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Defense Intelligence Agency

Defense Analysis Report – Terrorism

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USC 424

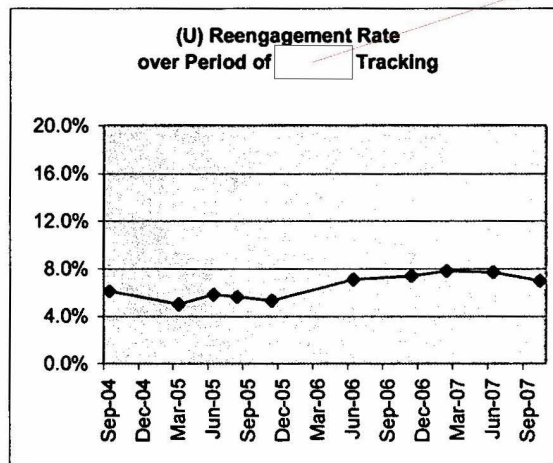
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~~(U)~~ Transnational: Former GTMO Detainee Terrorism Trends—Update

(U) The number of former Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) detainees confirmed or suspected of returning to terrorist activities is 31, about 7 percent of those transferred from U.S. custody. The identified rate of reengagement over three years of tracking has remained relatively constant between 5 and 8 percent. (b)(3):10 USC 424

- (U) In September, Ibrahim Bin Shakaran and Mohammed Bin Ahmad Mizouz were convicted for their roles in recruiting Moroccans to fight in Iraq or take part in future terrorist attacks in Morocco.
- (U) In mid-July, Abdullah Mahsud committed suicide to avoid capture by Pakistani forces. Mahsud reportedly directed an April 2007 suicide attack that killed 31 people, among many other attacks since his release.
- (U) In June, Ruslan Odizhev was killed in a gun battle with Russian forces seeking him for taking part in several terrorist acts, including an October 2005 attack that killed and injured several police officers.



~~(U)~~ General Trends and Difficulties

(U) Former detainees transferred to Afghanistan and Pakistan generally have reengaged in local anti-coalition activity, while those transferred to Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa have more often reconnected with the transnational terrorist networks with whom they affiliated prior to capture. Those returning to transnational networks are more likely to be involved in future major acts of terrorism.

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(U) In most cases, the time lapse between release and subsequent indications of post-transfer terrorist activity is approximately a year and a half, with reporting of such activity often lagging actual events by months or even years. Upon return, many detainees are held for varying lengths of time ranging from less than 24 hours up to several years. Due to the reporting delay and a general lack of information regarding former detainees, additional former GTMO detainees are likely to have been involved in subsequent terrorist activities.

(U) Former detainees have participated in terrorist activities ranging from small-scale attacks to transnational facilitation and attack planning. However, the former GTMO detainees known or suspected to have returned to terrorism represent a small proportion of the total transferred/released.

(U) Open Source Reporting Identifies Detainees Reengaging in Terrorism

(U) Ibrahim Bin Shakaran and Mohammed Bin Ahmad Mizouz were transferred to Morocco in July 2004. In September 2007, they were convicted for their post-release involvement in a terrorist network recruiting Moroccans to fight for Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI). Recruits were to receive weapons and explosives training in Algeria from the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, which has since become al-Qaida in the Lands of the Maghreb, before either going to fight in Iraq or returning to Morocco as sleeper cells. The organizers of the group reportedly intended to create an al-Qaida-affiliated network in the Maghreb similar to AQI. According to testimony presented at the trial, Bin Shakaran had already recruited other jihadists when Moroccan authorities broke up the plot in November 2005. Bin Shakaran received a 10-year sentence for his role in the plot, while Mizouz received a two-year sentence.

(U) Abdullah Mahsud blew himself up to avoid capture by Pakistani forces in July 2007. According to a Pakistani government official, Mahsud directed a suicide attack in April 2007 that killed 31 people. After being transferred to Afghanistan in March 2004, Mahsud sought several media interviews and became well known for his attacks in Pakistan. In October 2004, he kidnapped two Chinese engineers and claimed responsibility for an Islamabad hotel bombing.

(U) Ruslan Anatolovich Odishev, transferred to Russia in March 2004, was killed in a June 2007 gun battle with Russia's Federal Security Service. Russian authorities stated that Odihev had taken part in several terrorist acts including an October 2005 attack in the Caucasus region that killed and injured several police officers. Odihev was found with pistols, a grenade, and homemade explosive devices on his body.

(U) Ravil Shafeyavich Gumarov and Timur Ravilich Ishmurat were transferred to Russia in March 2004 and quickly released. Russian authorities arrested them in January 2005 for involvement in a gas line bombing. In May 2006 a Russian court convicted both, sentencing Gumarov to 13 years in prison and Ishmurat to 11 years.

(U) Mohammed Ismail was one of the “juveniles” released from GTMO in 2004. During a press interview after his release, he described the Americans saying, “They gave me a good time in Cuba. They were very nice to me, giving me English lessons.” He concluded his interview saying he would have to find work once he finished visiting all his relatives. He was recaptured four months later in May 2004, participating in an attack on U.S. forces near Kandahar. At the time of his recapture, Ismail carried a letter confirming his status as a Taliban member in good standing.

(U) Maulavi Abdul Ghaffar was captured in early 2002 and held at GTMO for eight months. After his release, Ghaffar reportedly became the Taliban’s regional commander in Uruzgan and Helmand provinces, carrying out attacks on U.S. and Afghan forces. On 25 September 2004, while planning an attack against Afghan police, Ghaffar and two of his men were killed in a raid by Afghan security forces.

(U) Yousef Muhammed Yaaqoub, better known as Mullah Shazada, was released from GTMO in May 2003. Shazada quickly rejoined the Taliban as a commander in southern Afghanistan. In this role, his activities reportedly included the organization and execution of a jailbreak in Kandahar, and a nearly successful capture of the border town of Spin Boldak. Shazada was killed on 7 May 2004 fighting U.S. forces. His memorial in Quetta, Pakistan, drew many Taliban leaders wanted by U.S. forces. At the time of his release, there was no indication he was a member of any terrorist organization or posed a risk to U.S. or Allied interests.

(U) Mohammed Nayim Farouq: After his release from U.S. custody in July 2003, Farouq quickly renewed his association with Taliban and al-Qaida members and has since become re-involved in anti-coalition militant activity.

(U) Definitions for Confirmed and Suspected Cases

(U) **Definition of “Confirmed”** — A preponderance of evidence—fingerprints, DNA, conclusive photographic match, or reliable, verified, or well-corroborated intelligence reporting—identifies a specific former Defense Department detainee as directly involved in terrorist activities.

(U) **Definition of “Suspected”** — Significant reporting indicates a former Defense Department detainee is involved in terrorist activities, and analysis indicates the detainee most likely is associated with a specific former detainee *or* unverified or single-source, but plausible, reporting indicates a specific former detainee is involved in terrorist activities.