

Training Jihad activists via the internet

Cyberspace serves as very fertile ground for activity for the Al-Qaeda organization and other Jihadi organizations, in the recruitment of new members and supporters to their ranks. It also serves as a conduit for the training of potential fighters for terrorist attacks by using appropriate tools such as detailed instruction booklets and charts. This trend is clearly manifested in Jihadi forums, as demonstrated below.

On August 16th 2008, a long-time surfer named "Dar' Li-man Wahada"¹ posted on the Al-Hesbah² forum, which is identified with global Jihad, a detailed plan for Muslims interested in joining the Jihad struggle.³ The surfer explains that the outline was written after consulting with his Mujahideen contacts – he states that the targeted audience for the current plan was young men under the age of 25, who had not yet experimented with Jihad and who had not succeeded in reaching the fighting areas. Hereunder are the main outline points, as presented by the above surfer:

The aim:

Training the boys for the next stage, which will start after the Al-Qaeda attacks:

- a. The Muslim youth must be an active member of his unit, in the event that he has succeeded in joining the Mujahideen or if there are new Jihad groups in his town.

¹ A member of the forum since October 2006.

² It should be mentioned that The Al-Hesbah forum became inactive starting November 19, 2008 with Ayman Al-Zawahini's speech protesting the election of Barak Obama as the U.S president.

³ Preparation course for future Al Qaeda attacks: <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=188940>

- b. The Muslim youth must have the ability to organize small cells (of 2-3 youths) or to perpetrate attacks himself in his own surroundings, which will strengthen the Jihad, but will not deviate from Al-Qaeda's general strategy and path.

The incentive:

The surfer quotes the following verses from the Quran: "O you who believe! What is the matter with you, that when you are asked to march forth in the Cause of Allah (i.e. Jihad) you cling heavily to the earth? Are you pleased with the life of this world rather than the Hereafter? But little is the enjoyment of the life of this world as compared to the Hereafter. If you march not forth, He will punish you with a painful torment and will replace you by another people; and you cannot harm Him at all, and Allah is able to do all things. If you help him (Muhammad) not (it does not matter), for Allah did indeed help him when the disbelievers drove him out, the second of the two; when they (Muhammad and Abu Bakr) were in the cave, he (Muhammad) said to his companion (Abu Bakr): Be not sad (or afraid), surely Allah is with us. Then Allah sent down his Sakinah (calmness, tranquility, peace) upon him, and strengthened him with forces (angels) which you saw not, and made the word of those who disbelieved the lowermost, while the Word of Allah that became the uppermost; and Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise" (Surat "At-Taubah", The Repentance, verses 38-40).

It should be noted, that the surfer chooses to use high language to illustrate and point to the difficult mental condition which the Islamic world is in, and the loss of the Muslim youth's way and, at the same time, the enemy's boldness in confronting the Islamic prophet. He believes that it is possible to train a large

force during the coming months, which will know how to change the existing situation. In order to legitimize the urgency of a Jihad war, he quotes the Islamic religious law scholar, Ibn Taymiyyah⁴, who supports training the youth for Jihad.

The Training:

In the surfer's view, the training starts first and foremost with willpower, which enables a person to act and execute various deeds. For this purpose the Muslim needs to find time for himself, during which he will prepare his soul for the mission according to Islamic religious law, physically and mentally, individually and not collectively. The surfer adds that there are a number of essays which aid in training the potential Mujahid, according to Islamic religious law and ideology⁵:

Physically, the surfer calls for doing the following:

- a. Every Muslim must undergo physical training, at least three times a week.
The joining of a sports club is recommended.
- b. Running outside at least once a week.
- c. Those who are able should swim on the remaining days.
- d. To avoid dangerous moves during the first weeks in order not to hurt oneself and to advance slowly with the physical training.
- e. During the month of Ramadan, reduce physical training.

The surfer stresses that the trainee must be alert to the following dangers during training:

- a. It is important to safeguard personal security and to camouflage one's Jihadi persona.

⁴ A 13th century scholar of Islamic religious law, who inspires today's Islamic movements.

⁵ The surfer even supplies links to download these essays.

- b. One must rely on Allah and study "the Security Encyclopedia".⁶
- c. No information must be given to one's family or circle of friends regarding the preparations for Jihadi operations, nor to any other forum. Such a step may harm the Muslim who is in the training stage.

The surfer states that there are many Muslims who complain of authentic distress during the courses intended to prepare the Jihadi fighters. In his opinion, reading the above books is the necessary basis of the Mujahid's training. He also asks the surfers who intend to use the training program which he suggested, to inform him so that he can give them additional training in the future.

Another surfer named "Abu Sayf Al-Islam"⁷ casts doubt on the timetable which "Dar' Li-man Wahada" set out for the training program suitable for Jihad operations. According to him, the period of time allocated for this training is not realistic and the training program could fail. In addition he asks that "Dar Li-man Wahada" write a summary or raise the central idea behind each of the books which he suggested reading. He also wonders how it is possible to digest the reading material at the same time as reading it.

"Dar Li-man Wahada" answers "Abu Sayf Al-Islam" that reading the books should take a month or, at the most – two months, and stresses that within the framework of the preparations for Jihad, the Mujahid trainee must refrain from any other activities. He says that when the trainees complete this initial stage, he will present the remainder of the training program to those Muslims. The

⁶ This is one of the books which the surfer recommends reading.

⁷ A member of the forum since December 2007.

assimilation of the ideas raised in these books, will be expressed in the future stages.⁸

"Abu Sayf Al-Islam" is convinced by "Dar' Li-man Wahada's" reply and promises to devote all his time to reading the books and the training outline which he proposed.⁹

Additional communications regarding this topic were also posted on other forums identified with global Jihad. On November 7th 2008, an outlined plan was posted on the forum "Shabakat Al-Muhahideen Al-Electroniya", for the perpetration of successful attacks without mishaps, by a surfer named "Quwat Al-Haq" (the power of justice)¹⁰. The surfer states a number of essential stages for the success of the attacks:

1. The speeches of Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Abu Yahya Al-Libi and Sheikh Abu Mus'ab Abd Al-Wudud, must be followed, as well as sites associated with the Jihadi-Salafiya stream such as "Shabakat Al-Leyoth Islamiya", "Shabakat Al-Mujahideen Al-Electroniya", "Shabakat Shamuh Al-Islam", "Shabakat Al-Faloja Al-Islamiya" and "Shabakat Al-Hesbah". Thereafter, the books and the instruction leaflets mentioned in the Al-Hesbah forum, should be read as an initial preparation stage.
2. "The [Muslim] youth who are carrying out Jihad in their country against the Zionists, the Crusaders and against the Muslims who have left the [Muslim] religion, must consider a number of very important questions":

⁸ <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=188940>

⁹ <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?s=daf2fe80f4b49d81f29d3336>

¹⁰ The heading is: "so that the jihad attacks do not fail" - <http://majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=14661>

- a. Do they have the ability to raise a sufficient sum of money to perpetrate a potential attack?
- b. Do they have the possibility of finding a safe way to purchase arms?
- c. Do they have the ability to define and determine which targets are to be attacked and how they can be tracked?

"Quwat Al-Haq" attributes great importance to an additional consideration which should be taken into account which is the choice of collaborators in perpetrating the attacks. In his opinion, an illogical choice of partners, who could exhibit signs of weakness when leaving for an attack owing to insufficient internalization of the reading material and training stages mentioned above, could result in the attack's failure.¹¹

On November 14th "Ahmad Jab Allah" posted on the Al-Faloja forum a number of opening remarks and links for downloading a booklet which focuses on the ways to recruit new activists to the ranks of global Jihad. The name of the booklet is "Course on the art of recruitment: A program for ongoing action in recruiting people using personal Da'awa" edited by Abu Omar al-Qa'idi. According to the surfer, reading the booklet is another important aid in the training of the Jihadi cells.



**The opening page of the booklet:
"A course in the art of recruitment"**

¹¹<http://majahden.com/vb/showthread.php?t=14661>

He claims that there are "forgotten" groups of people who should be recruited into the Jihad system, and therefore the booklet is meant, in particular, for the recruitment of people from Islamic countries which are not in direct conflict with the "Crusader Occupation" such as Jordan, Al-sham¹², the Arab Peninsula, Egypt, Libya and others. The purpose of the booklet is to assist the Da'awa people in bringing groups of people to the Jihadi way and to clarify its principles and foundations. The booklet itself takes its inspiration from the book written by Abu Mus'ab Al-Suri (born 1958)¹³ "The Global Islamic Resistance Call".¹⁴

Insights and Summary

The Al-Qaeda organization and other Jihad organizations have recently discovered the enormous potential of the internet as a platform for exporting their ideas and recruiting additional potential terrorism activists into their ranks, particularly young men under the age of 25, as stated by one of the Jihadi forum surfers. In order to reach the hearts of these young men, they use indoctrination intended to strengthen Islamic awareness amongst the surfers and to increase their awareness of the cultural, ideological and military attack which the western countries are waging against the Islamic world. The initiators of the Jihadi debate contend that there is an urgent need to instigate a spearhead force, in light of the lack of a suitable Muslim response to the present situation, which will act to destroy the western danger and unite in a Jihadi war against the infidels.

Therefore, the instigators of the debate combine together with the Quran verses and religious references, which confirm the need for a Jihad war, detailed

¹² The intention is Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

¹³ An Al-Qaeda leader accused of involvement in planning the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. Convicted of membership in a terrorist organization. See: http://www.mil.no/multimedia/archive/00076/The_Al-Qaeda_strate_76568a.pdf

¹⁴ A multi-page book and the most important written by Al-Suri, renowned inside and outside Jihadi circles.

explanations and comprehensive textbooks on the required preparations to be made for the Jihadi war. The time allocated, according to one of the training booklets, for the Jihadi recruits to become a well trained terror cell, should take only a few months, but at the end of the initial training, additional in-depth training is anticipated. In other words, the Jihadi organizations are striving to train terror cells within a relatively short time, and for this purpose they provide a detailed description of the outlined plan and demand strict and full application of all its details to ensure that the members of the cell will absorb the material properly. The potential terrorists are also required to invest time in planning and choosing a target for attack and to carefully choose their terror cell partners, to avoid the possibility of failure whilst carrying out the future terrorist attack.