

Report: Terror attacks cheap Calif. to consider stem-cell measure

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNITED NATIONS — All major al-Qaida-linked attacks except Sept. 11 cost less than \$50,000 each to carry out, according to a new U.N. report circulated Thursday that indicated just how little money the terror network needs to mount operations.
 The report — the first by a new team monitoring the implementation of U.N. sanctions against al-Qaida and the Taliban — said only the sophisticated attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon using hijacked aircraft "required significant funding of over six figures."
 "Other al-Qaida terrorist operations have been far less expensive," said the report, directed to the U.N. Security Council.
 For example, the report said the March attacks in the Spanish capital, Madrid, in which nearly 10 simultaneous bombs exploded on four commuter trains, cost \$10,000 to carry out. The blasts killed 191 people — Spain's worst terror attack.
 The November 2003 attacks in Istanbul, Turkey — four suicide truck bombings that killed 62 people — cost less than \$40,000, the report found. And the twin truck bombings of the U.S. embassies

in Kenya and Tanzania in August 1998 are estimated to have cost less than a total \$50,000. Those attacks killed 231 people, including 12 Americans.
 The report said al-Qaida has changed over the last five years from an organization run by Osama bin Laden to a global network of groups that don't wait for orders but launch attacks against targets of their own choosing, using minimal resources and exploiting worldwide publicity "to create an international sense of crisis."
 "There is no prospect of an early end to attacks from al-Qaida associated terrorists," the monitoring team said.
 "They will continue to attack targets in both Muslim and non-Muslim states, choosing them according to the resources they have available and the opportunities that occur. While they will look for ways to attack high profile targets, soft targets will be equally vulnerable."
 U.N. sanctions require all U.N. member states to impose a travel ban and arms embargo against a list of those linked to the Taliban or al-Qaida, currently 317 individuals and 112 groups, and to freeze any assets. Sanctions were first imposed on bin Laden's network

in 1999.
 The report said punitive measures to stop terror financing have had some effect and led to "millions of dollars of assets" being frozen.
 "As a result of national and international action, al-Qaida's funding has decreased significantly. But so, too, has its need for money," the team said.
 The number of people in training camps controlled by al-Qaida "is now far less, and al-Qaida no longer pays the \$10 million to \$20 million annually that it gave to its Taliban hosts" in Afghanistan before a U.S.-led force routed the government in late 2001, it said.
 While some money for the al-Qaida attacks since 1998 may have come from "the center," the report said "much of it will have been collected locally, whether through crime or diverted from charitable donations."
 But the monitoring team said al-Qaida will still need to raise and move money, and not enough was being done to identify those involved and to crack down on terror-related transactions — especially those through informal channels.

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SAN FRANCISCO — Silicon Valley tycoons, Nobel laureates and Hollywood celebrities are backing a measure on California's Nov. 2 ballot to devote \$3 billion to human embryonic stem-cell experiments in what would be the biggest-ever state-supported scientific research program in the country.
 The measure would put California at the very forefront of the field. It would dwarf all current stem-cell projects in the United States, whether privately or publicly financed.
 Proposition 71 promises to be one of the most contentious election issues in California, pitting scientists, sympathetic patients who could benefit from stem cells and biotechnology interests against the Roman Catholic Church and conservatives opposed to the research because it involves destroying day-old embryos and cloning.
 What's more, cell research has emerged as a major campaign issue between President Bush and John Kerry, who promises if elected to reverse Bush's 2001 policy restricting federal funding of such experiments to only those cell lines already in existence.

The measure would authorize the state to sell \$3 billion in bonds and then dispense nearly \$300 million a year for 10 years to researchers for human embryonic stem-cell experiments, including cloning projects intended solely for research purposes. It bans the funding of cloning to create babies.
 The amount of money involved far exceeds the \$25 million the federal government doled out last year for such research and surpassed even Kerry's promise to expand funding to \$100 million annually.
 Many scientists believe stem cells hold vast promise for treating an array of diseases from diabetes to Parkinson's.
 Stem cells can potentially grow into any type of human tissue and scientists hope to be able to direct the blank cells to grow into specific cell types needed for transplant.
 Stem cells are harvested from embryos, which are destroyed in the process.

process, but if there is no resolution, the procedure continues.
 In the first step, an employee is expected to communicate with a supervisor. The second step consists of a meeting with the dean or director of the employee's school or unit.
 During the third step of the process, a staff grievance committee oversees a hearing at which the employee, witnesses and others can speak. In the fourth step, the employee can appeal to the State Personnel Commission.
 The committee met frequently throughout the summer to discuss improvements to the grievance process, George said.
 One possibility members considered was methods to make the process more timely. "The process takes too long," George said. "We're looking to streamline it, make it more efficient."
 She also said the committee has discussed whether there should be a single hearing officer or a three-member committee to oversee the hearing.
 Brannigan said he is glad to see a review of the grievance process, but he hopes the committee's changes also will improve the entire disciplinary system.
 Employees can offer input to the committee at unc-grievanceanddispute@listserv.med.unc.edu.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

EQUALITY

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 women fought so hard to get," said Lucy Lewis, assistant director of the Campus Y.
 "Now so many people just take it for granted, which is something we can never do."
 Representatives from both groups staffed tables loaded with voter registration forms, voter pledges and candidate information sheets.
 Volunteers also gave away cake, key rings and T-shirts to passers-by.
 Informational posters detailing the evolution of voting rights and participation spanned the width of the shady courtyard.
 One poster displayed the statistic that 45 percent of women 18 years and older did not vote in the last presidential election in 2000.
 Despite the historical sig-

nificance of the date, organizers wanted to provide voter information for all members of the campus community, many of whom are first-time voters who face unique challenges.
 "Transportation is certainly an issue," said Chimi Boyd, assistant director of the Carolina Women's Center.
 "Also, students who are new to an area don't know who the candidates are or how to register."
 Lewis and other organizers said they wanted to stress the importance of voting but also encouraged students to become more involved in the overall democratic process.
 "Voting is a really important part of student and campus life," Lewis said.
 "But there is a lot more work to do, no matter who wins."

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HONOR COURT

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 Chavez also has been looking for a more diverse set of workers. "It's not that we have a lack of (diversity)," she said. "We're trying to diversify more."
 Chavez added that even though she wants to increase her staff size, the Honor Court only will take the best applicants. "We're looking for quality over quantity," she said.
 Last spring, the court introduced a new concept to the courtroom — faculty-student resolutions. In such cases, a student and a faculty member presenting a violation can sit down before a court hearing to discuss the offense.
 The faculty member and stu-

dent negotiate a reasonable grade — either an F for a portion of the class or for the overall course. The student then goes before a three-person Honor Court panel charged with ensuring that the punishment fits the crime.
 The resolution is meant to address past concerns on the part of professors that Honor Court proceedings did not allow them to control their students' grades.
 If a student is convicted in Honor Court of cheating, the routine sanction is a semester of academic probation along with a failing grade in at least a portion of the course.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

LAPTOPS

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 Though saying it was premature to praise his department, Lt. Chris Blue of the police department's community services division said the numbers are encouraging.
 "Awareness has been increased," he said. "Students are becoming aware there is a market for laptops."
 Blue said police believe that the majority of laptop thefts in 2003 were carried out by a group of people seeking to resell the computers.
 Police arrested seven men Nov. 17 in connection with the thefts of laptops and home video equipment.
 Cousins said the November arrest had a lot to do with the declining number of thefts.
 John Oberlin, associate vice chancellor for information technology, said students simply just becoming aware of a laptop's value.
 "It's like a bag with \$2,000," Oberlin said. "You wouldn't leave that out."
 Carolina Computing Initiative sold more than 600 more laptops this year than last year, Oberlin said.
 Students are becoming ever

more vigilant with their property, Oberlin added.
 In 2003, police said they thought most of the thefts were the result of negligence on the part of the owner.
 "You have to treat it like your wallet," Cousins said — a common suggestion from Chapel Hill Crime Stoppers and the University's Department of Public Safety last year.
 Blue said the community services division is recommending a variety of theft prevention methods to students.
 Registering computers and purchasing insurance, using the locks provided with CCI computers and making the external cover look unattractive by defacing it are ways to protect against theft, he said.
 Major Jeff McCracken of DPS said those initiatives and increased campus patrols are helping to keep down the number of laptop thefts on campus.
 But in spite of decreased thefts, Oberlin petitioned for everyone with a laptop to be alert and aware.
 "These are not show-stopping numbers," he said.
 "It hasn't killed the problem."
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