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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	INL-00	NOTE-00
	PERC-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FRB-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-00	NIMA-00	OPR-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00
	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	CBP-00	BBG-00
	R-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SSD-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/000W				

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P 201653Z JAN 06  
 FM AMEMBASSY BERN  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1431  
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
 FBI WASHDC PRIORITY  
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
 USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART  
 B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6, B7(A)

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 000141

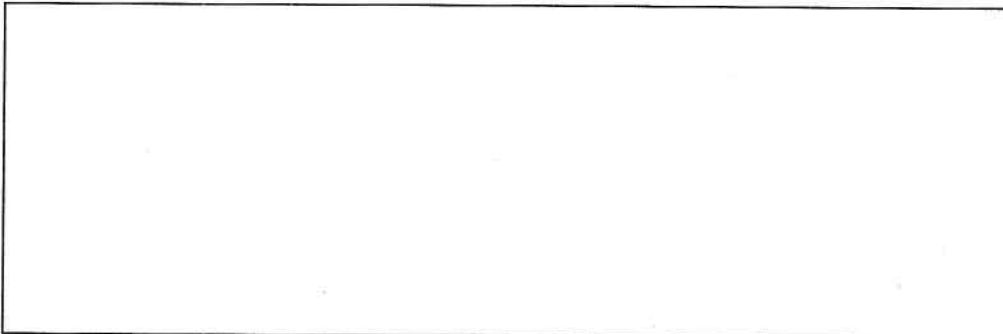
SIPDIS

STATE FOR S/CT, EB, EUR/AGS  
 FBI FOR OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS  
 TREASURY FOR OFAC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/20/2016  
 TAGS: PTER, PARM, ETTT, SZ  
 SUBJECT: SWISS COUNTERTERRORISM OVERVIEW - SCENESETTER FOR  
 FBI DIRECTOR MUELLER

REF: A. BERN 100  
 B. BERN 10  
 C. 2005 BERN 1865

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Eric Sandberg, Reasons 1.4 b/d

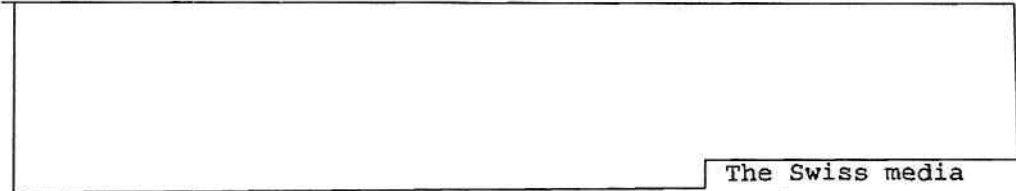


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: MARTIN MCLEAN  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 19 JAN 2031  
 DATE/CASE ID: 26 SEP 2011 201102842

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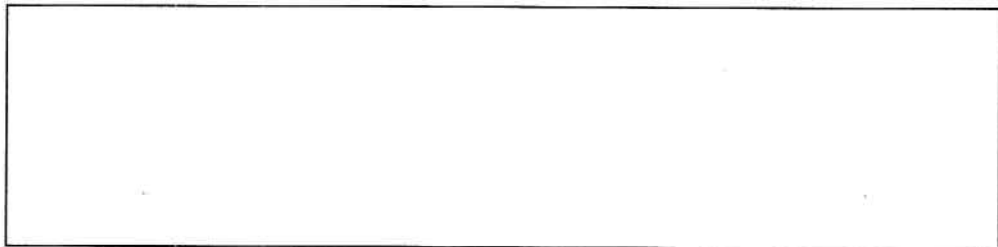
The Swiss media and individual members of Parliament have placed a greater focus on alleged USG wrongdoings in the War on Terror than on the terrorist threat itself. As for Liechtenstein, officials work very cooperatively with USG counterparts, as they seek to ameliorate their reputation as a money-laundering center. End Summary.

Anti-Terror Measures

2.(U) Switzerland implemented UN sanctions even prior to becoming a full member in 2002. Along with UN lists, the Swiss Economic and Finance ministries have drawn up their own list of around 44 individuals and entities connected with international terrorism (Al-Qaeda) or its financing. Swiss authorities have thus far blocked about 82 accounts totaling \$28 million (SFr 34 million) from individuals or companies linked to Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda under UN resolutions. The Swiss Federal Prosecutor also froze separately 41 accounts representing about \$28 million (SFr 34 millions) on the ground they were related to terrorist financing. Swiss officials estimate significant overlap between the US and UN lists. Switzerland signed and ratified all of the 12 UN anti-terrorism conventions as of September 2003.

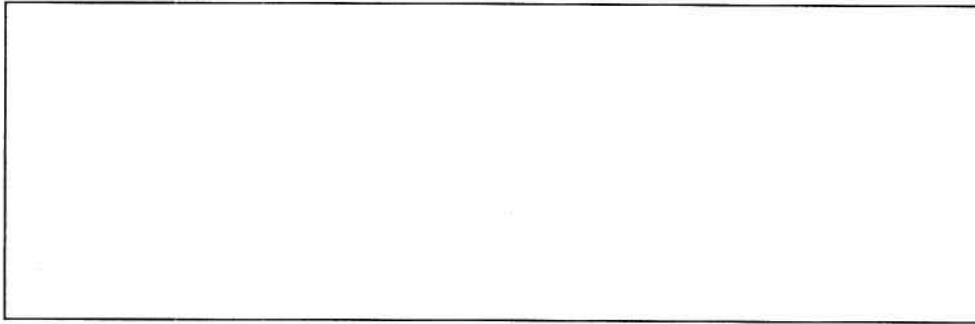
3.(U) For its part, Liechtenstein has frozen about \$145 thousand in Taliban/Al-Qaeda assets under UNSC Resolution 1267. The principality has taken notable strides to combat money laundering and other illegal activity since 1999; it joined the Egmont Group in 2001, signed a mutual legal assistance treaty with the United States in 2003, and was FATF certified that same year. Liechtenstein has also ratified all of the relevant UN conventions.

Bilateral Cooperation

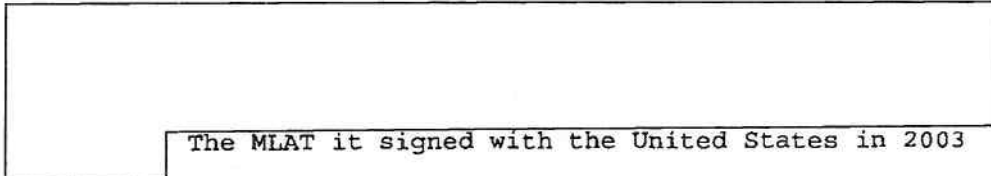


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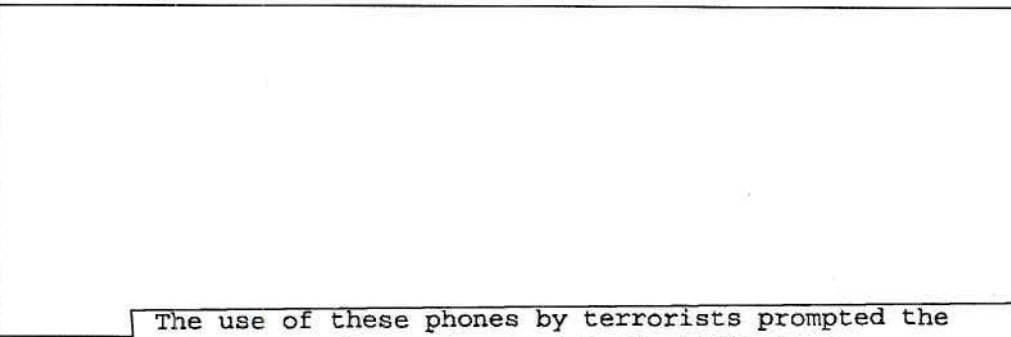


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The MLAT it signed with the United States in 2003

was the first of its kind for Liechtenstein. They make as much use of it as do our law enforcement agencies.

Significant counterterrorism investigations



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The use of these phones by terrorists prompted the Parliament two years later to require identification documents for Swisscom subscribers.

-- Al-Taqwa: In December 2001, Switzerland froze the assets of Al-Taqwa Management, a financial services firm accused by the United States of helping to fund Al-Qaeda. Swiss police raided Al-Taqwa's offices and froze the assets of its board members. In March 2005, managing director Youssef Nada lodged an appeal with the Federal Criminal Court to have charges dropped for lack of evidence of criminal wrongdoing. Nada acknowledged that he was an Islamic activist and member of the Muslim Brotherhood, but denied he was connected to terrorist financing. The Swiss Federal Prosecutor, frustrated by the lack of cooperation from Bahamian authorities regarding aspects of Al-Taqwa's activities there and otherwise pessimistic about attaining sufficient evidence

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to convict, dropped the case in June 2005. The Swiss government was required to pay legal compensation to Nada.

-- Yassin Qadi: After the United States named Saudi Arabian businessman Yassin Qadi a global terrorist and the UN placed him under sanctions, Switzerland froze \$21 million in Qadi's assets held in a Geneva bank.

[Redacted]

B1, B6, B7(A)

-- Riyadh Bombings: As a result of investigations following the May 2003 bombings in Riyadh, Swiss police in January 2004 arrested ten Muslims who were suspected of providing logistical support for the attacks. The remaining three suspects were released on their own recognizance in late 2005.

-- Madrid Bombings: In the fall of 2004, Spanish police identified Mohamed Achraf -- a rejected asylum seeker in Switzerland awaiting deportation -- as the suspected ringleader of a Salafist group "Martyrs of Morocco" that was plotting to bomb the Spanish High Court.

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Achraf was deported to Spain in January 2005.

-- Internet Incitement: In March, 2005, Swiss authorities arrested Malika Al-Aroed, charging her and her husband, Moez Garsallaoui, a "Tunisian fundamentalist," with "posting manuals for the manufacture of bombs," as well as "images of murder" on the website www.islamic-minibar.com. According to press reports, Al-Aroed had been acquitted in Brussels in 2003 of charges that she was involved in the attack on Afghan opposition leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. The presiding judge there had called her a "dangerous extremist." Another Islamist of Egyptian origin, Muhammed Al-Ghanam, was apprehended using the Geneva University server to spread extremist messages, but was not arrested.

-- Yeslam Bin Ladin: In August 2005, the Swiss Federal Court halted Swiss legal assistance to a French investigation of two companies owned by Yeslam Bin Ladin (Osama's half brother) after an appeal by the companies.

Muslims in Switzerland

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7. (U) The Muslim population in Switzerland has grown rapidly

in the last two decades, now reaching around 310,000, or 4.3 percent of the Swiss population. The majority of these, roughly 200,000, come from former Yugoslavia and tend to be moderate or secular in their views. Another 70,000 are of Turkish background, have long been in Switzerland, and are also moderate. Only the North African population, largely from Morocco, are seen as a possible source of Islamic extremism. There are no Islamic political parties in Switzerland; the Muslim population is divided along ethnic lines. There are only two mosque buildings in Switzerland (in Zurich and Geneva), but over a hundred makeshift Islamic centers operate.

8. (SBU) While Swiss authorities recognize that the Muslim population could contain extremists, they rate the threat from right-wing Neo-nazis and left-wing Swiss political extremists as being much higher. Swiss authorities believe that those Islamists present consider the country a "refuge" rather than a "place to carry out operations." A Special Report on Extremism issued late last year maintains that almost all radical groups represented in Switzerland are Sunni organizations whose primary goals are the establishment of Islamic governments in their homelands.

The principal groups in this category are En Nahdha, the Tunisian Islamic Front, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), Hamas, Hizbollah and Al-Takfir wal-Hijra.

9. (C) The best known Islamists in Switzerland are the Ramadans, Tariq and Hani, of the Islamic Center in Geneva. Tariq Ramadan, formerly a professor of philosophy and grandson of Muslim Brotherhood founder Hassan al-Bana, is well-known throughout Europe.

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[REDACTED] Offered a teaching position at Notre Dame University in 2004, his visa was revoked by DHS, and he withdrew a subsequent application. The UK Government has included Ramadan in an advisory body to assist in their outreach efforts with its Muslim minority.

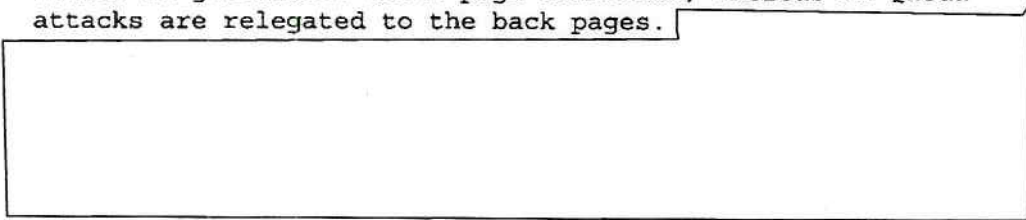
10. (U) Hani Ramadan was suspended from his duties as a public school teacher in the fall of 2002, following the publication of an article in the French newspaper "Le Monde," in which he spoke out in favor of the stoning of adulterers. He was dismissed in 2003, following an administrative investigation, but he successfully appealed the decision. However,

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following a second investigation, the Geneva Cantonal Government confirmed Ramadan's dismissal and removed him from the cantonal payroll in December 2004. In October 2005, the Swiss Justice Ministry denied a work permit to a Turkish Imam invited to work at the Islamic Center in Geneva, due to the Imam's extremist views.

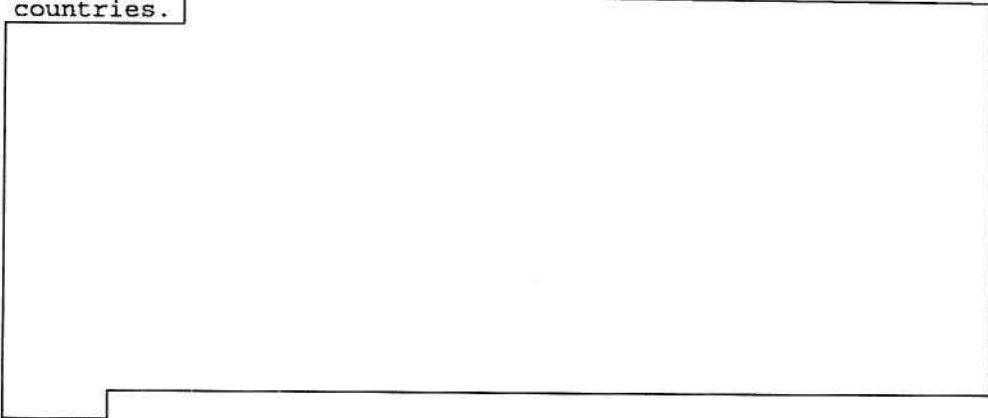
Swiss Media Push-back on the War on Terrorism  
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11. (C) Since the Washington Post claimed in early November 2005 that the United States was operating hidden prisons in Europe, the Swiss media has gone full bore in identifying USG sins, real and imagined. Any news on Guantanamo or Abu Ghraib is guaranteed front-page treatment, whereas Al-Qaeda attacks are relegated to the back pages.



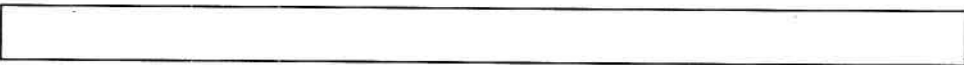
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12. (C) Recently, a Swiss tabloid published a leaked Swiss intelligence report of an intercept of an Egyptian government fax. The Swiss Federal Council has condemned the leak and its subsequent publication, and the government has launched administrative and criminal investigations into the matter. The intercepted Egyptian fax claimed that the Egyptian government knew of 23 Iraqi and Afghani prisoners transferred by the USG to prisons in Romania and other Eastern European countries.



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Comment  
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Swiss opinion  
leaders among the Parliament and media exhibit little evident  
concern about the terrorist threat to Switzerland, perhaps  
contributing to their tendency to focus their criticism on  
the USG reaction, rather than the initial threat itself.

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