



## CTC Topic Update

### Unrest in Syria

#### Concerns over Syrian chemical weapons stockpiles

The recent unrest in Syria has made many nations in the international community anxious. Decades ago, when many nations began eliminating their stockpiles due to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Syria refused to sign the convention and proceeded to amass an even larger and deadlier stockpile of chemical weapons as a means of deterring possible aggression from Israel. Under the leadership of former President Hafez al-Assad and his son Bashar, the current president, Syria's chemical weapons stockpile has developed into one of the world's largest. Concerns over Syria's chemical weapons are especially relevant in light of the 2008 WikiLeaks exposé of US attempts to block Syrian plans to purchase glass-lined reactors and other high-tech equipment- equipment which the US claimed could be used for chemical weapons- from a private Indian firm. A breakdown in Syrian leadership could severely compromise the security of its own chemical weapons stockpile.

In regards to bioterrorism, what are the implications of the recent uprisings in the Middle East?

How should the CTC address nations like Syria who refuse to sign the CWC and continue amassing deadly chemical weapons stockpiles?

If a nation with an ample supply of chemical and biological weapons collapses, what measures, if any, should be taken to ensure that those weapons do not fall into the wrong hands?

#### Unrest over Syrian chemical weapons:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/syrian-unrest-raises-fears-about-chemical-arsenal/2011/08/26/gIQAfMfVlJ\\_story\\_1.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/syrian-unrest-raises-fears-about-chemical-arsenal/2011/08/26/gIQAfMfVlJ_story_1.html)

#### US attempts to block Indian sale of reactors to Syria:

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2010-12-19/india/28252183\\_1\\_graphite-indian-firms-ballistic-missile](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2010-12-19/india/28252183_1_graphite-indian-firms-ballistic-missile)

### Cyber threats still growing

Many nations express ever-growing concern over the threat that cyber-terrorism poses to the integrity of key industries and infrastructure. The Control System Security Program in Idaho, for example, responded to 116 requests for assistance in 2010, and has already responded to 342 requests this year. The rise in attacks on infrastructure



has made many nations question the security of their own nuclear enrichment facilities and power-plants.

Additionally, Japanese police have recently discovered two computer servers and a personal computer in Japan that were used to carry out a massive denial-of-service attack on South Korea six months ago. During the attack, 746 computers from 70 countries were used to flood government websites with requests, overwhelming the South Korean cyber-infrastructure. The newly identified personal computer, which had no anti-virus software, is said to have been manipulated by an external source.

What measures can be taken to ensure the protection of member states' cyber-infrastructure?

What can be done to mitigate the challenges posed by transnational attacks like the ones seen from Japan?

Who should be held accountable for the attacks on South Korean government websites?

### **Japanese Computers Linked to South Korean Cyber Attack:**

<http://www.statestimes.net/2012/09/japanese-computers-linked-to-south-korean-cyber-attack/>

### **Concern grows over cyber attacks on utilities and infrastructure:**

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/09/30/scitech/main20113730.shtml>

### **UN-backed forum discusses internet security:**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39903&Cr=internet&Cr1=>