



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM RESEARCH

A Centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Counter Terrorism Security Response Weekly Report

TRANSPORTATION 2 to 8 May 2011

It is widely accepted that transportation systems are significantly vulnerable to terrorist attacks and what could be observed at present is that security efforts are directed more towards aviation security rather than the whole transportation system as a whole. Trains, buses, rail systems and bus terminals, are easily accessible and their schedules and locations are advertised which makes them more liable to be targets for terrorist attacks. Governments should review their transportation security efforts to make them more holistic and ensure that mass transportation systems have enough security inspectors or agents to protect the public from the threat of terrorism.

This report covers weekly news and developments on threats and security responses to the Transportation sector in regions across the world. Highlighted regions indicate a significant event, response, or trend in those areas and are included in this report:

- Southeast Asia
- South Asia and Central Asia
- East Asia
- Oceania
- Middle East and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Europe
- Commonwealth of Independent States
- North America
- South America

South Asia and Central Asia

In India, attacks on rail transportation systems by Maoist rebels these past few years are largely to blame for the inefficiency of the sector.¹ It was reported that trains services coming from Mumbai and bound for east India are being rescheduled up to 10 hours without any official announcements or advise to passengers who have already bought

¹ "Fear of Maoists wreaks havoc with train schedules", Mumbai Mirror, 6 May 2011, <http://www.mumbaimirror.com/article/2/2011050620110506032743360dc4c15d6/Fear-of-Maoists-wreaks-havoc-with-train-schedules.html>

their tickets.² The rescheduling is done so that trains would reach junctions in the east before sunset and proceed only after sunrise- most rebel attacks occur before these timings.³ This practice became even more frequent after Maoist rebels attacked the Howrah-Kurla Gyaneshwari Express in West Mindapore district in West Bengal in 2010. The attack killed 70 passengers. Attacks against rail transportation is common in India as the sheer volume of this sector means that some areas are less protected than others making it easy targets for nefarious groups. (Tags: rail transportation, situational awareness)

North America

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that the Al Qaeda had plans of attacking US trains on the 10th anniversary of the 11 September 2001 attacks.⁴ The alleged plot was uncovered from information gathered by US Navy Seals during the raid at the hideout of Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan on 2 May 2011.⁵ (Tags: rail transportation, situational awareness)

² “Fear of Maoists wreaks havoc with train schedules”, Mumbai Mirror, 6 May 2011, <http://www.mumbaimirror.com/article/2/2011050620110506032743360dc4c15d6/Fear-of-Maoists-wreaks-havoc-with-train-schedules.html>

³ Ibid

⁴ “Feds: Al Qaeda hoped to attack trains Sept. 11”, Lohud, 7 May 2011, <http://www.lohud.com/article/20110507/NEWS01/105070346/Feds-Al-Qaida-hoped-attack-trains-Sept-11?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|News>

⁵ Ibid