



Al-Qaeda's Threat to North Africa and Europe

基地组织对北非和欧洲的威胁

Alarm bells have been ringing all across northern Africa and southern Europe after the suicide bombing in Algiers (and Morocco—and again, today). This spread of terrorist tactics will never be halted by military means alone, but with progress in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan, argues Patrick Seale.

The suicide bomber who blew himself up in central Algiers on 11 April, killing 33 people and wounding over 2000, and *ripping apart¹ the facade² of the 8-storey seat³ of government, has set alarm-bells ringing furiously⁴ across southern Europe and North Africa.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by a radical Islamic group, which merged with Al-Qaeda last September, and now calls itself Al-Qaeda pour le Maghreb Islamique (AQMI). It is said to be headed by *a certain⁵ Abou Moussab, an engineer and explosive expert, who learned his trade⁶ in Afghanistan.

The group, formerly known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), is said to comprise about 1,000 fighters, but to have affiliates⁷ abroad that provide recruits, finance and logistics⁸. It has declared that its enemies are the Algerian authorities and the West. France in particular is a prime target, judged too supportive of the Algerian regime of President Abd al-Aziz Bouteflika.

With less than a week to the first round of the presidential elections, which will bring to an end President Jacques Chirac's 12-year rule, France is *on full alert⁹. Thousands of extra police have been sent to guard sensitive sites such as nuclear power stations, transport links and water reservoirs, as well as political meetings in all the major towns. Spain and Italy are ►

在阿尔及尔发生自杀式爆炸(还有摩洛哥——并且今日再次发生)后,警钟响彻了北非和南欧。帕特里克·希尔认为,这种恐怖主义战术行动的扩散仅靠军事手段绝对难以制止,除非巴勒斯坦、伊拉克和阿富汗等地区的情况有所进展。

自杀式爆炸者4月11日在阿尔及尔市中心引爆炸弹,造成33人死亡,2000多人受伤,8层政府大楼的整个立面被炸裂。这次爆炸事件在整个南欧和北非敲响了凄厉的警钟。

声称对此次事件负责的是一个激进的伊斯兰组织。该组织于去年9月并入基地组织,现自称为“伊斯兰马格里布基地”(AQMI)。据说,该组织由一个叫 Abou Moussab 的人所领导,他是一名工程师和爆炸专家,其技术系在阿富汗所学。

该组织的前身叫做“萨拉菲斯特呼声与战斗组织”(GSPC),据说由大约1000名战士组成,在海外还设有分支机构提供招募的新兵、经费和后勤服务。它宣称阿尔及利亚当局和西方世界为其敌人。法国尤为主要目标,因为法国被认定对阿齐兹·布特弗利卡总统所领导的阿尔及利亚政权过于支持。

现在距法国总统大选的第一轮选举还有不到一个星期的时间,这次选举将结束雅克·希拉克总统12年的执政期。在此背景下,法国已处于全面戒备状态。当局补充了成千上万的警力守卫核电站、交通枢纽和水库等敏感地带,也对在所有主要城市举行的政治集会加强了保卫。西班牙和 ►

also taking extra security precautions.

Algiers is reeling¹⁰ from the shock of the attack because it has brought back nightmarish memories of the savage war of the 1990s, waged between the army and the Islamists, when well over 100,000 people died and 17,000 disappeared. Tens of thousands of Algeria's professional middle class—the best and brightest—emigrated to escape the violence.

Some tentative¹¹ conclusions may be drawn from the latest attacks which, as well as hitting the main government building—a symbolic target since it was formerly the headquarters of the French colonial administration—also demolished a police station on the road to the new international airport.

Suicide bombings are an Al-Qaeda trademark, and seem to have been imported from Iraq. They had only been used once before in Algeria in the mid-1990s. They are alarming evidence of what are believed to be Al-Qaeda's ambition to set up bases in North and Sub-Saharan¹² Africa and to unify jihadist forces in a vast region stretching from Mauritania to the Horn of Africa. The Algerian bombings came a day after three suicide bombers blew themselves up in Morocco to evade capture by the police.

The bombers—and others like them—seem to be young men, inflamed by television pictures of the wars in Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan, and driven to hopelessness and despair by unemployment, injustice and humiliation in a country where Islamists are excluded from political life and the ruling party and the army have a stranglehold¹³ on power.

Their heroes are said to be Osama Ben Laden, Al-Qaeda's iconic figurehead¹⁴, and Hassan Nasrallah, the charismatic¹⁵ leader of Lebanon's Shiite resistance movement, who alone are credited with *standing up to¹⁶ the West, to Israel and to the hate-figure of US President George W. Bush. Many of these deeply alienated youths try to find their way across the Mediterranean to ►

意大利也采取了额外的安全预防措施。

阿尔及尔为这次袭击所震撼，因为它把人们带回到对上个世纪90年代那场野蛮战争的恶梦般的回忆中。在军队和伊斯兰分子之间进行的那场战争中，10多万人丧生，17000人失踪。为逃离暴力，数十万最优秀、最富有才智的阿尔及利亚中产阶级专家移居国外。

最近发生的袭击不仅击中了政府大楼——这是一个具有象征意义的目标，因为该建筑曾是法国殖民政府的总部——还摧毁了通往新国际机场路边的一个警察局，从中可以得出一些不确定的结论。

自杀式爆炸是基地组织的标志，并且似乎是从伊拉克引进的。在阿尔及利亚，此类事件以前只在上世纪90年代中期发生过一次。此次袭击事件的发生，令人警觉地表明，基地组织被认为怀有在北非和次撒哈拉地区建立基地，以与分布在从毛里塔尼亚到非洲之角的广泛地区的圣战势力联合起来的野心。就在阿尔及利亚爆炸事件发生的头一天，为躲避警察追捕，3名自杀式爆炸袭击者在摩洛哥引爆了身上的炸弹。

爆炸者——以及其他类似人员——似乎都是一些年轻人。他们的所为是被电视里有关伊拉克、巴勒斯坦、黎巴嫩和阿富汗战争的画面所激怒，同时被失业、不公正和羞辱所造成的无望及绝望所驱使。在他们的国家里，伊斯兰教徒被排斥在政治生活之外，权力为执政党和军队所牢牢掌握。

据说他们心中的英雄是被奉为偶像的基地组织名义首领奥萨玛·本·拉登，以及黎巴嫩什叶派抵抗运动极具性格魅力的领袖人物哈桑·纳斯鲁拉，因为只有他们才配称得上敢于面对西方、以色列和令人痛恨的美国总统乔治·W.布什。这些被极度边缘化的年轻人中，有许多试图从地中海到 ►

1. rip apart 把...撕破；使裂开

2. facade [fə'su:d] n. (建筑物的) 正面，临街正面

3. seat [si:t] n. 场所，所在地

4. furiously [ˈfjuəriəsli] ad. 强烈地，紧张地；激烈地，猛烈地

5. a certain 某个叫做...的人

6. trade [treɪd] n. 职业；行当；手艺

7. affiliate [ə'fɪliət] n. 附属机构；分会；分公司

8. logistics [lə'dʒɪstiks] n. 后勤工作

9. on full alert 处于全面戒备状态

10. reel [ri:l] vi. (受到打击时) 站立不稳，打趔趄；受到震撼

11. tentative [ˈtentətɪv] a. (凭) 推测的

12. sub-saharan [ˌsʌbsə'hɑ:rən] a. (非洲) 撒哈拉沙漠以南的

13. stranglehold [ˈstræŋɡl.həʊld] n. 压制；钳制；束缚

14. figurehead [ˈfɪɡəhed] n. 有名无实的首脑，傀儡

15. charismatic [ˌkærɪzˈmætɪk] a. 能吸引人们效忠的；有魅力的

16. stand up to 勇敢地面对；抵抗

Europe—often risking their lives in unsafe boats—but this just at a time when most European countries are *throwing up¹⁷ defences against illegal immigration.

The terrorist attacks are a sharp personal setback for President Bouteflika who, in 2005, initiated a policy of national reconciliation. Its *centre piece¹⁸ was a general amnesty¹⁹ for Islamic militants who gave up the struggle, repented²⁰, and rejoined civil society. Some 300 fighters surrendered and a further 3,000 were released from jail. This policy is now being criticised as too lenient²¹. Hard-liners, especially among the Algerian military, are advocating a return to the former policy of 'eradication'.

Algeria's war against Islamic militants is not yet over. Earlier this month the army launched a vast *mopping up²² operation in Kabylie and other areas close to the capital. Seven soldiers died in an ambush²³ on 7 April.

The United States has been deeply involved in the struggle against Islamist groups in North and Sub-Saharan Africa. Robert Gates, the new US Defence Secretary, has announced the creation of a new African command—AFCOM—to develop military cooperation with countries of the region and to mount operations when necessary.

US Special Forces are already training African forces in several countries. In 2005, the Trans-Saharan Counter-Terrorism Initiative (TSCTI) was launched to extend military cooperation to countries of the Maghreb²⁴ and West Africa.

Its main objectives are to root out Al-Qaeda from safe-havens²⁵ in the region and to protect oil fields and off shore platforms²⁶ in such oil producers as Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Equatorial Guinea—and Algeria itself.

The problem is that militant Islamic groups across the world are unlikely to be defeated by military action alone. To *dry up²⁷ recruits to their cause, real progress would need to be made in ending US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and in ending Israel's siege and occupation of Palestinian territories, which is a major source of bitterness and rage among Muslims everywhere. ►

达欧洲寻找出路——往往要冒着生命危险乘坐不安全的小船——而此时正是大多数欧洲国家匆忙建立防范非法移民设施的时候。

此次发生的恐怖袭击对布特弗利卡总统个人来说,是一个极大的挫折。布特弗利卡总统 2005 年开始推行民族和解政策。其核心是对那些放弃斗争、悔改自新和重归公民社会的伊斯兰武装分子实行大赦。当时约有 300 名武装分子投降,另有 3000 名被从监狱释放。这一政策如今被批评为过于宽大。强硬派——特别是阿尔及利亚军界的强硬派——主张重归之前的“根除”政策。

阿尔及利亚针对伊斯兰武装分子的战争还没有结束。本月早些时候,军队在卡拜

列及靠近首都的其他地区发动了一次大规模的扫荡行动。在 4 月 7 日的一场伏击战中,有 7 名士兵丧生。

美国已在很大程度上介入到针对北非和次撒哈拉地区伊斯兰组织的斗争中。新任美国国防部长罗伯特·盖茨已宣布成立一个新的非洲司令部 (AFCOM), 以与该地区的国家开展军事合作,并在必要的时候展开行动。

美国的特种部队已在几个国家培训非洲部队。2005 年启动的“泛撒哈拉反恐倡议”(TSCTI)旨在将军事合作扩展到马格里布和西部非洲的国家。

它的主要目的是将基地组织从该地区的安全港中铲除,并保护尼日利亚、加蓬、安哥拉、赤道几内亚和阿尔及利亚自身等产油国的油田和近海的海上钻井平台。

问题在于,仅靠军事行动,全世界的伊斯兰武装组织不太可能被打败。要停止向他们的事业输送新鲜血液,就要在结束美国在伊拉克和阿富汗的战争、结束以色列对巴勒斯坦领土的包围和占领方面取得实实在在的进展,这些问题是各地穆斯林人痛苦和仇恨的主要根源。►





学院大楼内冷酷地蓄意杀死了 30 多人,而后开枪自杀。(Chicago Tribune Apr. 17, 2007)

President Bush on Tuesday vetoed a war-spending bill. The spending bill, which Congress passed last week, funds military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, but it also calls for the withdrawal of U.S. troops beginning in October, with the goal of getting all U.S. combat forces out of Iraq by the end of March 2008. Bush and his Republican allies in Congress call the withdrawal timetable contained in the bill an admission of defeat. 布什总统于周二(5月1日)否决了一项战争拨款法案。上周在国会通过的该项法案是为在阿富汗和伊拉克的军事行动提供经费,但它同时也要求美国自10月起开始撤军,目标是到2008年3月底之前将全部战斗部队撤出伊拉克。布什及其国会中的共和党盟友称法案中包含的撤军时间表无异于是自认失败。(CNN May 2, 2007)



Nicolas Sarkozy, the son of a Hungarian immigrant, was elected president of France on Sunday, promising a new generation of leadership to transform the country, restore its self-respect and reinvigorate ties with the United States and Europe. Sarkozy, a member of the ruling party, defeated Socialist Segolene Royal, who waged a determined battle to become France's first elected female head of state, by a 53 percent to 47 percent vote, according to final results. Voter turnout was a near-record 84 percent. 匈牙利移民之子尼古拉·萨科齐周日(5月6日)当选法国总统,其承诺将作为新一代领导者领导法国改变旧貌、恢复自信及重新修补与美国和欧洲的关系。本次选举的最终结果表明,来自执政党的萨科齐以53%比47%的得票率击败社会党候选人塞戈莱纳·罗雅尔,后者曾决意力争成为法国首位选举产生的女性国家元首。选民的投票率为84%,接近历史最高点。(The Washington Post May 6, 2007)

(仲剑锐 摘译)

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(郭文松 译自 <http://www.middle-east-online.com> Apr. 16, 2007)

17. throw up 匆匆建造

18. centre piece (政策、纲领等的) 主要特点

19. amnesty [ˈæmnəsti] n. 赦免; 大赦

20. repent [riˈpent] vi. (尤指违背宗教教规后) 懊悔, 后悔

21. lenient [ˈliːnjənt] a. 宽大的, 厚道的; 仁慈的; 温和的

22. mop up [军] 对(地区等)进行扫荡; 肃清

23. ambush [ˈæmbʊʃ] n. 埋伏; 伏击

24. Maghreb [ˈmægrəb] 马格里布 北非一地区 (濒临地中海, 包括阿特拉斯山地和摩洛哥、阿尔及利亚、突尼斯、利比亚等国的沿海平原)

25. safe-haven n. 安全的地方; 避难所

26. platform [ˈplæt,fɔ:m] n. (海上石油或天然气的) 钻井平台

27. dry up (使) 枯竭; (使) 停止; 停止提供