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International Institute
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With the Support of Keren Daniel

HIZB UT-TAHRIR [THE ISLAMIC LIBERATION PARTY] IN THE WEST BANK

Declaration of Violent Jihad and the Foiling of its First Terrorist Attack

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ABSTRACT

On June 27, 2013, Hizb ut-Tahrir's ideology regarding Palestine took a dramatic and worrying turn: Hizb ut-Tahrir's Web site published a charter, which called for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Palestine and for the embrace of Jihad (in its violent sense).

In November 26, 2013, three terrorists belonging to a terrorist operational cell affiliated with Hizb ut-Tahrir were killed in an operation carried out in Yatta/Hebron by Special Forces of the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), in cooperation with the counter-terrorism unit of the Israel Police Force. The group, which was active in the area, was apparently about to carry out a terrorist attack. Two guns and several explosive devices were found in their vehicle. This operation was closely preceded by the arrests of several members of the terrorist group from Yatir and Nablus. This operation marked the first time that Israeli Defense Forces had encountered armed members of Hizb ut-Tahrir in the West Bank, who were in the advanced stages of planning to execute a terrorist attack.

* The views expressed in this publication are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT).

Hizb ut-Tahrir's Ideological-Traditional Worldview Concerning the Liberation of Palestine

Hizb ut-Tahrir believes in "the liberation of Palestine" or, in other words, the destruction of the State of Israel through jihad [holy war], and therefore firmly opposes any political agreement with Israel. Nevertheless, according to its ideology, **this task will fall not to any individual person** or Muslim country, **but rather to the Islamic Caliphate once it has been established**. Therefore, **the organization is not involved in terrorist attacks carried out by Palestinian** groups (Hizb ut-Tahrir expressed sympathy in the past for attacks carried out by Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad). The organization promotes its worldview through gradual, long-term Da'wah process [proselytizing] among the Palestinian population in the West Bank and among Muslim communities throughout the world, along with political and social activities designed to gain the organization popular support.

The Foiling of Hizb ut-Tahrir's First Terrorist Attack in the West Bank: A Turning Point

On November 26, 2013, three terrorists belonging to a terrorist operational cell affiliated with Hizb ut-Tahrir were killed in an operation carried out in Yatta/Hebron by Special Forces of the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), in cooperation with the counter-terrorism unit of the Israel Police Force. The group, which was active in the area, was apparently about to carry out a terrorist attack. Two guns and several explosive devices were found in their vehicle. This operation was closely preceded by the arrests of several members of the terrorist group from Yatir and Nablus.

Investigations carried out to date by the Shin Bet reveal that members of the group were planning to carry out terrorist attacks against Israeli and Palestinian Authority targets and, in recent months, had established extensive military infrastructure, prepared a hiding place, purchased weapons, and produced explosive material.

The following Hizb ut-Tahrir terrorists were killed:

Mohammed Fuad Jamal Neirukh, age 30, a resident of Hebron, a former Hamas operative, who was imprisoned between 2003-2009 after asking to carry out a suicide attack, undergoing military training, and recruiting others to the military wing of Hamas.

Moussa Mohammed Moussa Mahamra, age 22, a resident of Yatta/Yatir, who had purchased a weapon for use by the terrorist group.

Mahmud Khaled al-Najjar, age 22, a resident of Yatta/Yatir, had prepared an apartment as a safe house to be used for terrorist activities.

This operation marked the first time that Israeli Defense Forces had encountered armed members of Hizb ut-Tahrir in the West Bank, who were in the advanced stages of planning to execute a terrorist attack.

This is the first time that a distinct and material change of the organization's modus operandi is being identified, so far the Hizb has not taken practical steps to build terrorist capabilities in the West Bank and settled in fierce radical Islamic Dawah activities, rallies, demonstrations and propaganda while adopting significant ideological and visual motifs of Al Qaeda.

Signs of Radicalization of Hizb ut-Tahrir in Jordan

The trend of radicalization within the Jordanian chapter of Hizb ut-Tahrir was identified as early as 2005. As a consequence, the group's members were subject to a comprehensive wave of arrests by the Jordanian security forces. During 2005, other countries have identified the Hizb radicalization process which led to a wave of arrests carried out in several countries, including Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan and Syria. This was meant to send a clear message to the group's leadership, which is based in Britain, that the group was about to be outlawed internationally. On September 2, 2005, Hizb ut-Tahrir's Jordanian chapter has published a statement calling to engage in militant jihad to be waged against the West, including the United States ("The end of American tyranny will be brought about by Muslims") and Israel ("Its end is a 'simple matter', and its existence is dependent on Western assistance and on the 'betrayal' of Muslim rulers").

Following this declaration, Jordanian security forces arrested seven members of Hizb ut-Tahrir, including Salah al-Jalabi, a pharmacist and prominent local leader of the organization.¹ At the time, it was unclear whether the new trend of the Jordanian chapter of the Hizb towards armed Jihad signaled an overall change in the organization's political

¹ <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/BF51E07E-029B-4BD0-ABBB-82E09EB120FB.htm>

"Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain Condemns Tony Blair's Announcement to Ban the Party", (August 5, 2005). http://www.hizb.org.uk/opptoban/index.php?id=2127_0_45_30_M98

ideological platform, or that one or two of its branches had “deviated” from its traditional path.

The Jihad declaration- Emergence of Violent Salafi - Jihad in the West Bank

On June 27, 2013, Hizb ut-Tahrir’s ideology regarding Palestine took a dramatic and worrying turn: Hizb ut-Tahrir’s Web site published a charter, which called for the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Palestine and for the embrace of Jihad (in its violent sense). The charter was signed by “tribal leaders” in Palestine (a reflection of the organization’s rejection to recognize the legitimacy of Palestinian Authority), who called on the Muslim Nation(Ummah) to rouse itself to wage Jihad, eliminate the occupying Jewish presence from all of Palestine, and liberate all occupied Muslim lands. Clause No. 7 of the charter reads:

*"[This is a] call to the Ummah to awaken her pious and strong soldiers **to go forth in Al-Jihaad** so as to remove the Jewish entity of occupation from all of the land of Palestine and to liberate all of the occupied Muslim lands."*²

The charter continues, *"We declare our being part of the large clans (tribes) of the **Muslim lands of Ash-Shaam**".*

This emphasizes Hizb ut-Tahrir's embrace of the ideological tenets held by Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, which refer to Syria as **Bilad al-Sham** — the whole Levant or "Greater Syria". Specifically, this includes lands that Al-Qaeda considers to have been part of the medieval Arab Caliphate, and hence an arena of Jihad. Under Ottoman rule, these lands had included present-day Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

It should be noted that Hizb ut-Tahrir rejects the very existence of the Palestinian Authority and views it as a “heretical Arab regime” similar to other Arab regimes that do not implement Shari’a [Islamic law]. Hizb ut-Tahrir denounces involvement in politics, including participation in parliaments and elected councils, and views democracy as Bid’ah [an innovation, which is anathema to orthodox Islam], because it sanctifies the rule of man over

² "Text of the Meethaaq (charter) that was signed by the tribal leaders of Palestine on the work for Khilafah"(27 June 2013). <http://www.khilafah.com/index.php/activism/middle-east/16364-text-of-the-meethaaq-charter-that-was-signed-by-the-tribal-leaders-of-palestine-on-the-work-for-khilafah>

the rule of God and represents the West's "cultural invasion" of Muslim countries. The organization has therefore refused to participate in elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council, and even rejected the national aspirations of the Palestinians claiming that it is a Western concept imported to Muslim countries.³

Summary

The encounter between the Israeli security forces and members of Hizb ut-Tahrir in the southern Hebron Hills was the first time Israeli security forces had come upon the armed presence of a third force in the West Bank — neither the Palestinian Authority/ Fatah nor Hamas, but an extremist radical Islamic Salafi-jihadi group operating independently away of the established organizations in the West Bank, with a new jihadi agenda against both Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The increasing popularity of the Salafists in the West Bank is apparently a result of disappointment with the Palestinian Authority and the difficulty that Hamas, which is being pressured by both the Palestinian Authority and Israel, is having presenting a viable, stable alternative. On the margins of Hizb ut-Tahrir, a violent jihadist faction is developing, which is under the influence of Al-Qaeda's violent ideology; similar factions have already manifested themselves in the Gaza Strip. It may be assumed that the increasing activity of similar factions in the Sinai Peninsula, and their involvement in the murderous Syrian civil war, in particular, is strengthening support for Salafi-jihadist groups in the West Bank.

³ Taqiuddin an-Nabhani, *Political Thoughts* (London: Al-Khilafah Publications, 1999), p. 116.

The Full Text of the Hizb ut-Tahrir Charter



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Text of the Meethaaq (charter) that was signed by the tribal leaders of Palestine on the work for Khilafah



THURSDAY, 27 JUNE 2013 20:10 |

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



On the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of the destruction of the Khilafah

Charter of the tribes and large families of Palestine

In support of the establishment of the Khilafah and the implementation of the Shari'ah in a complete and comprehensive manner.

We a large group from amongst the leaders and representatives of the large families (Tribes) of Palestine have signed upon that which follows underneath:

Based on our great Deen of Islaam and that which is obligatory upon us in terms of working for the application of its rules and due to our Imaan (belief) in that which has come in our Noble Qur'aan in terms of the promise of Allah to his righteous servants of succession on the earth and due to the glad tidings that our Messenger Al-Mustafaa (saw) informed us of in regards to the return of the Khilafah and the spread of Islaam to cover all corners of the world, based on this:

We make a covenant upon this Shar'i and political charter to support the work for the application of the Shari'ah



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We make a covenant upon this Shar'i and political charter to support the work for the application of the Shari'ah and to strive to realise the achievement of the objective of the Khilafah that will unite the Ummah, liberate the lands and to save the servants (people) from the control of the forces that are hostile against the Muslims, and to save them from the evil of the systems and legislations of falsehood.

And this is upon the following fundamental points:

- 1) The implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah upon the basis of the principle that the sovereignty belongs to the Shar'a.
- 2) The realisation of the right of the people to choose the Khalifah that will implement the Shar'a of Allah.
- 3) The unification of the Muslim lands under the command of the Khalifah who the Ummah has chosen.
- 4) The rejection of any legislation that is not from the Wahi (revelation) and to adopt that which the Khalifah has adopted in terms of Ahkaam Ash-Shari'ah from Ijtihad which will be issued in the constitution and laws.
- 5) To make the constitution purely Islamic where it is extracted from the Islamic Shari'ah evidences alone and these are Al-Kitaab (Al-Qur'aan), the Sunnah, Ijmaa' As-Sahaabah and the Qiyaas that is taken from the Shar'i evidence.
- 6) To return the issue of Palestine to the forefront of the Islamic Ummah because she is the possessor of a right and an obligation and it as obligation upon her to carry the responsibility of its liberation.
- 7) **A call to the Ummah to awaken her pious and strong soldiers to go forth in Al-Jihaad so as to remove the Jewish entity of occupation from all of the land of Palestine and to liberate all of the occupied Muslim lands.**

And upon this basis:

We declare in our being a part of the large families (tribes) of the Muslim lands of Ash-Shaam, that we are with the blessed revolution of Ash-Shaam towards the Khilafah and that we put the issue of Palestine and its liberation as being part of the agenda of the Shaami revolution so that the example of Salaah ud Deen Al-Ayyoobi can be repeated from Halab (Aleppo) to Damascus to **Bait Al-Maqdis (Al-Quds, Palestine)**.

And Allah is witness upon what we have said.