s escape. The Internal Security Department’s detention facility, aimed both at the confinement of potentially dangerous security risks and at their rehabilitation, has been turned over to the Department of Prisons for a more stringent incarceration structure and procedures.

In Indonesia, since 2005, the authorities have arrested more than 200 members of JI. In the Philippines, an American-backed military campaign has the Abu Sayyaf Group, an Islamic extremist organization with links to JI in retreat in the jungle of a handful of southern islands. Nevertheless, bombings continue in the Philippines, targeting American military establishments and Philippine government institutions. The country’s main

Muslim separatist group is threatening to fall apart, which could ignite wider violence, building on deep anger about the country’s military-first approach against the radical Muslims. Indonesia and the Philippines have different approaches to combating terrorism, with both seeing success. Indonesian law enforcement has taken a less militarized approach, preferring to attack terror suspects through the legal system. Some prominent captives have been sentenced to long prison terms. Despite their successes, the recent discovery of weapon caches shows that the terrorist groups are still trying to plan attacks in both Indonesia and the Philippines.

*In view of the continuing threat from many sources to the supply chain, in this era of globalization those responsible for security in the private sector should utilize risk assessments and security surveys to have as much intelligence as possible to protect American interests abroad. Though the security resources of the United States remain focused on the danger posed by al Qaeda, it is necessary to ponder what might happen if recent trends continue and al Qaeda loses support in the Muslim world. The unraveling of al Qaeda is a primary goal in the war on terrorism, but it is possible a worse monster could evolve out of this situation. If al Qaeda went away, the ideology would live on and a more vicious brand of terror could eventuate. With al Qaeda, targets were selected to meet certain criteria of economic and symbolic importance. As counterterrorism efforts disrupt al Qaeda, the targeting may be pushed down the supply chain.*

*The role of security professionals in thwarting potential acts of terrorism can be summed up this way: Always assume that someone, somewhere, may be plotting against your facility. Never think “it would never happen here.” Your knowledge and awareness of the threat, coupled with vigilance and diligence in applying what you know, may one day be the key to preventing a suicide attack at your facility. The time for urgency is now®.*



The Lipman Report Editors