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## MEDIA REPORTING SUMMARY

### Weekly Summary 24 – 28 October 2011

This media reporting summary (MRS) covers incidents and threats as reported in electronic and print media. The correctness of the reporting contained in this document has not been verified. Many incidents and threats have not been reported in the media, and this report should not be cited as a complete list of incidents and threats.

#### KEY POINTS: 24 October 2011

- **Africa:** The US Embassy in Kenya warned American citizens on 22 October of an 'imminent threat of terrorist attacks' after Kenya sent troops across the border into Somalia to pursue militants from al-Shabaab.
- **Africa:** Suspected Islamist militants have kidnapped two Spaniards and an Italian working at a refugee camp in western Algeria.
- **Subcontinent and Central Asia:** Security guards have shot dead a suicide bomber who tried to assassinate Afghan Interior Minister Bismullah Khan.
- **Espionage:** German authorities have arrested two Russians suspected of espionage.

#### KEY POINTS: 25 October 2011

**Australia:** A call-in has alleged that an associate of the CHOGM Action Network may attempt to assault Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**Europe and Russia:** An explosive device attached to a roadside speed camera exploded in Voorschoten, injuring at least three people.

#### KEY POINTS: 26 October 2011

- **Middle East:** The US has pulled out its ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford, after 'credible threats against his personal safety'.
- **Africa:** Three aid workers, a Danish man, an American woman and a Somali male, have been kidnapped by Somali gunmen from near the airport at Galkayo, northern Somalia.
- **Europe and Russia:** According to *The Sun*, a Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan commander claims 200 suicide bombers and assassins are ready to launch a campaign of Christmas attacks in British cities.
- **South-East Asia:** At least 16 bombs exploded throughout Yala in Thailand's south, killing two people and wounding 50 others.

#### KEY POINTS: 27 October 2011

- **Africa:** The Kenyan suspect arrested after two grenade blasts exploded in Nairobi says he is a member of the Somali militant group al-Shabaab.
- **Security/terrorism-related trials and investigations:** An Indonesian court has cut the sentence of radical cleric Abu Bakar Ba'asyir from 15 years to nine.

#### KEY POINTS: 28 October 2011

- **Libya:** The UN Security Council cancelled its authorisation for a seven-month-old NATO military operation in Libya.

## SECURITY THREATS TO AUSTRALIAN INTERESTS

Nil.

### AUSTRALIAN SECURITY

#### Australian security policy/announcements/perspectives on the security environment

**HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II** • A call-in has alleged that, during the public barbeque associated with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, at least one individual associated with the CHOGM Action Network may attempt to ‘attack’ or ‘throw something at’ Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

(Source: National Security Hotline)

#### Persons/groups of security interest

**ROBERT SPENCER** • Controversial US author and spokesman for Stop the Islamisation of America, Robert Spencer is to conduct a speaking tour of Australian cities hosted by conservative group, The Q Society of Australia. Spencer, author of *The Truth About Mohammad* and *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam* has previously attracted protests during other speaking engagements in the US and Europe, as well as threats from Islamic extremists, including from al-Qa’ida media advisor Adam Gadahn who described Spencer as a ‘counter-Islam consultant’. Mr Spencer is scheduled to speak in Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Cairns between 26 November and 4 December.

(Source: [jihadwatch.org](http://jihadwatch.org), [qsociety.org.au](http://qsociety.org.au), 20 October)

#### Border Security/Immigration

- A Sri Lankan refugee who killed himself in Sydney’s Villawood detention centre was not considered suitable for community placement by security agencies, Immigration Minister Chris Bowen says. Mr Bowen said the man’s case was complex. ‘There are cases, and this is one, which are more complex and which ASIO will need to take more time to consider whether this person would be a risk to national security,’ Mr Bowen told reporters. ‘There was consultation with the relevant security agencies, that’s ASIO, and the advice was it was not appropriate in this case.’

(Source: Australian Associated Press, 26 October)

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### Indonesia

- An alleged terrorist sought over two suicide bombings in Indonesia has been arrested by Indonesian police. Yadi Al Hasan is believed to be the leader of a terrorist group behind a suicide bombing of a packed church in Solo in September and a similar attack at a police mosque in Cirebon.

(Source: Agence France-Presse, 20 October)

- Indonesian Police anti-terror unit Densus 88 arrested another alleged terror suspect, Nanang Irawan (alias Nang Ndut) in Madiun, East Java, on 21 October. Nang Ndut was involved in two terror cases, namely suicide bombings in Cirebon and Solo.

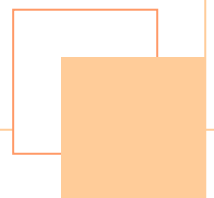
(Source: Jakarta Antara, 22 October)

- A police officer was shot dead by two men in an airport in Puncak Jaya, Papua. Police blamed the shooting on armed separatists.

(Source: Jakarta Globe, 25 October)

- On 25 October, POLRI Chief General Timur Pradopo said police in Papua Province were on the highest alert, particularly in Puncak Jaya District. The elevated security status comes after the recent spate of violence in the province.

(Source: Jakarta Globe, 26 October)



## Southeast Asia

### THE PHILIPPINES

- Military forces in the Philippines have carried out their first air strikes for three years on separatist rebel areas in the south of the country. Two military aircraft launched the attacks in Zamboanga. The raids follow a recent spate of violence in the region in which 35 people have died. The rebels, from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, are known to be hiding in the area which was attacked by the military.

(Source: *BBC News*, 24 October)

- One person was slightly injured after a bomb exploded on a road side in North Cotabato. The explosion happened in Kayaga village in Kabakan town, damaging a Rural Transit bus. Police investigators suspect that the bus was the target of the attack.

(Source: *Philstar.com*, 24 October)

### THAILAND

- A series of at least 16 bombs planted by suspected Muslim rebels exploded throughout a town in Thailand's south, killing two civilians and wounding 50 others. The bombings coincided with the seventh anniversary of a protest in the region that left 85 anti-government demonstrators dead.

(Source: *Daily News*, 25 October)

## Subcontinent and Central Asia

### AFGHANISTAN

- Security guards have shot dead a suicide bomber who tried to assassinate Afghan Interior Minister Bismullah Khan. The attacker attempted to detonate his explosives on a convoy of cars sent in advance of the minister's vehicle.

(Source: *AFP*, 23 October)

- NATO says an estimated 200 insurgents were killed or captured in two military operations that just ended in eastern Afghanistan. They were aimed at disrupting militant groups, including the al-Qa'ida and Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network.

(Source: *Associated Press*, 24 October)

- At least 50 people were killed or injured when a fuel truck was bombed in northern Afghanistan. 'A smaller explosion, cause by a magnet bomb, made a hole in the fuel truck. When people gathered around it to collect the pooling fuel, a bigger explosion took place,' said Roshna Khalid, the provincial spokeswoman in Parwan which lies north of the capital Kabul.

(Source: *Agence France-Presse*, 26 October)

### SRI LANKA

- Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, stated that army intelligence units have been expanded to monitor the activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) internationally, noting that LTTE members who had escaped would operate with the help of the Tamil diaspora.

(Source: *ColomboPage.com*, 22 October)

### INDIA

- Six policemen were killed and three injured after Maoist rebels ambushed an Indian police team in the Netanar area of Bastar. Two constables are reported missing.

(Source: *New Delhi The Indian Express*, 22 October)

### PAKISTAN

- A roadside bomb exploded in a car in northwest Pakistan, killing at least four people. The blast badly damaged the car in a remote village in the northwest district of Lower Dir. The explosive was a remote controlled improvised explosive device.

(Source: *Agence France-Presse*, 25 October)



## Middle East and the Maghreb

### TURKEY

- Turkey has killed almost 100 militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in offensives against the PKK on Turkey's border with Iraq and cross-border operations against PKK hideouts in northern Iraq, over the past four days. On 19 October Turkey launched anti-PKK offensives, involving some 10 000 troops both in south-eastern Turkey and across the border in Iraq, following the killing of 24 soldiers in Cukurca by the PKK in simultaneous attacks.

(Source: *Today's Zaman*, 23 October)

### LEBANON

- A bomb placed in a rubbish container in the Ain al-Helweh Palestinian refugee camp exploded and injured eight people.

(Source: *AFP*, 24 October)

### SYRIA/UNITED STATES

- The US has pulled out its ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford, because of concerns for his safety, officials say. Mr Ford angered Syrian authorities by showing solidarity with activists involved in an uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's rule. A US spokesman said Mr Ford left Damascus at the weekend after 'credible threats against his personal safety'.

(Source: *BBC News*, 24 October)

### YEMEN/SYRIA

- A statement issued by pro-revolution army units in Yemen has revealed that a Yemeni pilot has crashed a plane carrying eleven Syrian pilots allegedly brought to Yemen to carry out combat missions targeting the Yemeni people.

(Source: *Marib Press*, 26 October)

### YEMEN/UNITED STATES

- Yemen's president told the US ambassador he will sign a deal to step down. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has made that pledge several times before. President Ali Abdullah Saleh informed Ambassador Gerald Feierstein of a new ceasefire, but clashes on the streets threw that into doubt. Activists said seven protesters were killed and ten wounded. Nine months of mass protests calling for his resignation have moved his powerful Arab neighbours, with US backing, to propose a plan allowing Saleh to step down in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

(Source: *Associated Press*, 25 October)

### IRAQ

- Two bombs exploded in north-eastern Baghdad, killing at least 18 people and wounding 37 others. The first bomb targeted a police patrol in the Iraqi capital's Ur district and the second exploded when emergency services were evacuating the wounded.

(Source: *Reuters*, 27 October)

## Europe and Russia

### SPAIN/FRANCE

- Basque separatist group, ETA, announced a 'definitive cessation' of its armed activity and called on the governments of Spain and France to open direct dialogue. The announcement follows ETA's declaration of a ceasefire in January.

(Source: *BBC*, 20 October)

### THE NETHERLANDS

- An explosive device attached to a roadside speed camera exploded in Voorschoten, injuring at least three people. There has been no claim of responsibility for the incident.

*(Source: Radio Netherlands, 23 October)*

#### UNITED KINGDOM/ PAKISTAN

- The Taliban is planning a campaign of Christmas attacks in British cities, a warlord has warned. Commander Javed Karmazkhel Wazir - of Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, TTP - claimed 200 suicide bombers and assassins are ready to launch attacks. The TTP claimed responsibility for a 2009 suicide attack on the CIA and the attempted Times Square bombing in 2010.

*(Source: The Sun Online, 25 October)*

#### Africa (sub-Sahara)

##### KENYA

- The US Embassy in Kenya warned American citizens on 22 October of an ‘imminent threat of terrorist attacks’ after Kenya sent troops across the border into Somalia to pursue militants from al-Shabaab. ‘The US Embassy in Kenya has received credible information of an imminent threat of terrorist attacks directed at prominent Kenyan facilities and areas where foreigners are known to congregate, such as malls and night clubs’, the US Embassy said in an emergency message. It added that it had taken measures to limit official US Government visits and that citizens should consider deferring travel to Kenya.

*(Source: CNN, 23 October)*

- The Kenyan Government has banned fishing activities between the coast Island of Kiwayu and Ras Kaambooni along the Kenya-Somalia border following the ongoing offensive against the al-Shabaab militia. Police say the move is part of measures put in place to safeguard Kenyans along the border where there is an ongoing operation against al-Shabaab and pirates.

*(Source: Nairobi KBC, 22 October)*

- Police have found a ‘suspicious object’ at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi after carrying out a routine security check in major hotels, hospitals, worship areas and entertainment areas in the capital, following the American Embassy release of information that al-Shabaab was planning an attack. The grenade-looking object contained green capsules were found in a room booked by a British citizen.

*(Source: The Nation, 23 October)*

- The Kenyan suspect arrested after two grenade blasts exploded in Nairobi says he is a member of the Somali militant group al-Shabaab. Elgiva Bwire Oliacha, 28, pleaded guilty in court on 26 October to nine charges, including being responsible for the twin grenade blasts. A cache of arms, including 13 hand grenades, an AK47, rifle, a machine gun, four pistols and ammunition were found in his flat in Nairobi. Police arrested the suspect on 25 October and said that he was from a Kenyan tribe and was not ethnic Somali.

*(Source: The Guardian, 26 October)*

##### ALGERIA/SPAIN/ITALY

- Suspected Islamist militants have kidnapped two Spaniards and an Italian working at a refugee camp in western Algeria.

*(Source: AFP, 23 October)*

##### SOMALIA

- Three aid workers, a Danish man, an American woman and a Somali male, have been kidnapped by Somali gunmen from near the airport at Galkayo, northern Somalia. Galkayo, which straddles the border between Puntland and the self-proclaimed separate region of Galmudug in central Somalia, saw heavy fighting last month between rival political or clan groups.

*(Source: Aljazeera, 25 October)*



**KENYA/SOMALIA**

- Al-Shabaab rebels have called on supporters in Kenya to carry out a major strike in retaliation for a 12-day military incursion by Kenyan soldiers. An al-Shabaab spokesman, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, urged sympathisers to cease their grenade attacks in Nairobi, calling instead for ‘huge blasts.’  
(Source: *Agence France-Presse*, 28 October)

**Security policy/announcements/perspectives on the security environment****CHINA**

- China is considering new legislation to define terrorism more precisely, in the face of what an official described as a ‘real threat’. State news agency *Xinhua* said the draft bill could pave the way for a renewed campaign against terrorist groups and allow their assets to be frozen. China says it faces an organised terrorist threat from radical Muslims in the far western region of Xinjiang. Many suspects have been tried under vague laws protecting social order.  
(Source: *BBC News*, 25 October)

**UNITED NATIONS/LIBYA**

- The UN Security Council cancelled its authorisation for a seven-month-old NATO military operation in Libya. The mandate was terminated despite a request from Libya’s interim government for the Security Council to wait until the National Transitional Council made a decision on whether it wants NATO to help it secure its borders. The 15-nation council unanimously approved a resolution terminating the UN mandate, which set the no-fly zone over Libya and permitted foreign military forces, including NATO, to use ‘all necessary measures’ to protect Libyan civilians. The authorisation will lapse on 31 October.  
(Source: *Reuters*, 27 October)

**Security/terrorism-related trials and investigations****INDONESIA**

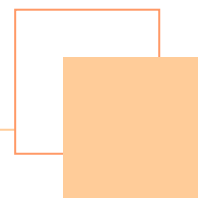
- An Indonesian court has cut the prison sentence of radical cleric Abu Bakar Ba’asyir, convicted of funding a terrorist group, from 15 years to nine, a court spokesman says.  
(Source: *AFP*, 26 October)

**UNITED STATES/IRAN**

- Four Singapore citizens and an Iranian have been accused by the US of illegally exporting radio equipment to Iran from the US for use in roadside bombs in Iraq. They are accused of shipping 6 000 radio frequency modules from a Minnesota company through Singapore to Iran. At least 16 of them were later found in unexploded improvised explosive devices in Iraq. According to Assistant Attorney General for National Security Lisa Monaco, ‘This case underscores the continuing threat posed by Iranian procurement networks seeking to obtain US technology through fraud and the importance of safeguarding that technology.’  
(Source: *The Straits Times*, 26 October)

**RUSSIA**

- Russia says investigators suspect three Chechens gunned down in Istanbul last month were linked to the terrorist bombing of Moscow’s busiest airport earlier this year. Russian investigators say two of the Chechen men who were shot dead were involved in the bombing at Domodedovo airport that killed 37 people. The third man is believed to have been linked to Russia’s most wanted Islamic militant, Doku Umarov, who has claimed responsibility for ordering the bombing and other attacks. The three Chechens were killed in an Istanbul parking lot last month.  
(Source: *ABC News*, 27 October)



## Espionage and other security matters

### ZAMBIA/CZECH REPUBLIC

- Three Czech nationals are awaiting trial in Zambia on suspicion of spying. The three spent a week in custody before being released pending their court appearance.

(Source: AFP, 22 October)

### GERMANY/RUSSIA

- According to a report to be published in *Der Spiegel*, German authorities arrested two Russians suspected of espionage. Germany's Federal Prosecutor confirmed that two people suspected of espionage activities for a foreign country had been arrested on 18 October in the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg and Hesse by Germany's elite GSG-9 special operations commandos. The prosecutor's office did not identify the suspects as Russian spies.

(Source: Reuters, 22 October)

## Cyber security

### JAPAN

- Information on military aircraft and nuclear power plants may have been stolen in a series of cyber attacks on Japanese defence contractor, Mitsubishi Heavy. Mitsubishi Heavy said late September that 83 computers at 11 of its facilities had been hit by cyber attacks but no leakage of information on products and technologies had been confirmed. The *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper reported that additional checks on other computers at Mitsubishi Heavy facilities had shown traces of transmissions of information about fighters and helicopters that the company is contracted to manufacture for the defence ministry through some of the computers.

(Source: AFP, 24 October)

- Computers at several of Japan's overseas diplomatic missions have been hit by cyber attacks. The infections had been found in the ministry's Internet-capable open systems. The *Yomiuri* newspaper said the countries where infections were found included France, the Netherlands, Burma, the US, Canada, China and South Korea. *Yomiuri* said the infection included a 'backdoor' virus, which opens a route into a computer's system to allow access by a remote hacker.

(Source: AFP, 26 October)

### UNITED KINGDOM

- A group calling itself The Hacker's Choice (THC) has released a tool that enables a single computer to disable an encrypting server. The concept used by the tool is based on forcing the server to renegotiate the key used for encryption. According to THC, this tool enables a standard laptop to disable an 'average server' via a single broadband connection. Of particular concern is the fact that this is not limited to web servers, but can also be used to attack email services and other servers which use encrypted SSL connections. The source code contains a reference to a private version with extended functionality. The modified version is apparently able to knock out an entire server farm with SSL load balancing using just 20 computers.

(Source: *The H*, 26 October)

### SOUTH KOREA

- A denial of service attack rendered the National Election Commissions web site inaccessible for roughly two and a half hours on 26 October, preventing numerous Seoul citizens from finding their polling locations online (for the Seoul mayoral election). Independent liberal candidate Park Won-soon's campaign Web site suffered a similar attack though it is unclear if the attacks were related.

(Source: *Joongang Daily*, 27 October)



## Security at major events

### LONDON OLYMPICS

- Australian Olympic Committee media director Mike Tancred says that Australian athletes celebrating after competing at the London 2012 Olympics will face the biggest security risks, especially if they use public transport to get around the city. After attending a three-day briefing from the London Organising Committee, Tancred said the real threat will be outside the venues and on public transport like the underground. 'There will be 120 000 police on the beat in London on any given day during the Games. But during the London riots they were slow off the mark. They were caught by surprise. You can't have a repeat of that when you have to protect the venues and spectators.'

*(Source: Australian Associated Press, 27 October)*

