

The use of sources by the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET)

October 2012

Director General of PET, Jakob Scharf, states that:

"It follows from the guidelines applicable to PET that one of the instruments available to the operational efforts of PET is the use of sources, including informants and, in certain cases, civilian agents.

The use of sources is critical for the ability of PET to identify and counter specific threats to national security and Danish interests abroad, and in such cases, the use of sources is carried out in full accordance with the regulations and guidelines governing the activities of PET.

Out of concern for the operational efforts of PET, we neither can nor will publicly confirm whether specific individuals have been used as sources by PET, nor can we publicly relay any information pertaining to specific sources or source operations.

This also implies that PET, as a general rule, does not publically deny any incorrect information pertaining to specific sources or source operations.

It should be noted, however, that in no way does PET engage in or support operations aimed at taking civilian lives. Consequently, PET has not contributed in connection to the military operation that led to the killing of Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen.

As a general rule, we issue no statements pertaining to targets of our operational activities. However, it hardly comes as a surprise to anyone that PET, like other Western intelligence services, has had its focus on Anwar al-Awlaki and that the operational efforts of PET in relation to al-Awlaki have been aimed at uncovering specific terrorist threats against Denmark or Danish interests abroad, including any contact between al-Awlaki and terrorist affiliates, groups or networks in Denmark.

Any operational efforts carried out by PET beyond the borders of Denmark take place in close collaboration with relevant foreign government authorities, when it is deemed necessary, for example in order to protect PET sources. However, PET is very attentive to the fact that we, as part of this co-operation, do not relay information or initiate measures that in themselves may enable an operation aimed at taking the life of a civilian".