

Islamization processes in Germany

On November 3rd the Al-Hesbah online forum, serving as a conduit for messages for Al-Qaeda and other Jihad organizations, posted links to two movie clips on the "YouTube" website¹. One link is directed to a report which was broadcast by the German television channel RTL, about the phenomena of conversion to Islam in the German society, saying that 4,000 Germans converted to Islam in the past year². The second link leads to a publication of a German-Islamic group called "As-Sunna Verlag"³, dealing with the strengthening of Islam in Germany, called "Our path to Islam"⁴.

The inter-Arab newspaper "Al-Hayat", reported on October 14th 2008 that the security forces in Germany intercepted a network of Muslim extremists operating in Germany with the objective of recruiting young Muslims. According to the report, the network was in contact with terrorist organizations outside of Germany, and its leader – an Imam of Syrian origin – is suspected of receiving funds from groups belonging to the Al-Qaeda organization, and of having ties with those responsible for the suicide bombers in the September 11th terrorist attacks. The report further stated that several months ago, for the first time, a German of Turkish origin, who was in close contact with Islamic centers in Germany, carried out a terrorist attack in Iraq⁵.

In the movie clip that is translated into Arabic, German citizens speak about the process that has brought them to join the Islamic faith. The movie clip, which is 7

¹ <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=197550>. It should be emphasized that other Jihadi forums have reported the publication of these movies.

² <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=527MLqNkDRO&feature=related>

³ <http://www.as-sunna-verlag.de>. For details about this group from the official website, see appendix no. 1.

⁴ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrO1tey7TFU&feature=related>

⁵ http://www.daralhayat.com/world_news/europe/10-2008/Item-20081013-f726e2eb-c0a8-10ed-00aa-b9bd9f6beeee/story.html

minutes long, emphasizes that the people that converted to Islam are not Arab, but European. One of the people talking in the movie stated that he converted to Islam by declaration of the Shahada⁶ through the internet, emphasizing the internet's power as a tool for spreading Islam and for recruiting others under its flag. It should be noted that the movie clip shows only men, most of which are young people more susceptible to propaganda and brainwashing techniques.

The young people speak passionately about faith in the Islamic religion, to which they refer to as the "right" faith, and stress their adherence and devotion to this religion. Also, throughout almost the entire movie the new converts to Islam are interviewed in the mosques in Germany⁷, a fact that may demonstrate that even after their conversion, the mosque serves a focal point for the strengthening of the faith.



The movie: our path to Islam

⁶ The Shahada is the Islamic declaration of faith and it includes a declaration about the uniqueness of the Lord and Muhammad's divine mission. A person uttering the Shahada out loud three times, with sincere intent and in the presence of two Muslim witnesses, is considered as having officially joined the Islamic congregation.

⁷ It should be noted that the Al-Hesbah online forum posted on January 2004 a long list of Islamic centers and mosques deployed across Germany:

<http://64.233.183.104/search?q=cache:hOfXabgPa0YJ:www.alhesbah.bz/v/showthread.php%3Fp%3D63941+hesbah+%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7&hl=iw&ct=clnk&cd=8&gl=il>

Testimony of the effect of these Islamization processes can perhaps be found in an article published in the inter-Arab newspaper "Al-Sharq Al-Awsat" on August 12th 2008. The article states that 50 German-Muslim extremists are in Afghanistan undergoing military training. All of them were young people recruited by the "Islamic Jihad Union" (IJU). Authorities believe this is an organization which serves as Al-Qaeda's military branch in Western Europe. It has 300 members in Germany and its goal is to recruit Germans who converted to Islam⁸. In this context, a German who converted to Islam called Eric Breininger, aged 21, is one of the organization's members who went to Afghanistan after his conversion to Islam. The German authorities suspect he wishes to return to the country in order to carry out a suicide attack⁹. It should also be noted that the American Treasury Department decided on December 4th 2008 to classify the members of the IJU organization as a terrorist cell¹⁰.

The online surfer who posted the links on the Al-Hesbah forum declares that in view of the awakening of Jihad these days, the Islamic nation will receive the announcement of the rise of Islam in "Crusader Germany"¹¹.



"Forgiveness from the messenger of Allah; the Germans have spoken heresy. set fire to Germany and its heretic newspaper 'Der Spiegel'"
(in the background Germany's flag and the twin towers on fire)

⁸ <http://www.asharqalawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=10850&article=482486&feature>

⁹ <http://almedad.com/vb/showthread.php?p=23434>

¹⁰

http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/Treasury_IJUdesignations_122008.pdf.

For more information about IJU's activities in Germany and the way the German security services are coping with this organization, see:

<http://ict.org.il/NewsCommentaries/Commentaries/tabid/69/Articlsid/155/Default.aspx>

¹¹ <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=197550>

A few weeks beforehand, on October 15th 2008, an article was posted on the Al-Hesbah forum, entitled "The Muslims in Germany are rebelling against the competition that tries to emulate the words of the Prophet Muhammad and his actions"¹². According to the article, the competition is due to take place on October 18th 2008 at the annual book fair in Frankfurt, and it has caused a great deal of rage amongst the Muslims in Germany and Turkey, who have warned of its consequences.

The report has led to a number of responses at the Al-Hesbah forum, one of which asked Allah to avenge Germany. Another online surfer called for Germany to be set on fire, as well as the "heretic" newspaper Der Spiegel who reported on the competition¹³. Due to the Muslim outrage, the competition to mimic Muhammad was cancelled¹⁴, emphasizing the Muslim population's power, especially after the matter of the caricature drawings of Muhammad which brought on a crisis in the relations between Denmark and the Muslim world.

¹² <http://www.alhesbahweb.net/v/showthread.php?t=195396>

¹³ <http://www.alhesbah.cn/v/showthread.php?p=1672342>

¹⁴ http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2008/10/17/17622_bizarre-news.html

Appendix no. 1 – As Sunna Verlag

The official website of the Islamic-German group As-Sunna Verlag, at the internet address www.as-sunna-verlag.de, provides information about the group's objectives and its roles¹⁵:

"As-Sunna Publishing is a project, which was found through the work and engagement of several 'brothers'. It started through single lectures, which we took and passed on for a small fee to cover the costs or simply gave away as presents. However in order to work on the lectures more professionally, new acquisitions were indispensable and not payable out of our own pocket anymore. Thus the basis for the idea of the publishing was established and step by step turned into reality.

As-Sunna Publishing took upon itself the task of contributing to the better understanding of Islam as teachings and as a way of life, and additionally to be a foothold to the German-speaking Muslims to inform themselves appropriately and in German about their religion. In addition we intend to reduce misunderstandings and prejudices about Islam. Thereby it is important for us that one refers to the sources of Islam, meaning the Quran and the authentic Sunna, according to the understanding of our righteous ancestors. (Salaf as – Salih)

It is not our goal to spread violence-glorifying information and to cause disturbances. Islam is rather a religion of peace, of tranquility and a religion of knowledge. Herewith we would like to make it clear, that we abhor any act of violence against civilians and innocent, whether Muslim or non-Muslim. Islam is a religion that strives to give peace and inner silence to the people, while at the same time it encourages them to do actions that are useful and praiseworthy.

¹⁵ http://www.as-sunna-verlag.de/shop_content.php?coID=9

Also here should be mentioned that we neither belong to a party nor to a sect, but merely are a syndicate of Muslims, which tries to convey Islam on the basis of authentic sources. Moreover we don't have any political goals. Our only goal is the pleasure of Allah ta'ala. We work completely independent of any countries or institutions and are therefore completely uncommitted.

At this point we would like to thank the contributors/instructors Dr. Hassan Dabbagh, Abu Jamal, 'Abdul 'Adim Abu 'Abdir-Rahman, as well as Ziyad (Abu Dahdah) for the good co-operation. May Allah reward them for all their endeavors.

May Allah forgive us all our mistakes, bless this work and accept this project solely for his pleasure."