The Daily Egyptian, January 06, 2010

Daily Egyptian Staff
BUFFING UP THE REC
Doug Sitz, of Missouri Floor, finishes buffing one of the racquetball courts at the Recreation Center Tuesday. The renovated courts should be completed by the beginning of the spring semester, according to Rierson posted around the building.

Obama says 'dots' not connected in attack

Darlene Superville
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama asserted on Tuesday that the U.S. government had enough information to foil the attempted bombing on a Christmas Day airline flight but intelligence agencies failed to connect the dots.

Obama called that unacceptable and said, "I will not tolerate it." The accused attacker, a Nigerian man who claimed ties to al-Qaida, was subdued by other passengers and airline crew members after he illegally attempted to detonate explosive hidden under his clothes.

The president, speaking after a meeting with his Cabinet and national security team, declared, "We have to do better and we will do better. And we will do it quickly." Obama also said he was suspending the transfer of Guantanamo detainees from Yemen, because the Nigerian man has claimed to have been acting on instructions from al-Qaida operatives in that country.

Nearly half of the 24 passengers held at Guantanamo are from Yemen. But Obama reiterated his vow to eventually close the prison camp in Cuba.

Obama said the failed attack exposed a "potentially dangerous" security failure.

He spoke after a White House meeting with the high-ranking government officials charged with carrying out two reviews he has ordered. Obama spelled out recent changes in security protocols for airline flight and changes to the government's watchlist of suspected terrorists.

"Obama told reporters the security lapse didn't have to do with the collection of information but with the failure to integrate and analyze what was there," the White House said. Obama said the intelligence community failed to connect those dots which would have placed the suspect on the no-fly list. This was not a failure to collect intelligence, he said, "it was a failure to integrate and understand the intelligence that we already have."

As for the prison for terror suspects in Cuba, he said, "Make no mistake, we will close Guantanamo prison." Obama said Guantanamo, he said, "was an explicit rationale for the formation of al-Qaida operating in Yemen."
Job searching might be a monstrous task, but we can help
Yemen shows frictions with US over terror fight

Lee Keath
The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Yemen showed signs of friction Tuesday with the United States over the fight against al-Qaida, initiated in the horn of America under control, in the U.S. Embassy in Sana’a’s second two-day closure.

Even as Yemeni forces have been bombing al-Qaida hideouts in recent days, concerns by senior regime officials appear to reflect fears that Washington wants to snatch the land in 2011 before the elections.

The government is deeply sensitive about appearing to be following an American lead before a population where distrust of the United States is high.

The Yemeni complaint underscores how Washington and its allies have to step carefully as they work closer with the Yemeni government against al-Qaida.

The government has little control over the capital, leaving a power vacuum in large swathes of the mountains, impoverished nations.

Laidy armed tribes hold sway in many areas, and some just allowed al-Qaida fighters to take refuge there.

The U.S. Embassy in Sana’a was re-opened Tuesday after the two-day closure, saying Yemeni forces had sealed the feared threat.

The British Embassy, which had also closed Sunday, resumed operations except for its consular and visa sections.

Other Western embassies maintained heightened security Tuesday, including the French and Czech embassies, which were operational but closed to the public, and the Spanish and Austrian embassies, which were requiring the number of visitors.

The U.S. Embassy said in a statement on its Web site that “sensational counter-terrorism operations undertaken by government of Yemen security forces Jan. 4 north of the capital have addressed a specific area of concern,” allowing the facility’s reopening.

It said the threats of terrorist attacks against American interests remained high and urged its citizens in Yemen to be “vigilant and take prudent security measures.”

On Monday, Yemeni security officials killed two suspected al-Qaida militants in a clash north-east of Sana’a.

In addition, Yemeni forces arrested five others in the capital and the western region of Hodeida in recent days, the Interior Ministry said.

However, several Yemeni security and government officials privately expressed anger over the embassy closures, saying they gave the impression American security agencies were not able to protect foreign missions. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The Interior Ministry on Tuesday showed signs of indignation, touting the advanced training of security forces guarding embassies.

“Nothing to fear from any threats of terrorist attack,” it said in a statement. “Security is good in the capital and the provinces and there is no need for the lives of any foreigner or foreign embassy.”

Security forces “have imposed a securityordon around al-Qaida elements everywhere they are present and the security forces are observing and pursuing them around the clock,” the ministry said.

The U.S. has dramatically stepped up counterterrorism aid to Yemen, and President Barack Obama over the weekend promised a close partnership with Sana’a to fight the al-Qaida offshore in the country. The group is blamed in the Christmas attempt to bomb a U.S. passenger jet.

Yemen’s government has enthusiastically agreed the aid and has vowed to act against the group, carrying out its heaviest strikes against its hidebound in years last month, with U.S. help.

However, Yemeni officials have repeatedly said Western aid should be limited to training and funding counterterrorism forces, apparently worried that Washington will try to take a major role in directing the fight. They have repeatedly shown discontent over suggestions Yemen cannot handle the job itself.

On Monday, Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi dismissed warnings by some in the United States that Yemen could spiral into greater terrorism like Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“Yemen is different and cannot be compared to Afghanistan and Pakistan,” al-Qirbi told journalists during a visit to Qatar, according to Yemeni media.

“Terrorism it international concern over al-Qaida in Yemen, and Yemen is able to deal with these groups,” he said. “But it is a need of help in training and propelling its counterterrorism forces, as well as economic aid because the least, the problem is economic.”

Over the weekend, the head of Yemen’s National Security Agency, Ali al-Araidi, played down the threat of terrorism in his country, “Yemen is not a refuge for al-Qaida, as some claim. These are exaggerations.”
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U.S. government moving to deport longtime legal residents with criminal convictions

Ken McLaughlin - The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Roger Simmnie is no angel. Twenty years ago, the Mountain View, Calif. rapier was convicted of resisting arrest and drug possession. Fifteen years after that, he was found guilty of battering his girlfriend. Times have changed, he's been convicted of drunken driving.

But it's what he didn't do that got him locked up recently in the Santa Clara County Jail, Simmnie, a South by birth who fought in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine, never applied for U.S. citizenship.

Now he finds himself facing deportation as one of nearly 400,000 immigrants ‘incarcerated' in 2009 by the U.S. government. A growing number of conditions that people who have been in this country as legal permanent residents are learning that run-ins with the law, even minor ones, can lead to life-changing, one-way tickets to homeland they no longer know.

A report from Human Rights Watch and the National Immigration Forum found that out of 5 to 7 million 'criminal aliens' deported from 1997 to 2007 had been in the country legally. Many like Simmnie have lived here and contributed to America for decades. "I'm living in limbo," said Simmnie, 61, whose friends raised thousands of dollars to hire a lawyer to fight his deportation.

Simmnie apologizes for the drunken driving, but he denies he was guilty in the other cases.

After leaving Great Britain with his family as a child and settling in Sunnyvale, Calif., Simmnie joined the Marines as a teen and did two tours in Vietnam. But he never became a U.S. citizen, in part because his Scottish father felt his son should remain "true to his heritage." After Simmnie, longtime San Jose residents Hassan Abpikar and Victor Simmie, both of whom have lived through similar predicaments, said:

Abpikar was freed in early November and released in the spring found that he roosted 35 false "good conduct" merger on ICE to house his prisoners.

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