

# U.S. Joint Forces Command

## Global Current Operations Media Summary

### *Operations Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom/Noble Eagle*

Current as of March 8, 2010

➤ **New Developments**

- **Pakistani Intelligence Sources Say Californian Al Qaeda Member Arrested.** Pakistani intelligence sources in Karachi said Sunday that security forces in the southern port city have arrested Adam Gadahn, a Southern California native who became a top propagandist for Al Qaeda and is wanted by the U.S. on treason charges. A U.S. counter-terrorism official said later that the CIA and other agencies "are looking into reports" of Gadahn's capture, but could not immediately confirm his arrest. Some reports said the man arrested may have been another American-born Al Qaeda operative. If the capture of Gadahn was confirmed, it would appear the strongest signal yet that Pakistan has decided to ratchet up its cooperation with the U.S. in hunting down Islamic militants. ([Los Angeles Times](#) – see attached)
- **In Iraq, A Day Of Votes, Violence.** On a day that began with the thundering explosion of insurgent mortar rounds and ended with outbursts of celebratory gunfire by hopeful political activists, millions of Iraqis voted Sunday to elect lawmakers who will rule the country for years as U.S. forces withdraw. Voter turnout appeared to be modest, as many Iraqis chose to stay home out of fear and a sense that democracy has brought them more misery than blessings. Still, many voters said they went to the polls despite their disdain for Iraq's political establishment and their deep apprehension about the future of a vibrant democracy saddled by the weakness of its institutions. U.S. officials hailed the vote as a milestone that they hope will allow a smooth reduction of their country's footprint this summer. U.S. troops invaded Iraq in March 2003. ([Washington Post](#) – see attached)
- **79 Dead After Rival Afghanistan Insurgent Groups Clash.** Bloody clashes between competing factions of Afghanistan's insurgency left up to 79 people dead, officials said Monday, including 19 civilians in a lawless part of the country beyond the reach of government or NATO forces. Fighting in a remote stretch of Baghlan province broke out on Saturday, local police said, and continued through the weekend – although it was not clear what triggered the violence. Most of the dead were fighters aligned with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a warlord once bankrolled by America during the anti-Russian resistance, the provincial police chief Mohammad Kabir Andarabi said. ([Times of London](#) – see attached)
- **Suicide Bomber Rams A Pakistan Building.** A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden truck into the main gate of a safe house used for interrogation by the Pakistani military in the city of Lahore early Monday. The explosion killed at least seven people, including guards, the police said, and flattened the building. More than 30 people were wounded in the explosion, according to early reports from a nearby hospital where the victims were taken. The blast was heard across the city, witnesses said. Rescue workers dug through the rubble of the destroyed building looking for people trapped in the debris. A number of schools and religious institutions, including the Quran Academy, are located in the neighborhood known as Model Town. A number of prominent politicians, including a former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, live in Model Town. ([New York Times](#) – see attached)
- **Gunfire At Yemen hospital, Clashes In South.** An al Qaeda suspect tried to shoot his way out of hospital in Yemen's capital on Sunday and killed a guard, while security forces and separatists clashed in the south of the country with five wounded. The suspected al Qaeda militant snatched a gun from one of two intelligence agents guarding his room and opened fire, a hospital administrator said. One of the agents was killed and the other wounded, a security official said. A Defense Ministry website identified the suspect, who was apprehended, as a German citizen of Somali origin. More gunmen opened fire at the hospital gate as the al Qaeda suspect tried to escape, the administrator added. Yemen became a major Western security concern after the Yemen-based regional arm of al Qaeda claimed responsibility for a failed attempt to bomb a U.S.-bound plane in December. ([Reuters](#))

➤ **Military Coverage**

- **Gates Visits Afghanistan To Meet With Karzai.** Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates arrived on an unannounced visit to Afghanistan on Monday morning to meet with President Hamid Karzai and NATO commanders, and to review plans for a major American-led offensive into the Taliban heartland of Kandahar. Mr. Gates gave no date for the anticipated push into the city of Kandahar,

which has a population of 900,000 and is the capital of Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan, but he said that “there is some very hard fighting, very hard days ahead.” Administration officials have only said that the campaign, a central mission for the 30,000 extra forces that President Obama has ordered to Afghanistan, will occur sometime this year. ([New York Times](#) – see attached)

➤ **Homeland Security**

- **Obama To Nominate Ex-Army General To Head TSA, Sources Say.** President Obama has tapped a former Army general to lead the Transportation Security Administration, sources have told CNN. Obama plans to nominate Robert A. Harding, a retired major general with 33 years in the Army, to become the TSA administrator, sources said. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano will announce the nomination Monday with Harding by her side, according to one administration official. In September, Obama nominated Erroll Southers, a Los Angeles airport police department official, to head the agency. But Republican Sen. Jim DeMint, R-South Carolina, spearheaded GOP efforts to block the nomination based on concerns Southers would unionize airport screeners. ([CNN](#))

➤ **World Developments**

- **Hundreds Feared Dead In Nigerian Violence.** Ethnic violence returned to the central Nigerian city of Jos on Sunday when hundreds of villagers were reportedly killed in an apparent reprisal attack following January’s deadly clashes, prompting Goodluck Jonathan, the acting president, to place security forces on red alert. Between 200 and 300 residents of Dogo Nahawa, a village just south of Jos, and other nearby settlements in Plateau State were killed by mobs armed with guns and machetes in the early hours, according to Jos residents, local officials and media reports. Hundreds died in fighting between ethnic groups six weeks ago in and around Jos, a conflict-racked city that lies between the predominantly Muslim north and the mainly Christian south of Africa’s most populous nation. ([London Financial Times](#) – see attached)
- **Cyberwar Declared As China Hunts For The West’s Intelligence Secrets.** Urgent warnings have been circulated throughout NATO and the European Union for secret intelligence material to be protected from a recent surge in cyberwar attacks originating in China. The attacks have also hit government and military institutions in the United States, where analysts said that the West had no effective response and that EU systems were especially vulnerable because most cyber security efforts were left to member states. NATO diplomatic sources told The Times: “Everyone has been made aware that the Chinese have become very active with cyber-attacks and we’re now getting regular warnings from the office for internal security.” The sources said that the number of attacks had increased significantly over the past 12 months, with China among the most active players. ([Times of London](#) – see attached)
- **Canada To Ban Militant Somali Islamist Group.** Canada will list al Shabaab – a Somali-based Islamist militant group which recently pledged allegiance to al Qaeda – as a “terrorist group” to prevent it from operating or seeking funds, the Canadian government said on Sunday. Canada said it took action after it received reports from the Somali community that Al Shabaab has attempted to radicalize and recruit young Canadians. The listing prohibits Canadians from knowingly dealing with assets Al Shabaab owns or controls. It also makes it a criminal offense to knowingly participate in, contribute to, or facilitate certain activities of the group. Britain’s interior minister announced a similar move this month. Western security agencies say Somalia, which has not had an effective central government for nearly two decades, has become a safe haven for Islamist militants. ([Reuters](#))
- **France Claims Biggest Haul Of Pirates Off Somalia.** French frigate Nivose has seized 35 pirates in three days off of Somalia, the French military said on Sunday, claiming “the biggest seizure” so far in the vital shipping lane. In the latest of four operations since Friday, eleven pirates were intercepted on Sunday with the help of other ships and a Spanish maritime patrol airplane participating in the European Atalanta anti-piracy mission. Four mother ships and six smaller boats had been seized in the four operations since Friday, the French military said. The European Union launched its Atalanta mission in December 2008 in a bid to secure one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, joining forces with U.S.-led and NATO missions, as well as other warships from other naval powers. ([Google/](#)AFP)

\* AP = Associated Press    UPI = United Press International    KR = Knight Ridder

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## **Pakistani Intelligence Sources Say Californian Al Qaeda Member Arrested**

*Los Angeles Times*

**March 8, 2010**

Pakistani intelligence sources in Karachi said Sunday that security forces in the southern port city have arrested Adam Gadahn, a Southern California native who became a top propagandist for Al Qaeda and is wanted by the U.S. on treason charges. A U.S. counter-terrorism official said later that the CIA and other agencies "are looking into reports" of Gadahn's capture, but could not immediately confirm his arrest. Some reports said the man arrested may have been another American-born Al Qaeda operative. If the capture of Gadahn was confirmed, it would appear the strongest signal yet that Pakistan has decided to ratchet up its cooperation with the U.S. in hunting down Islamic militants.

In the last two months, Pakistani security forces have seized several top Afghan Taliban commanders, including the insurgency's second in command, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. Baradar's arrest and the capture of other Taliban leaders also occurred in Karachi, which increasingly has become a favored sanctuary for Pakistani and Afghan Taliban leaders and militants. Gadahn's arrest took place on the city's outskirts, intelligence sources said, on a highway near where Baradar was believed to have been arrested. Gadahn's latest video, posted on extremist websites Sunday, urged Muslims serving in the American military to draw inspiration from U.S. Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the Army psychiatrist accused of shooting to death 13 people at the Ft. Hood military base just outside Killeen, Texas, on Nov. 5.

Pakistani sources said Gadahn was arrested in a pickup truck with a driver Saturday night. The sources requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on such issues. Pakistani police and intelligence agents collaborated on the arrest after receiving information about the suspect's whereabouts, but the sources would not say where the information came from. Gadahn, 31, is on the FBI's list of most wanted terrorists, and is the first American since the World War II era to be charged with treason. The U.S. government has offered a \$1-million reward for information leading to Gadahn's arrest.

Gadahn was raised on a goat farm in southwest Riverside County. As a teenager, he became profoundly influenced by two radical Muslims linked to a mosque in Orange County. By 1995, Gadahn had converted to Islam, and by 1998 he had moved to Pakistan, where he trained in Al Qaeda camps and later met the terrorist network's leader, Osama bin Laden. "We welcome the arrest," said Salam Al-Marayati, who heads the Muslim Public Affairs Council in Los Angeles, on Sunday afternoon. "This is one step closer to defeating Al Qaeda and defeating the mentality of death and despair, which is alien to Islam."

Al-Marayati said Gadahn ended up under the influence of the wrong Muslims and has used the religion to make political statements for Al Qaeda. "I don't think that what he has been saying has any merit in Islam," he said. "It is a political ploy." In 2006, a federal grand jury in Orange County indicted Gadahn for allegedly providing material support to Al Qaeda by appearing in videos on five different occasions between Oct. 27, 2004, and Sept. 11, 2006, with the intent "to betray the United States," the indictment stated.

## **In Iraq, A Day Of Votes, Violence**

*Washington Post*

**March 8, 2010**

On a day that began with the thundering explosion of insurgent mortar rounds and ended with outbursts of celebratory gunfire by hopeful political activists, millions of Iraqis voted Sunday to elect lawmakers who will rule the country for years as U.S. forces withdraw. Voter turnout appeared to be modest, as many Iraqis chose to stay home out of fear and a sense that democracy has brought them more misery than blessings. Still, many voters said they went to the polls despite their disdain for Iraq's political establishment and their deep apprehension about the future of a vibrant democracy saddled by the weakness of its institutions.

Like past Iraqi elections, Sunday's vote will almost certainly be followed by fierce and protracted jockeying as coalitions recalibrate alliances and wrangle over top jobs. The process is expected to drag on for months, with political fights potentially spilling back into the streets and deepening sectarian and ethnic divides as Iraqis enter an era in which the United States will be increasingly powerless to shape events. "It's certainly possible that the losers will not accept their defeat," said Joost Hiltermann, an Iraq expert at the International Crisis Group. Results are not expected for a day or more. U.S. officials hailed the vote as a milestone that they hope will allow a smooth reduction of their country's footprint this summer. U.S. troops invaded Iraq in March 2003.

"I have great respect for the millions of Iraqis who refused to be deterred by acts of violence, and who exercised their right to vote today," President Obama said Sunday afternoon. "Their participation demonstrates that the Iraqi people have chosen to shape their future through the political process." Obama reiterated his commitment to withdraw the remaining U.S. combat troops from Iraq by the end of August. He added that the roughly 50,000 peacekeeping troops remaining should be withdrawn by the end of 2011. Currently, there are fewer than 100,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. Obama warned that continued violence in Iraq is probable in the coming weeks and months, but he praised Iraqi security forces for showing greater capability to manage those problems.

In a reminder of the threat, dozens of explosions ripped through the Iraqi capital and other cities Sunday morning, killing at least 38 people and wounding 89. The deadliest attack occurred just after 7 a.m. in the eastern Baghdad district of Ur, where booby-trapped rooms collapsed two residential buildings, trapping families inside and killing at least 25 people. Two men rented rooms in the residences and detonated the explosives remotely as voters were going to nearby polls, Iraqi security officials and emergency workers at the scene said. As the polls were closing at 5 p.m., rescue workers were still pulling bodies from debris, including that of a baby found in a crib. The attacks discouraged some from voting, but invigorated others.

"I didn't care about this election, but when I saw this I went to vote," said Raed Waleed, who helped pull the injured from the rubble. "I want to change the faces of the people who are responsible for all the problems in this country." Attacks were also reported in Fallujah, a city west of the capital, and in Diyala province, north of Baghdad. Sunni insurgents had threatened to derail the vote. They saw the election as an affirmation of Shiite rule. Election commission officials declined on Sunday night to provide voter-turnout figures. They acknowledged that turnout was light during the morning, but said it picked up in the afternoon as the explosions stopped.

Official results are expected to be released in a day or two. Representatives from two leading slates of candidates predicted victories. "From Baghdad to Basra, we are the first," said lawmaker Sami al-Askari, who is running with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law slate. Supporters of Maliki drove around the southern city of Najaf, singing and hoisting placards of their candidate. In Baghdad, hundreds of supporters of former prime minister Ayad Allawi, another front-runner for the country's top job, gathered at his house to congratulate him for what they described as a strong showing. A person close to the campaign, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the Allawi camp anticipates getting at least 110 seats, based on exit polls. The next parliament will have 325 lawmakers. Most analysts predict no coalition will earn a decisive victory.

On Sunday evening, Allawi accused the electoral commission and competing political parties of possible fraud. He warned that if breaches are not investigated, the next parliament would have to examine the electoral commission's conduct. "The government couldn't fulfill its promises to provide the security and safety. Because of that, Iraqi blood was shed today," Allawi said in a news conference. "It is definite that wide and serious breaches happened."

Tensions were high at many polling sites where thousands of would-be voters could not find their names on the rolls – a chronic problem in past elections. Raad Ibrahim, 29, left his home in Adhamiyah, a mostly Sunni district of Baghdad, at 8:30 a.m. and searched in vain for his name in nearby polling stations. "I just want to vote," he said at 2 p.m., looking exasperated. "This is my constitutional right. Why did they take it from me?"

In Basra, some men argued with a poll station chief after they, too, could not find their names on the rolls. "In the whole Iraqi state, no one is in charge," Ryad Abed Abdullah, 47, said, looking ruffled in a brown suit. "So we don't even have someone to blame." U.S. military officials said they were happy with their early assessment of turnout and were relieved the violence was not worse. "All in all, it's a good day for the Iraqis and all of us," Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said. U.S. military officials in Baghdad played down the violence, calling death tolls provided by Iraqi police "exaggerated." Maj. Gen. Steven Lanza, a spokesman, said many of the explosions were caused by "small water-bottle" bombs that make a lot of noise but cause no damage. Iraqi police officials said they investigated at least 20 incidents in which people were killed or wounded.

Although Maliki appeared to do well according to early reports and interviews, many voters said they hoped to bring in new faces to a parliament infamous for bickering and stalled legislation. "I'm not optimistic," said Anwar Shajer Hamid, 50, a polling station worker in Basra who voted for a Sunni list in the predominately Shiite city. "This government's performance has been very bad. Everyone is looking out for their own interests." Despite the day's grim start, many Iraqis said they cast votes hoping they would usher in something better. Many here still call democracy an "American experiment." At a school in the vast Shiite slum of Sadr City in eastern Baghdad, men and women lined up against a concrete wall protecting the polling station.

Inside, Silik Audy, 76, sat down waiting for her nephew. Y'ummah, she whispered in fear after three successive explosions. The term means "Oh, mother." But she stayed put. "This is our right," she said. "We came to take it." Her son, Salem Malah, was killed by the Mahdi Army, the Shiite militia that once controlled the streets. His name is still on the voter rolls, and the family brought his identification card, planning to cast a vote on his behalf. "He died for Maliki," said Malah's widow, Hayat Jiaz. Relatives began to sob as they walked toward the registration table. "We'll vote for Maliki," Jiaz, 38, said. "We want our right: security for the people."

**79 Dead After Rival Afghanistan Insurgent Groups Clash**  
*Times of London*  
**March 8, 2010**

Bloody clashes between competing factions of Afghanistan's insurgency left up to 79 people dead, officials said Monday, including 19 civilians in a lawless part of the country beyond the reach of government or NATO forces. Fighting in a remote stretch of Baghlan province, in northern Afghanistan, broke out on Saturday, local police said, and continued through the weekend – although it was not clear what triggered the violence. Most of the dead were fighters aligned with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a warlord once bankrolled by America during the anti-Russian resistance, the provincial police chief Mohammad Kabir Andarabi said.

Hekmatyar's men – part of the Hezb-i Islami group – clashed with Taliban fighters, part of the main armed opposition group led by the remnants of the hardline regime ousted during the U.S.-led 2001 invasion. Around 20 of the dead were Taliban, although government sources said that they didn't have accurate casualty figures because they had been unable to visit the area. Both groups are opposed to the Afghan Government and the presence of foreign forces, although they are both being courted by President Hamid Karzai for upcoming peace talks.

Taliban spokesmen routinely claim that there is no difference between the groups. In reality, Hekmatyar's men hold sway in the area immediately east of Kabul. The Taliban are traditionally strongest in Kandahar and the south. Baghlan is neither groups' heartland. Hekmatyar served briefly as Afghanistan's prime minister, he fought the Northern Alliance during Afghanistan's civil war and he sided with the Taliban as they swept to power in the late 1990s. He is widely tipped as the insurgent leader most amenable to negotiations. The political leader of his old party, Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, was recently appointed to President Hamid Karzai's Cabinet. He denies any links to Hekmatyar.

**Suicide Bomber Rams A Pakistan Building**  
*New York Times*  
**March 8, 2010**

A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden truck into the main gate of a safe house used for interrogation by the Pakistani military in the city of Lahore early Monday. The explosion killed at least seven people, including guards, the police said, and flattened the building. More than 30 people were wounded in the explosion, according to early reports from a nearby hospital where the victims were taken. The blast was heard across the city, witnesses said. Rescue workers dug through the rubble of the destroyed building looking for people trapped in the debris. A number of schools and religious institutions, including the Quran Academy, are located in the neighborhood known as Model Town. A number of prominent politicians, including a former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, live in Model Town.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which came after a lull of several months in attacks on military and security targets in Pakistan's main cities by militants from Al Qaeda and their affiliates in the Pakistani Taliban. Installations of the security forces in Lahore, the cultural heart of Pakistan and a cosmopolitan city of more than six million, have been a particular target of the militants. Last year, a large complex owned by the Federal Intelligence Agency, as well as several safe houses, were blown up by suicide bombers in Lahore. The attack on Monday came as the Pakistani military announced it had completed an offensive against the Taliban in South Waziristan, the major base of the militants in the remote tribal area.

### **Gates Visits Afghanistan To Meet With Karzai**

*New York Times*

**March 8, 2010**

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates arrived on an unannounced visit to Afghanistan on Monday morning to meet with President Hamid Karzai and NATO commanders, and to review plans for a major American-led offensive into the Taliban heartland of Kandahar. Mr. Gates gave no date for the anticipated push into the city of Kandahar, which has a population of 900,000 and is the capital of Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan, but he said that "there is some very hard fighting, very hard days ahead." Administration officials have only said that the campaign, a central mission for the 30,000 extra forces that President Obama has ordered to Afghanistan, will occur sometime this year.

Mr. Gates spoke to reporters on his plane en route to Kabul. So far, Mr. Gates said, about 6,000 of the 30,000 reinforcements have arrived in the country. The rest should be in place by the end of August, he said, which will bring the total United States forces in Afghanistan to about 100,000. The defense secretary also said that despite the American-led success last month in largely routing the Taliban from the city of Marja in Helmand Province, it was still too early to expect top Taliban leaders to reconcile with the Afghan government, as both the United States and Mr. Karzai would like.

"I think we ought not to get too impatient," Mr. Gates said. "I do believe that the senior Taliban are only going to be interested in reconciling in terms that are acceptable to the Afghan government and those of us supporting it when they see that the likelihood of their being successful has been cast into serious doubt. My guess is they're not at that point yet." Mr. Gates is visiting Kabul during the same week that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran is expected in the Afghan capital to meet with Mr. Karzai. Mr. Gates told reporters that Iran was "playing a double game in Afghanistan – they want to maintain a good relationship with the Afghan government, they also want to do everything they possibly can to hurt us, or for us not to be successful. And they're trying to thread that."

Mr. Gates said he believed that Iran was providing money and "some low level of support" to the Taliban in Afghanistan, and that "they also understand that our reaction, should they get too aggressive in this, is not one they would want to think about." Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon press secretary, swiftly amended Mr. Gates's comments on Iran and said that the defense secretary meant to say that any American reaction would occur within Afghanistan, not elsewhere. As Iran has continued its nuclear program despite American and international pressure to curtail it, there has been speculation for years that the United States or Israel might bomb Iran's nuclear facilities.

Mr. Gates said he also planned to talk to Mr. Karzai about the Afghan president's recent visit to Marja, where Mr. Karzai was besieged by complaints about the United States military operation, the lack of an Afghan government presence in the area for years and a list of other grievances. Mr. Gates tried to put the pummeling in a positive light. He said that the complaints were to be expected, and that it was good that Mr. Karzai, who has long had limited influence outside the capital, was traveling to other parts of the country to talk to Afghan citizens.

"This is the first time these guys have had the opportunity to interact with somebody from the central government, having been under the thumb of the Taliban for at least a couple of years," Mr. Gates said. "And for them to say we need development, we need less corruption, we need services, we need projects, we don't like civilian casualties, we don't like night raids – there was nothing that they said that I would have found surprising, frankly. It's like when I go out and have a town hall with our troops or meet with the spouses, they're not reticent about telling you when things aren't working."

Mr. Gates said he was unsure what to think about reports that the handpicked new district chief for Marja, Hajji Abdul Zahir, had served jail time in Germany on charges of stabbing his stepson. Mr. Zahir has denied the reports, and a NATO spokesman in Kabul has quoted Mark Sedwill, the senior NATO official in Kabul, as saying, "This country is not going to be run by choir boys." Mr. Gates weighed in with this: "The question is, if the guy committed a crime and served the time, then does that automatically rule him out? I mean I just don't know the answer to the question."

**Hundreds Feared Dead In Nigerian Violence**  
*London Financial Times*  
**March 8, 2010**

Ethnic violence returned to the central Nigerian city of Jos on Sunday when hundreds of villagers were reportedly killed in an apparent reprisal attack following January's deadly clashes, prompting Goodluck Jonathan, the acting president, to place security forces on red alert. Between 200 and 300 residents of Dogo Nahawa, a village just south of Jos, and other nearby settlements in Plateau State were killed by mobs armed with guns and machetes in the early hours, according to Jos residents, local officials and media reports. Hundreds died in fighting between ethnic groups six weeks ago in and around Jos, a conflict-racked city that lies between the predominantly Muslim north and the mainly Christian south of Africa's most populous nation. "It's a reprisal," said a Jos resident who asked not to be named.

Extremist sentiment has periodically spilled over into bloodshed for a decade. The latest violence has added to the pressure on Mr. Jonathan, who deployed troops to quell January's unrest. He is at the heart of a power struggle sparked by the lengthy illness of President Umaru Yar'Adua. Residents said the killing was perpetrated by members of the Fulani tribe. Like the Hausas who were the principle targets of January's violence, the largely Muslim Fulani trace their roots to the north and are regarded by some elements of the Berom – the majority in Jos and its environs but a minority nationally – as interlopers who have prospered at their expense. Dogo Nahawa is thought to have been attacked because it is home to many Berom Christians.

"They came around three o'clock in the morning and they started shooting into the air," said Peter Jang, a resident of the village, told the Reuters news agency. "The shooting was just meant to bring people from their houses and then when people came out they started cutting them with machetes." Doctors at Plateau State Hospital in Jos showed reporters 18 corpses that had been brought from the village, some of them charred. Hausa women and children were burned alive in January and whole settlements torched. Fulanis are also thought to have died. Berom Christians said they were targeted by northern members of the security forces. Some residents said they feared further reprisals. Campaigns for elections scheduled for next year could raise the temperature still further.

**Cyberwar Declared As China Hunts For The West's Intelligence Secrets**  
*Times of London*  
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Urgent warnings have been circulated throughout NATO and the European Union for secret intelligence material to be protected from a recent surge in cyberwar attacks originating in China. The attacks have also hit government and military institutions in the United States, where analysts said that the West had no effective response and that EU systems were especially vulnerable because most cyber security efforts were left to member states. NATO diplomatic sources told *The Times*: "Everyone has been made aware that the Chinese have become very active with cyber-attacks and we're now getting regular warnings from the office for internal security." The sources said that the number of attacks had increased significantly over the past 12 months, with China among the most active players.

In the U.S., an official report released on Friday said the number of attacks on Congress and other government agencies had risen exponentially in the past year to an estimated 1.6 billion every month. The Chinese cyber-penetration of key offices in both NATO and the EU has led to restrictions in the normal flow of intelligence because there are concerns that secret intelligence reports might be vulnerable. Sources at the Office for Cyber Security at the Cabinet Office in London, set up last year, said there were two forms of attack: those focusing on disrupting computer systems and others involving "fishing trips" for sensitive information. A special team has been set up at GCHQ, the government communications headquarters in Gloucestershire, to counter the growing cyber-threat affecting intelligence material. The team becomes operational this month.

British and American cyber defenses are among the most sophisticated in the world, but "the EU is less competent", James Lewis, of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said. "The porousness of the European institutions makes them a good target for penetration. They are of interest to the Chinese on issues from arms sales and nuclear non-proliferation to Tibet and energy." The lack of routine intelligence sharing between the U.S. and the EU also contributes to the vulnerability of European systems, another analyst said. "Because of Britain's intelligence-sharing relationship with America our systems have to be up to their standards in a way that some of the European systems don't," he explained.

Jonathan Evans, Director-General of MI5, warned in 2007 that several states were actively involved in large-scale cyber-attacks. Although he did not specify which states were involved, security officials have indicated that China now poses the gravest threat. Beijing has denied making such attacks. Robert Mueller, FBI Director, has warned that, in addition to the danger of foreign states making cyber-attacks, al-Qaeda could in the future pose a similar threat. In a speech to a security conference last week, Mr. Mueller said terrorist groups had used the internet to recruit members and to plan attacks, but added: "Terrorists have shown a clear interest in pursuing hacking skills and they will either train their own recruits or hire outsiders with an eye towards combining physical attacks with cyber-attacks."

He said that a cyber-attack could have the same impact as a "well-placed bomb". Mr. Mueller also accused "nation-state hackers" of seeking out U.S. technology, intelligence, intellectual property and even military weapons and strategies. To help to fight the growing threat, the Office of Cyber Security, set up last year as part of the Government's national security strategy, liaises with America's so-called cyber czar, Howard Schmidt, who was appointed by President Obama to protect sensitive government computers. British officials said that everyone in sensitive jobs had been warned to be especially cautious about disseminating intelligence and other classified information. Whether British intelligence is involved in retaliatory attacks is never confirmed.

However, officials said that there was a significant difference between being part of an information war and indulging in aggressive attacks to disrupt another country's computer systems. Dr Lewis said that neither the U.S. nor any of its Western allies had formed an effective response to the Chinese threat, which has its origins in a massive boost to Chinese technology ordered by Deng Xiaoping, the late Chinese leader, in 1986. The West's own cyber offensives have so far been directed largely at terrorists rather than nation states, giving China virtually free rein to penetrate Western systems with its own world-class hackers and increasingly popular Chinese-made components. "You almost have to admire them," Dr Lewis said. "They have been very consistent in their goals."