



SECURITY

CANADA : Pipelines sabotaged in British Columbia

Between October 2008 and July 2009, six gas pipelines belonging to Canadian petroleum company EnCana Corp. were sabotaged in British Columbia. The inquiry conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) led investigators to Wiebo Ludwig, an environmental activist well known to the authorities in Canada. Ludwig had written an open letter declaring his support to the author(s) of the attacks, criticising their methods but supporting their aims. Ludwig has campaigned for several years for a stop to natural gas production in the north of Alberta and British Columbia. Mr. Ludwig lives in Alberta on a 500-hectare farmstead where several other families of environmentalists also reside. The RCMP led a large-scale operation on the farm in

an effort to find evidence to indict Mr. Ludwig or other members of the community, but to no avail. Ludwig was held by the police for twenty-four hours before being released. The investigation is ongoing, and according to a spokesperson of the Federal Police new information is being examined by the British Columbia Crown Counsel in charge of the file. Ludwig had been sentenced in the 1990's for similar types of attacks. EnCana has offered a reward of one million Canadian dollars to anyone providing information that will lead to the arrest of the person(s) behind these attacks.

No emergency plan

A further difficulty for EnCana came from a report by the Oil & Gas Commission of the Pro-

vince of British Columbia, which claims that the corporation did not take the appropriate security measures following the explosion of the gas pipeline that occurred near Tomslake. According to this document, EnCana did not alert the emergency services, evacuate the local population nor clean up the site sufficiently quickly. Moreover, the emergency shut-off valve was not positioned in the right place, making it impossible to stop the leak in time. The Vice President of the corporation, Mike McAllister, has publicly apologised to the inhabitants of the region and has promised to upgrade security measures around wells and pipelines. Absent in other parts of the world, Western countries have had to deal with marginal but active eco-terrorists for over thirty years.

**EDITORIAL BY
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DIRECTOR OF GEOS
RISK ADVISORY BUREAU

► In the wake of state-sponsored terrorism came ideologically driven terrorism. Today, counterfeit, drug trafficking and prostitution are all growing, as is e-crime. In addition, industrial corporations must now also mitigate the risk of eco-terrorism. In the face of such a threat-scape, French companies have risen to the challenge by performing sterling work over the last 10 years. With proprietary methods, we have sought out clients in traditionally Anglo-American markets, and give training sessions on every type of risk. From pipelines, railway networks, roadways, airport terminals to Homeland Security, offshore sites and ports, companies like GEOS have developed innovative services, with the integration of socio-economic programs as part of our security systems. What about ecoterrorism? Such a threat can be neutralised through the establishment of policies by corporations and the deployment of highly trained HSE managers.

TRAINING 6TH EU COMMISSION ECHO TRAINING SESSION

► February 8-12, the sixth session of the ECHO (HEAT Safety and Security Awareness Training) for executive staff of the European Commission was held in Dakar, Senegal.

SERVICE PACKAGE NEW SERVICES DETAILED IN GEOS CATALOGUE

► GEOS delivers more than fifty training courses covering a wide range of subjects such as crisis communication and management, data protection, and maritime security. Contact : a.gerardin@groupegeos.com.

SECURITY PORT FACILITY SECURITY OFFICER (PFSO)

► Two Port Facility Security Officer training sessions will be held in Paris on March 15-19 and March 21-26. For more information and to subscribe, please contact : jl.leopold@groupegeos.com

SEMINAR EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

► On February 12, Louis Caprioli addressed the first European Conference on Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism organised by the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS).

TRADE SHOW SISEG : HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

► GEOS will take part at the SISEG Trade Show on March 16-18 at Porte de Versailles where the HSE services will be presented. For a free invitation, please write to : t.denazelle@groupegeos.com

PANAMA PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT FOILED

▶ Two agents of the Institutional Protection Service (SPI), in charge of the protection of the President of the Republic, were arrested along with a third individual. They stand accused of plotting to kidnap the Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli. His predecessors were also targeted in unsuccessful plots of this nature.

SOMALIA GREEK SHIP AND CREW RELEASED

▶ A super tanker sailing under the flag of Greece and containing two million barrels of oil was released by Somali pirates who had captured the vessel. It appears that the pirates received one of the largest ransoms ever paid out in a case of sea piracy. A sum of between 5.5 and 7 million dollars was parachuted onto the deck of the ship. In a further development,



it is China's turn to take command of the international anti-piracy mission in the region. Beijing deployed a naval fleet in the area at the end of 2008, carrying a total crew of about 800, including 70 soldiers from the Navy's special force, following the capture of one of its cargo ships.

UKRAINE FOUR GEORGIANS "OBSERVERS" ARRESTED

▶ Four Georgians have been arrested in Petrovsky. They were caught opening electoral ballot boxes. The Party of Regions denounced the presence of Georgians during the presidential elections alleging that their mission was to rig the election. The election saw the defeat of Viktor Yushenko, leader of the Orange Revolution, and ally of the President of Georgia.

VENEZUELA COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS

▶ Venezuelan lawmakers have passed a bill reinforcing the power of the government to impose compulsory purchase orders on shopkeepers if they increase their prices by too high a margin. 1,500 shops were closed down for a daylong penalty period after price hikes and speculation.

GREECE ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

▶ A bomb exploded in front of the Greek Ministry of Information in downtown Athens. The police had received prior warning and were able to secure the perimeter of the building before the blast. A few days beforehand, a similar type of bomb exploded in front of Parliament. The anarchist group « Conspiracy of Cells of Fire » claimed responsibility.

COLOMBIA A FARC FINANCIAL CHIEF ARRESTED

▶ Rudsber Quinchia Dávila aka « Pabesa » is suspected of being the financial chief of the 47th front of the FARC. He was arrested in Pereira in Risaralda Department by agents of the Financial Investigations Unit. He had already been sentenced in absentia to twelve years in prison.

YEMEN US COMMANDOS IN COUNTRY

▶ According to official sources in Washington, special service teams and US Army servicemen are currently active in Yemen alongside the Yemeni Army. They have succeeded in killing 15 of the top leaders of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) active in Yemen.

SECURITY

Israeli diplomatic convoy attacked in Jordan

Bomb explodes on Israel-Jordan border

A bomb exploded causing damage and leaving behind an 80cm-wide crater in the roadway some twenty kilometers from the Allenby-King Hussein Bridge, near an Israeli diplomatic convoy as it travelled on the Amman - Ghor road in the Jordan Valley. The diplomatic vehicles transporting bodyguards and staff from the Embassy in Amman were not hit. The vehicles were immediately joined by escorts from the Jordanian Army. According to our sources in-country, Yaacov Rosen, former Israeli ambassador to Jordan was travelling in one of the vehicles. For security reasons, Israel refused to confirm the presence of Dani Nevo, the current Israeli ambassador to King Abdullah. However, it has been confirmed that two remote-controlled bombs were lying in wait for the convoy. Some months ago, a Jordanian court sentenced three

members of Hamas to five years in prison. They were preparing an attack against the embassy in Amman. Staff from this embassy use the route each week and this crossing point at the weekend, the Friday being a non-working day in Jordan just as Saturday is a non-working day in Israel. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, citing a source in Jordanian intelligence service (GID), the attack was carried out on instructions from Iran. ***The frequency of the trips and the fact that the Israeli diplomatic convoy is easy to spot reflect the good bilateral relations between the two countries since the peace treaty signed in 1994. The last incident of this type dates back to 2003. Cooperation between Israeli and Jordanian counterterrorism services is said to be excellent.***

Pressure mounts for Ivory Coast election

A fresh political crisis is brewing in Ivory Coast just weeks before the date set for the presidential elections, the first to be held in ten years. The issue is the computer file listing 429,000 names established by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) and in charge of approving electoral lists in the country. The Commission has been accused by the governing party, the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) and by President Laurent Gbagbo himself, of preparing to rig the election. The CEI has responded by saying that the file is just an electronic list that includes new voter names but that it has yet to be validated. This latest affair may well lead to the election being postponed for the umpteenth time, the fifth cancellation since 2005, the initial date set for the election. For the Forces

Nouvelles, one of the main opposition parties and former rebel movement, there is no question of the election being postponed again. The UN and its Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon are troubled by this latest setback, saying that it is « vital » to respect the date of the election set for the end of March. The issue of electoral lists is linked to the fraught issue of Ivorian nationality, with some raising doubts about the actual nationality of many of the country's citizens, especially those living in the north of the country. ***Those people may be disbarred from the electoral process, a decision that will necessarily impact the results of the vote. In any case, vigilance is required over the coming weeks for businesses and those travelling to Ivory Coast.***

ECUADOR NATIONAL PHARMA COMPANY SET UP

▶ The Ecuadorian government recently established the Empresa Nacional de Fármacos de Ecuador (Enfarma). The aim is to provide Ecuadorian citizens with generic medication. Enfarma hopes to meet the needs of the domestic market and begin exporting within five years. Enfarma has initial capital of 3 million dollars.

UNITED KINGDOM PLUMBER WAS ALSO A SPY

▶ The Service Corps company has gone into liquidation. It leaves behind huge debts and stands accused of unfair competition and industrial espionage. Specialised in plumbing, it is accused by competitor Pimlico Plumbers of stealing clients such as actors Keira Knightley, Daniel Craig or Hugh Grant.



UNITED STATES MOTOROLA SEEKS TO BAN BLACKBERRY

▶ Motorola has filed a complaint against RIM, the Blackberry manufacturer. Motorola alleges that RIM is infringing on five patents as its license expired in 2007. Motorola has asked the US for an import ban.

UNITED KINGDOM MI-5 WARNING TO BUS TRAVELLERS IN CHINA

▶ According to the Sunday Times, at the end of 2009 MI-5 transmitted a detailed note to major British corporations on the practices used by Chinese spies. It explains the risks incurred by business travellers in China. Among the gadgets in vogue, a USB key that allows a user to take control of a computer.

SPAIN DOUBLE AGENT TRIAL BEGINS

▶ Roberto Florez was an agent of Centro Nacional de Inteligencia (CNI), the Spanish secret service, between 1991 and 2004. He is accused of trying to sell the names of Spanish agents active abroad as well as the structure of the CNI to the Second Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Madrid. He wanted 150,000 euro for the information.

Cyber attack on three american oil majors

Undetected attack uncovered by FBI

ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil were all victims of a highly sophisticated cyber attack, according to an article that appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*. In 2008, computer hackers based in China broke into the computers of the companies and stole the highest value data in the oil and gas industry, reports on new oil fields. Such reports detail the quality and quantity of oil discovered and are an essential tool before buying new concessions. This is particularly true in the case of the Rumaila oilfield in Iraq. The attack, also described as the "China virus", went undetected by the companies, and it was the FBI that succeeded in uncovering the intrusion and the remote installation of spyware onto the companies' machines. The attack was a professional operation lead by a major foreign

intelligence agency. According to the *Financial Times*, which also covered the story, the attack was perpetrated in phases. Firstly, social networks and open sources were used to research the profiles of company managers, the C-level (most senior) executives, who were then targeted in a second phase. The hackers stole an identity and then sent an email to the target. Coming from a name known to the target, the links and attached files in the message were opened without suspicion thus allowing Trojan Horse software to be activated. ***In the face of such professional attacks, companies cannot act alone, and they may not even be aware that an attack has taken place. They must implement a global policy that includes the necessary IT equipment and increased vigilance by personnel.***

Suspect shareholder ousted by Saab

Following reception of a report by Säpo (Rikspolisstyrelsens säkerhetsavdelning), the Swedish domestic intelligence agency, Stockholm has asked for the withdrawal of a shareholder of Dutch luxury vehicle manufacturer Spyker. This company is involved in the 400-million dollar buyout of Saab from US firm General Motors. The shareholder in question, Russian billionaire and banker Vladimir Antonov is, according to Säpo, « strongly suspected of economic criminal activity, money laundering and connections with organised crime ». The Swedish secret service transmitted their information to their American counterparts leading to the provisional blocking of the sale of Saab by General Motors. In the end, Victor Muller, Chairman of Spyker, was able to buy

the shares directly from Antonov, who chaired the manufacturer's Executive Board and who held 30 % of its capital through his company Convers Group. The transaction was conducted via Tenaci Capital for 4.6 million dollars. The secrecy behind these last minute deals created uncertainty about the future of Saab. Antonov was already ousted from a business deal in the United Kingdom. ***Though much progress has been made over the last ten years to clean up business in Russia, it remains a murky world. The country presents as many opportunities as it does risks. Companies must be particularly careful during the information acquisition phase on future business partners before signing any contract.***

AUSTRALIA/ CHINA RIO TINTO CASE GOES TO PROSECUTOR

▶ Following the initial inquiry into one of the Australian managers of the Chinese branch of Rio Tinto accused of espionage, the file is now with the Bureau of the People's Prosecutor in Shanghai. A copy was also delivered to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

GERMANY SIEMENS APPOINTS NEW SECURITY DIRECTOR

▶ The German corporation, recently indicted in several cases of espionage and corruption, wants to project a new image of transparency. One month ago, it asked Austrian Gert-René Polli to step down, as he was suspected of entertaining close links with the government and the Iranian intelligence community. 45-year old Marco Mille, Director of the State Intelligence Service (SRE) of Luxemburg since 2003, has been appointed to this sensitive position. The appointment did not go unnoticed in Luxemburg with much criticism about the sudden departure of such a well-informed civil servant. Marco Mille will officially leave the SRE on 01 March 2010.



MAJOR PROJECT SECURITY

Introduction

GEOS provides operational support to companies and institutions for the development of their major international projects

Your requirements :

- » understand the local context, assess the risk and ensure regulatory compliance
- » provide sustainable security for your project/program



GEOS Key deliverables

» Country Risk Tracking

Permanent monitoring of more than 180 countries and customised analysis to respond to the specific needs of companies operating abroad.

» Security Audit

Our experts conduct risk assessments, design and draft bespoke security plans and procedures and deliver recommendations.

» Deployment of experts

GEOS can deploy a wide range of international experts trained to the highest standards of the profession (HEAT, MOSS, MORSS, UNDSS, etc.) to evaluate and coordinate security for the entire life cycle of the project.

» Socioeconomic programs

GEOS designs and runs socioeconomic projects to integrate the local community and promote local economic development.

» Training

GEOS and its subsidiaries are certified training centres that deliver security orientation and training sessions to all project staff, from management to local operators.

» Crisis Management

10 years experience and proven management processes. 4 calibrated response levels: monitoring, crisis centre, operational support and business continuity support.

Case study

CARACAS- LOS TEQUES METRO PROJECT - since 2005

This major contract for the security of construction works on the extension of the metro line connecting Caracas and Los Teques is handled by GEOS Latin America security teams who coordinate security on the construction site.

Line 1 was opened on 03 November 2006.

The contract continues today with the construction of Line 2.



GEOS LEADING THE INDUSTRY

GEOS has delivered security services for over 10 years to major industrial and institutional projects abroad (Caucasus, Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America). Our method is based on a security approach that involves the establishment of socioeconomic projects and the development of programs for local communities, to establish a safe working environment for the project and to secure peace of mind for all those involved.

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▶ Each month, ALERTES provides insight into one of the services proposed by the five main divisions of the GEOS Group, details of which can also be found on our web site: www.groupegeos.com
Through a selection of articles culled from world wide current affairs, ALERTES illustrates the relevance of the services we offer to companies and organisations to enable them better manage international business and competitive risk.

« GEOS, the professional security risk prevention and management solution »

Alertes

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