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SHORT COMMUNICATION

## Selected aspects of training of Islamic terrorist

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### ABSTRACT

The subject matter of the training varies depending on the activities of the recruits. If a recruited person is not ready to devote his life to a suicide attack, he may be rejected and sent home. In such a case, such a person may be entrusted with another type of mission which he or she may carry out in his own country. Sometimes recruits do not go to training because they are not able to contact the agent who is due to deliver them to the camp, or because they arrive at the camp after they arrive in the country of destination and were under the watch of special forces.

**Keywords:** Islamic terrorism, terrorist attack, logistics preparing, training

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Depending on the type of mission, the training will be conducted in a different way, characteristic of the area of operation of the bombers. More professional training will take place in training camps, while improving in mosques and ad hoc camps and through the Internet. Theoretical training can be carried out eg in prisons, which results from the constant surveillance of terrorists over the trained. Islamic training camps can include both fixed, organized camps and short-term ad hoc camps. They are located in different countries and

include preparation for various activities. Training takes place in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Sudan, Algeria, Syria, Iran, Bangladesh. Some forms of training (avoidance of deception, loss of observation, communication) take place in western countries.

## **2. TRAINING**

Training is a prerequisite for taking part in extremist activities (except for providing logistical support). Classes take place in physical and psychological isolation and are designed to alienate the trainees from society and enable a process where each student loses his or her identity and creates a collective mentality. Attendance at training centers can provide the skills needed to carry out assassinations. In addition, the experience gained in these centers (exploring experienced fighters, religious indoctrination, terrorist task, etc.) may give rise to further motivation to participate in extremist activities. Not everyone who undergoes training attends jihad. They use camps to acquire skills that will later be used as needed. In many cases, training takes place in the context of a specific armed conflict and many of those who carry on the holy wars do not identify themselves with the concept of global jihad and are not involved in any terrorist act that has no relation to these armed conflicts. However, those who have received training may be a significant threat if they decide to take part in the attacks.

Afghanistan and Pakistan were considered as traditional Islamic training places. However, the 2001 invasion of the Taliban and the actions taken by the Pakistani government to eradicate Islamic terrorism have resulted in the destruction or closure of many large, permanent training camps in these countries. Centers operating in Afghanistan provided a wide range of training. They were located in distant mountain areas to avoid the penetration of special services. At the same time a large number of people (50-60) were trained. The training program included information on weapons, physical exercise, melee combat and religious indoctrination, held in specially-built mosques within the camp.

Camp training prepares to carry out attacks in Europe. Persons wishing to provide such training must provide funds to cover transportation and other costs, but also to find someone who will guarantee their credibility as training organizers want to keep the camp safe and the safety of those involved in the training. Training centers are now much smaller than 5-6 years ago. Al-Qa'ida camps are located mainly in Iraq, Yemen and the North and South Waziristan. Fixed camps also operate in Kashmir, despite efforts by the Pakistani side to close them.

From previous attacks in Europe, suicide bombers have been training intensively for several days before the attack. They remain in isolation and receive ideological and religious support. The knowledge provided to them is purely basic and focuses on the purpose of the attack and how to approach it (during the training to prepare for a car-trap attack) learns the technique of driving [1-15].

## **3. TRAINING PLACES**

Mosques, in addition to proclaiming extremist religious views and propaganda content, resulting in the radicalization of the Muslims attending there, are also places where training takes place. An example is the Finsbury Park mosque in London, where Islamists practiced spreading and submitting weapons in the basement. Also among the items found there were:

the form of passports; Gas masks; Protective suits against chemical, biological and nuclear agents; Hunting knives and weapons - they were supposedly used in training camps in the United Kingdom. Mosques in Germany organize martial arts courses.

Madras are located in many countries and their pupils can come not only from the local community but also from abroad. The degree of madras involvement in organizing training for Islamic extremists is unclear. Some Koranic schools may convey extremist religious views, thereby radicalizing their students, and it can not be ruled out that it encourages them to train or undertake terrorist activities. Apart from the role of madras as places to recruit potential recruits for further radicalization, these schools are sometimes involved in organizing practical training for future fighters.

The fact that prisoners are in the company of other criminals (ordinary or terrorist) may promote the exchange of not only extremist views, but also practical knowledge. Islamists can obtain useful information from other extremists or ordinary prisoners and then use them practically after their release. The knowledge that can be passed in jails, however, seems rather fragmentary.

After the dismantlement of some of the camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Internet has become a favorite venue for disseminating training materials among Islamic extremists. The rising popularity and accessibility of this network, as well as the relative privacy and anonymity it provides, make it an attractive environment not only for sharing ideological and religious views related to Islam, but also for providing material describing various themes of Islamic extremism.

It can be assumed that visitors to the extremist Islamic web pages will consider the possibility of using computer games simulating warfare in jihad preparations, which will allow users to practice tactics and ways of attacking in a virtual environment. Despite the fact that the Internet provides rapid dissemination of information, the data provided is not always of good quality and many have already been published. Despite these drawbacks, the internet should not be underestimated, as it may be important to unite Islamic extremists after accessing them, who may later start to create independent, functioning and unrelated terrorist networks. The subject of Islamic terrorist training covers a wide range of topics, depending on the type of training camp or course you are attending, or the range of knowledge that you want to know yourself. *Al Qaeda Military Series (Declaration of Jihad against the country's tyrants)* - Islamic extremist training manual, found by the police, during the search of a member of **Al Qaeda** in 1998. The original version is about 5000 pages. This manual is in essence an operation plan for extremists. Translated into English in 2004, it was used as evidence in New York on the bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) on August 7, 1998.

Based on the available information on the types of training and on the content of the Al-Qa'ida Training Manual, Islamic terrorist training can be divided into the following sections:

- 1) Principles of functioning of the terrorist network: necessary elements for functioning; mission and tasks of the grid; methods of action; proper use of information; maintenance of internal discipline; physical training of members.
- 2) Counterfeit documents and false money: financial precautions; false documents (identity cards, passports); create a legend of your identity, memorize legends of other members.

- 3) Creation of terrorist mesh bases: location; space for additional hiding places; destiny (gathering information, observing people and objects); apartment-related precautions; legend of people using the apartment.
- 4) Means of communication and transport: means of communication (telephone, personal meetings, messengers); additional means of communication (secret communication: common, waiting, alarm); communication between members and between the net and outsiders; use of own and public transport; precautions in public and private transport; travel safety.
- 5) Training of the members of the net: safety measures to be maintained during training (place of training, participants in the training: members of the net, trainers, organizers).
- 6) Weapons: purchase and transportation security (pre-purchase, purchase, transport, storage); use of firearms and explosives.
- 7) Safety of grid members: development of safety plans; division of persons (commander, members of the secretariat, consuls, members of the public for communication with other networks, members used for logistical support); security measures taken by individual members; special protection of the commander; methods of introducing a safety plan in the event of grid depletion (membership legend, development of escape plans for others; communication; ways of keeping in case of arrest by security authorities and during the hearing).
- 8) Collecting information by means of public means: the rules of observing the Muslim environment and the local population; principles of recognizing public buildings; clothing used during activities; communication with other members of the grid; collection of information contained in the public media.
- 9) Collection of information by secret methods: rules of cooperation with informants; religious indoctrination of the informant; recording, monitoring, photographing places of future terrorist attack; hearing; document theft; intoxicated for information; surveillance, espionage and secret surveillance; training of recruited informants (agents); abduction and murder in order to obtain information.
- 10) Prisons and detention centers: behavior during detention and detention centers; establishing a defense line with an attorney; the legend of your identity; methods communicated with other members of the grid; complaints against ill-treatment in custody (eg, evidence of torture against detainees).

During training (self-study), other types of information may also be of interest to the person concerned, depending on the specific task he or she is to undertake. These materials may include: falsification of documents, driving instruction, shooting techniques, and other skills needed to perform activities.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The system of training of Islamic terrorists takes different forms and methods and covers a wide range of topics taught at different levels of the participants as well as the tasks performed by the members of the network. The most thorough training is provided by traditional camps. However, due to the fact that since the start of the war on terror (2001) some of them have been dismantled by anti-terrorist forces (especially in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq), Islamic

terrorist networks are currently stepping up efforts to create provisional camps of courses Also in European countries.

Poland can also be the place where such camps (courses) can take place. This is due to the fact that until now Poland has not been the venue for the attacks, nor has there been any spectacular detention of terrorist suspects. This situation makes Islamists feel relatively safe. Counteracting such phenomena, the involvement of relevant services should be increased to identify the extremist milieu in Poland and the people who come here to visit relatives. Such actions allow for the detection of possible recruitment attempts, primarily in mosques, meeting rooms, penitentiaries and other places convenient for spreading radical beliefs. Terrorist-driven recruitment and training activities on the Internet should also be observed, as it is predicted that it will continue to gain popularity among the people who use the websites during their extremist activity.

It is also appropriate to strengthen border control in order to detect persons coming to Poland from the risk areas. However, it should be mentioned that the arrival of our country may also take place from countries belonging to the so-called. The Schengen area, and what is involved is that such persons enter the territory of Poland without border control (or simplified control). It is also advisable to prevent (temporary) border control with Schengen countries as well as roadside controls on roads leading to the western and southern borders of Poland. Also remember to check the legality of the stay of foreigners inside the country.

Of those who have undergone training in permanent training camps, not all will be eligible candidates for terrorist methods as a form of activity, not to mention suicide missions in European territory. They may (as persons sympathizing with Islamic terrorist networks) be used to provide logistical support to Islamists (eg couriers). Extremists taking part even in initial (basic) training are a big threat because using self-education (eg through the Military Series Manual) or exchanging information by email have the opportunity to create meshes and make contacts with others. This is also a very serious threat to the security of citizens and the state.

Islamic terrorist training in European countries takes the form of several day courses. So far, there have been no permanent training camps for Islamic terrorist training in Pakistan such as Pakistan or Afghanistan. Such courses do not provide specialized terrorist skills, for a simple reason - the conditions corresponding to these training are not conducive to maintaining the proper degree of space conspiracy and participants. Such courses can not, for example, properly convey knowledge of handling weapons or explosives because of limited access to them. There is no up to date information on the organization of this type of course, as well as on the selection of participants. Several places will be used to conduct such camps, and all of them will be in private. Camps of a military nature may include: marches with repairs; Use of high-altitude equipment; Operation and maintenance of white arms. Firearms and explosives will be used in sporadic cases so as not to expose participants to decontamination.

For training in Europe, it is more important than learning new skills to meet inspirational people and experienced jihadists, to build trust between the participants and to establish contacts that can significantly facilitate future terrorist activities and support the logistical attacks. Such camps may also function as places for the selection of persons eligible for further training, for example abroad. Such training may include physically exhausting exercise in difficult conditions to assess the physical fitness of those taking part.

In Europe, there are training courses for Islamic terrorists who focus primarily on outreach activities linked to religious sciences. Islamic extremists have organized training in British national parks under the cover of Islamic teaching. It is difficult to prove the teaching

of methods and forms of terrorist activities on such religious meetings, due to the fact that the persons conducting the trafficking work as well as the selection of trainees. Religious teachings are held officially and under their mantle are terrorist training. Training in Europe can be a first step towards further involvement in the activities of Islamic extremists.

Although there has been no evidence of the existence of traditional training camps in Poland, the importance of out-of-class activities and courses of simple military training should not be underestimated. Participation in out-of-class activities may be a prelude to further involvement in: extremist activities; more advanced training or logistical support for assassinations or radical actions abroad. Besides, the existence of such kind of camps gives extremists the opportunity to further radicalize recruits without having to send them abroad.

In the author's opinion, the territory of Europe is perceived by Islamic terrorists not only as a logistical base for their operations, but also as a field for global jihad. It is therefore likely that these relatively basic courses will be developed and transformed into more specialized centers of extremist training.

### **Biography**

Wojciech J. Janik – Ph.D., university lecturer, a professional soldier, author of several monographs and dozens of scientific articles in the field of modern terrorism, national security and war theory with particular reference to the hybrid war.

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