selected headlines

The International Problem of Islamic Terrorism

January — June, 1999

Islamic terrorism is international in scope. To indicate the extent of the problem, below are several selections from press reports, followed by a list of selected headlines covering the first half of 1999.

The Clinton administration is stepping up efforts to help Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay fight what U.S. officials believe is a growing Islamic terrorist threat in those countries’ border region. (Dallas Morning News, December 22, 1997).

In a synchronized operation, the police in five European countries [France, Belgium, Italy, Germany and Switzerland] raided the homes of people suspected of being Islamic militants today and detained at least 88, according to French Government officials. (The New York Times, May 27, 1998).

German regional minister outlines danger of Islamic fundamentalism. (BBC Worldwide Monitoring, August 9, 1999; Source: Die Welt website).

A Muslim cleric is running the risk of being deported after calling for attacks with biological weapons on western targets... In an open letter read out in mosques across Britain and published on the internet, Bakri [the cleric] called on Muslims to rise up in a jihad, or holy war, against America and its allies. (Sunday Times [London], September 5, 1999).

Turkey: Nearly 4,000 Islamic fundamentalists arrested in last 10 years. (BBC Worldwide Monitoring January 1, 1999; Source: Anatolia News Agency, Ankara).

London-based Muslim groups head defends Yemen kidnappings. (BBC Worldwide Monitoring, January 19, 1999; Source: Al-Jazeera TV, Doha, Qatar).

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France convicts 107 for aiding Islamic insurgents in Algeria, (Chicago Tribune, January 24, 1999).


German prosecutors conduct searches in Islamic terror probe, (AP Worldstream, February 9, 1999).


Jordanian paper criticizes Britain's "Harbouring" of Muslim "terrorism," (BBC Worldwide Monitoring, February 17, 1999; Source: Al-Dustur, Amman, Jordan).


A regular guy in Paraguay accused of being a Bin Laden "sleeper," (The Houston Chronicle, February 19, 1999).


Czech Republic: Islamic rebel allegedly behind terrorist threats [against US and British embassies in Prague], (BBC Worldwide Monitoring, February 26, 1999; Source: CTK News Agency, Prague).

UK: Muslims called on to wage Jihad against West (Periscope Daily Defense News Capsule, March 1, 1999).

Germany arrests Islamic leader as terror suspect, (AP Worldstream, March 25, 1999).


Uzbekistan cracks down on Islamic fundamentalism, (National Public Radio, April 13, 1999).

Islamic fundamentalist bombers arrested in Istanbul, (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, April 16, 1999).

Kazakh security official concerned about spread of Islamic fundamentalism, (BBC World Monitoring, April 18, 1999; Source: Interfax News Agency, Moscow).

France asks jail in Islamist case, (AP Worldstream, April 21, 1999).

Islamic extremists kill kidnapped Pakistani industrialist: police, (Agence France Presse, April 21, 1999).

Philippine military identifies new Muslim rebel leader, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, April 21, 1999; Source: The Manila Times website).

Military court [Amman, Jordan] sentences nine Muslim militants to jail, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, April 27, 1999; Source: AP Worldstream).

Suspected Hezbollah leader deported [from Brazil] to Iran, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, April 28, 1999; Source: ABC Color, Asuncion).

Twenty-two Islamic fundamentalists captured in southeastern Turkey, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, April 28, 1999; Source: Anatolia News Agency, Ankara).

Kazakh security official accuses foreigners of spreading Islamic extremism, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, May 12, 1999; Source: ITAR-TASS News Agency).


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Radical Islamic gang leader sentenced to nine years for Brussels shoot-out, (AP Worldstream, May 14, 1999).

Uzbek police arrest member of Islamic religious extremist organization, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, May 17, 1999; Source: Khalq Sozi, Tashkent).

Twenty-four Islamic fundamentalists captured in southern Turkey (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, May 19, 1999; Anatolia News Agency, Ankara).

Police [in Tashkent] arrest member of "Islamic religious extremist" organization, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, May 19, 1999; Source: Khalq Sozi, Tashkent).

Islamist held in Canada denies links with Bin Laden (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, May 19, 1999; Source: Al-Hayat, London).


Islamists threaten to kill all foreigners in Yemen, (Agence France Presse, May 25, 1999).

"Islamic extremists" kill four, toll from Algiers blast rises, (Agence France Presse, May 26, 1999).


Terrorist bombs kill three [in Algeria], army eliminates 20 Islamic fighters, (Agence France Presse, May 29, 1999).

Indian troops and Islamic militants in close combat in Kashmir (Agence France Presse, May 30, 1999).

Jordan hands over Algerian Islamist to France, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, June 11, 1999; Source: Al-Hayat).

Turkish police arrest 13 suspected pro-Islamic militants, (AP Worldstream, June 15, 1999).

Crackdown is ordered [in Bangladesh] on Islamic militants, (India Abroad, February 12, 1999).

Dagestan launches anti-Wahhabi campaign in response to terrorist attack, (BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, June 22, 1999; Source: NTV, Moscow).

Algerian hardliners threaten "bloodbath" in Belgium, (Agence France Presse, June 27, 1999).


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