Blown Apart: The Mumbai Attacks and the “Bunch of Guys” Theory
BY PROF. BRUCE HOFFMAN

Carnage in Mumbai: The World’s Longest Terrorist Attack?
BY DR. ROHAN GUNARATNA

How Terrorists Use the Internet to Target Children
BY PROF. GABRIEL WEIMANN

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The terrorist attacks in Mumbai have shaken the world once again and reminded us of the very real threat of jihadist terrorism around the world. The investigation into the attack will require full cooperation between international intelligence agencies and will serve as a significant case study of attacks on soft targets for government agencies and security companies everywhere. Clearly, these attacks required intense training, planning, and funding. However, the difficulty in gathering intelligence was likely very low, given the open nature of the selected targets, which included two five-star hotels in the India’s financial capital.

In recent years, luxury hotels have been a preferred target of jihadist groups. Only two months prior to the Mumbai attacks, the Marriott hotel in Islamabad was attacked, killing almost 50 people. In January 2008, in an operation echoed in the Mumbai attacks, three Taliban fighters carrying grenades and firing AK-47s stormed the five-star Serena Hotel in Kabul, killing eight. In November 2005, al-Qaeda in Iraq executed an attack on three hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60. A few months earlier, in July 2005, several tourism centers, including two hotels, were attacked at Sharm al-Sheikh, the Egyptian resort city, with at least 60 people killed. Prior to that, Jemaah Islamiyah executed a car bombing on the Marriott in Jakarta in August 2003, killing 12.

This issue of inSITE focuses in the Mumbai attacks, with additional analysis from Dr. Bruce Hoffman and Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, SITE Senior Advisors. In “Blown Apart: The Mumbai Attacks and the ‘Bunch of Guys’ Theory,” Dr. Hoffman argues that the Mumbai attacks demonstrate that the greatest terrorism threat facing the world remains the “top-down direction and implementation” of established, existing jihadi organizations, rather than “self-trained wannabes” or “bunch of guys” of the leaderless jihad theory.

Dr. Hoffman notes that commando-like teams utilized directed surveillance, intelligence gathering, and “meticulous logistical preparation” to execute the attacks. While noting that the threat of lone gunmen or small groups of homegrown extremists “cannot be completely dismissed,” Dr. Hoffman explains how governments will have to face the continuing threat posed by organized terrorism in the future.

I am also pleased to present a highly informative article from Dr. Gunaratna about the attacks. His article, “Carnage in Mumbai: The World’s Longest Terrorist Attack?”, includes a detailed timeline of events occurring during the three-day crisis, as well as transcripts of phone calls placed by fighters in Mumbai to India TV during the attack. In Dr. Gunaratna’s analysis, despite the killing and arrest of specific operatives involved in the attack on Mumbai, the threat has not dissipated as both the infrastructure used to prepare the operation and the ideology motivating the attackers remain intact. The attacks therefore serve as a reminder that “al-Qaeda influenced, if not directed operations” constitute a common threat to India and Pakistan and that to counter this threat, India must focus on building strong relations with its neighbors in the region.

Meanwhile evidence is mounting that Lashkar-e Tobia (LeT), the Pakistani-based jihadist group, might have contributed significantly to this operation. The group, with links to the Taliban and al-Qaeda, has quickly become a threat not only to India and Pakistan but to the entire world. In “Lashkar-e Tobia: A Global Threat”, we look at how LeT has become one the largest terrorist organizations in South Asia, recruiting jihadists from across the globe and providing them with military training.

This issue also reviews online discussions by jihadists about the Mumbai attacks, who continue to discuss the attack’s execution and ramifications. Many have offered words of support to the mujahideen and encouraged others to commit similar actions. Still, there was debate about whether the attacks was legitimate and permissible. Interestingly, on one Palestinian jihadist forum, argued that the civilian deaths caused by the Mumbai attacks were not permissible.

Finally, I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Gabriel Weimann as a SITE Senior Advisor. Dr. Weimann, a former senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, is a professor of Communication at Haifa University currently serving as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the School of International Services at American University. Dr. Weimann has long studied jihadists online and their use of the internet as a propaganda tool. In this issue of inSITE, Dr. Weimann explores the problematic issue of how jihadists utilize the internet to appeal to children.

We hope you find this issue informative and edifying.

Sincerely,

Rita Katz
Director, SITE Intelligence Group
Zawahiri Speaks on Current Events

Ayman al-Zawahiri, the second in command of al-Qaeda, spoke on current events, including Barack Obama winning the US presidential election, in two videos issued on jihadist forums in November, 2008. These videos are produced by as-Sahab, the media arm of al-Qaeda. The first of these releases is an audio speech on November 19 criticizing Obama for his position to Israel and warning that a “heavy legacy of failure” awaits him. Zawahiri uses Malcolm X as a standard of comparison for African American leaders in the US, borrowing from his words to call Obama, Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell “house negroes”; though Zawahiri, himself, uses the term, “house slaves”. The second release came on November 27 and is a video interview with Zawahiri in which he speaks on several current issues. These include the US financial crisis, US presidential candidates, al-Azhar University in Egypt straying from true Islam, al-Qaeda in Yemen, and successive US defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Jihadist Responses to Mumbai Attacks

Jihadists responded favorably to the news of the Mumbai attacks, in which over 100 people were killed when militants stormed prominent locations across the city on November 26. On jihadist forums, participants posted news coverage of the attacks and praised the mujahideen who carried out the attack. Others hurled epithets at Indians and expressed pleasure with the fact that Jews were also being held hostage.

Baghdadi Addresses President-Elect

The leader of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, addressed the US President-elect and presidents of “Christian countries” in an audio speech. Baghdadi does not mention the name of US President-elect Barack Obama, indicating it may have been recorded some time prior to the US presidential election. In the speech, issued on jihadist forums on November 6, he encourages the US to reinstate a non-interventionist foreign policy, warning against continuing the current course of foreign policy abroad, not only in Iraq, but in all Muslim countries. Baghdadi also remarks on the global financial crisis, arguing that the wars launched in Muslim countries were the “principal cause of the collapse of the economic giant,” and people should not place trust in those countries founded on gambling and usury.

Coalition Air Strikes Kill Afghan Insurgents

Three insurgent groups in Afghanistan, the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU), al-Mahdi Army, and Abu Omar bin Abi Waqqas Army defend the Mujahideen Army.

Bali Bombers Exhort for Jihad

Messages from the three men convicted for the 2002 Bali bombings were posted on jihadist forums prior to their execution. Ali Ghufron, Imam Samudra, and Amrozi called upon Muslims and mujahideen, al-Qaeda, specifically, to avenge their execution and strike Indonesian leaders and justice officials involved in their sentencing. The Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) posted on November 7 a message from Ali Ghufron touting jihad as a means to enter paradise. This message was provided in Arabic, English, and French languages, and is a transcription of an audio recording allegedly captured by a journalist’s mobile phone inside Nusakambangan prison on October 31. The bombers were executed by a firing squad on November 8. Jihadists later reacted to Indonesia carrying out the death sentence, decrying the act and praising the men. Video footage of radical Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir presiding over Ali Ghufron and Amrozi’s funerals was also posted on jihadist forums.

Iraqi Insurgent Factions Criticize ISI

Three insurgent factions in Iraq, the Mujahideen Army, Conquerors’ Army, and Sa’ad bin Abi Waqqas Army, each criticized the al-Qaeda front group in Iraq, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), for allegations made by one of its officials. Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, the ISI War Minister, claimed in an interview in October, 2008 that the Mujahideen Army cooperated with Awakening Councils, and charged his leader with issuing orders to kill ISI fighters. The Mujahideen Army refuted these allegations on November 2, and rebuked Mujahir and ISI for exhibiting “disgusting behavior” that has become characteristic of ISI. The group also levies its own charges against ISI, claiming that its men kill those who do not follow their method. Statements from the Conquerors’ Army and Sa’ad bin Abi Waqqas Army defend the Mujahideen Army.

Jihadists Respond to Obama Victory

Some members of al-Hesbah, an exclusive al-Qaeda-affiliated forum, posted remarks on November 5 in the wake of Barack Obama’s victory in the US presidential election. Opinion is divided amongst forum participants, some arguing that Obama may be receptive to a truce with militants, and others arguing the opposite, not aware of Obama’s intentions or believing him to follow current US foreign policy. One al-Hesbah member writes: “Obama, McCain, Bush, Clinton, and, and, and... All of them are enemies of Islam and the Muslims, and fighting them is a jihad duty.” A member opening discussion about Obama opines whether it is time for the renewal of the truce between al-Qaeda and the US. Others disagree about a truce, refusing to believe that the US will negotiate. Prominent jihadist “Asad al-Jihad 2” merely writes, “now the fight has begun!!!”, which is a slogan reiterated by other members.
Al-Qaeda in Yemen Claims US Embassy Bombing

A branch of al-Qaeda in Yemen claimed the September 17, 2008 attack on the US embassy in Sanaa. Al-Qaeda in the South of the Arabian Peninsula, head by Abu Baseer al-Wuhaysi, provided this claim in the sixth issue of its magazine, “Echo of the Epics” [Sada al-Malahem]. The statement of this claim provides details into the method of attack and names the seven fighters involved in its execution. According to media reports, six Yemeni policemen and seven civilians were killed as a result of the attack. The group adds that the administrative attaché was killed, who was “reported falsely” to have died in a car accident. Some articles in the sixth issue relate to this attack, including pieces giving a brief biography of the seven attackers, additional details of the operation, and justifications for the attack.

Taliban to Obama: Repudiate Bush

The Taliban urged US President-elect Barack Obama to repudiate the foreign policy of incumbent George W. Bush and begin a healing process for US reputation abroad. These comments came in an English-language message posted on its website on November 11, 2008. The election of Obama, the Taliban finds, demonstrates the “collective will” of Americans to discontinue the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq after suffering massive losses in terms of life and economy. They reiterate to Obama that moving additional troops into Afghanistan is a vain effort, as the Taliban and Afghan people will defeat them. Should Obama pursue Bush’s foreign policy, the Taliban warns that the fate of the Democrats will be more “shameful” and “despicable” than that of the Republicans.

AQIM Condemns Constitutional Amendment

Abu Musab Abdul Wadud, the leader of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), criticized Algerian President Abdel Aziz Bouteflika and the Algerian parliament for amending the constitution to extend presidential term limits. A message containing this criticism was issued on jihadist forums on November 26. Wadud explains that this amendment, which allows Bouteflika to run for a third term, is a “flagrant usurpation of power” and demonstration of “clear arrogance” towards the will of the people. The AQIM leader urges Algerians to see through this deception and deny Bouteflika a third term.

Jihadist Media Group Compiles Explosives Manuals

Al-Nusra Media Battalion compiled into a single file a collection of explosives manuals totaling over 1,000 pages, and posted the file on jihadist forums on November 24. The collection is titled, “The Encyclopedia of Weapons and Explosives, First Part”. It includes manuals providing instruction for a range of compounds and equipment for bombings, including mobile phones for remote detonation, chemical explosives, and detonators, and placement of these materials to strike a specific target. Al-Nusra advises jihadists who download this collection to become active in the explosives field.

Al-Hesbah Forum Offline

Al-Hesbah, an exclusive password-protected, al-Qaeda-affiliated forum, went offline on November 17, prompting its administrators to advise members not to visit imposter sites. Al-Yaqeen, a jihadist media group, distributed this message from the administrators on jihadist forums on November 22. Al-Hesbah was the last of the four al-Fajr-affiliated forums to be taken down, the other three being al-Ekhlaas, al-Firdaws, and al-Boraq. In the wake of al-Hesbah’s closure, the Fajr Center correspondents have joined another forum to post material from al-Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), and Ansar al-Islam. The al-Hesbah Network administration announced that they are “deploying great efforts” to reopen the site.

Shabaab Denies Threatening Pirates

The Shabaab denied reports by al-Jazeera News Channel that they threatened Somali pirates and promised to free a Saudi oil tanker. The Shabaab (AKA Young Mujahideen Movement) is an insurgent group in Somalia. A communiqué containing this denial was posted on jihadist forums on November 24. The group denies not only the threat to Somali pirates, but for having claimed responsibility for suicide operations in Hargeisa and Bossaso, two cities in Northern Somalia. They question the credibility of al-Jazeera’s reporting and the spokesman to which the channel attributed Shabaab statements. Al-Jazeera, the group argues, follows the “Crusader” media in slandering the mujahideen and fabricates news for that purpose.

Yaqeen Rebukes Muslims Over Silence to Denmark

Al-Yaqeen Media Center, a jihadist media group, rebuked Muslims for silence to Denmark over the cartoon controversy, reporting that a Danish cartoonist is preparing a new book offensive to Islam. The report was published under al-Yaqeen’s “Jihad Press” banner and posted on jihadist forums on November 12. Al-Yaqeen observes the move as a continuation in the “series of abuses against Islam and Muslims.” They remind that Arab governments and Islamic personalities demonstrated a weak response to the insults to the Prophet Muhammad, such that additional offenses were made in Denmark and the Netherlands. At the same time, al-Yaqeen notes that al-Qaeda delivered a response in the form of a suicide bombing at the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Fatah al-Islam on Syrian Hostility, United Aggression

Fatah al-Islam commented on a united front by Lebanon, Syria, Hezbollah, and other groups against its organization in a statement issued on jihadist forums on November 29, 2008. Fatah al-Islam is a Salafist group led by Shaker al-Absi. They deny involvement in the car bombing in Damascus, Syria in September 2008, explaining that the confession by Absi’s daughter about the group’s culpability was compelled. Syria, Fatah al-Islam argues, through confronting the group, has demonstrated its collusion with Iran and Hezbollah to strengthen Shi’ite control in Lebanon. Fatah al-Islam touts itself as the only obstacle to Hezbollah taking control.
Among the fatalities of the tragic attacks in Mumbai was the so-called “bunch of guys” theory. Like the scores of dead and hundreds of wounded, it too was the victim of a terrorist operation that was planned and premeditated and executed by trained commando-like teams deployed as part of an apparent command and control apparatus which orchestrated their deployment and coordinated their assaults. Schooled in the use of automatic weapons and apparently well-versed in close quarters combat tactics, the gunmen were able to stand their ground against furious security force response and counter-assault. The operation also revealed detailed surveillance, directed intelligence gathering, and meticulous logistical preparation. In sum, the fingerprints of an existing, identifiable terrorist organization — complete with the training camps needed to prepare the attackers, the operational headquarters required to plan and direct the operation, and the knowledge of surveillance trade-craft to successfully execute them — are literally all over the operation.

In contrast, the “bunch of guys” theory of leaderless jihad claimed that terrorism in the 21st Century had drifted from the provenance of top-down direction and implementation provided by established, existing organizations to an entirely bottom-up, loosely networked phenomenon of radicalized individuals gravitating towards one another with a shared penchant for violence. These collections of individuals were defined as the new threat for which we had to prepare: self-selected, self-radicalized, and mostly self-trained wannabes with a limited capacity for violence. They were multiplying and spreading supposedly to challenge more traditional conceptions of terrorism and attendant security force countermeasures and response protocols based upon a now anachronistic organized style of terrorism. Indeed, with the rise of the leaderless jihad, it was argued, actual, formal terrorist organizations fulfilling their traditional top-down, command and control roles, had become as immaterial as they were superfluous. The main terrorist threat was now decidedly low-level.

A debate of sorts over this organizational versus leaderless nature of contemporary terrorism had arisen during the past year or so. At congressional hearings and conferences, in the pages of Foreign Affairs and the New York Times, in the vast universe of both informed and distinctly uninformed blog and websites arrayed across the Internet, as well in the corridors of power in the globe’s national capitals, the issue was discussed and contested. On 26 November 2008, however, it was resolved in Mumbai by the terrorists themselves. In a blaze of automatic weapons’ gunfire and hurled hand grenades, they settled the matter — and drove home their point over the course of a further 72 hours, ceasing only when Indian security forces had shot dead the last gunmen holed up in a waterfront luxury hotel.

Mumbai saw the eclipse of leaderless jihad as the salient terrorist threat today as disciplined teams of well-armed, well-trained terrorists simultaneously spread throughout the city to execute their mission against at least ten different targets. In each case, they stood their ground and inflicted the carnage and bloodshed they were trained to accomplish. And, at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower and Oberoi hotels, a Jewish community center, and a city hospital among other venues, the terrorists not only effectively resisted counterattack by Indian security forces, but impeded and inflicted serious losses on those same forces — including the deaths of the city’s top police counterterrorist commanders. The leader of an Indian Marine commando unit marveled as the fighting finally wound down how the terrorists were “very, very familiar with the hotel layout. . . . They were a very, very determined lot. They were moving from one place to the other. . . . Not everybody can fire AK-47 weapons like that. They were trained somewhere.” Thus the delusional theories about the diminishing role of organizations in orchestrating terrorist violence were blown apart in Mumbai. Indeed, in this key respect, the attacks diverged significantly from the pattern of a lone suicide bomber entering a hotel ballroom or riding a subway car and blowing himself up or of simple, home-made bombs surreptitiously planted hours before exploding, triggered from a distance by timed or remote control detonators.

1 See, for example, Mitchell D. Silber and Arvin Bhatt, Radicalization in the West: The Home-grown Threat (New York: New York Police Department, August 2007).

At the same time, though, it should be emphasized that a continuing risk from lone gunmen or small groups of homegrown extremists clearly still exists and cannot be completely dismissed or ignored. America’s own most recent massacre — the April 2007 shootings perpetrated by a single individual at Virginia Tech University that claimed the lives of more than 30 persons — is a lone testament to that. The 2007 plot by six self-identified Islamic militants to attack Fort Dix, New Jersey is another case in point. But while the authorities must continue to worry about attacks by the mentally deranged and by “amateur” or wannabe terrorists such as these incidents demonstrate, their focus — and indeed their preparations and response capabilities — must also now be geared to the “professional,” trained, disciplined and deployed terrorists so in evidence at Mumbai.

Looking To The Future — And Perhaps To More of The Same

Nor is there much likelihood of the organizational salience of the threat from organized terrorism was precisely the message that the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Michael V. Hayden, had imparted in a major public address delivered on 13 November 2008 before a Washington, DC audience. His words are all the more important, not only for their timing — coming just two weeks before the Mumbai attacks — but also because when the DCIA talks he is not speaking only for himself but is inevitably expressing the collective wisdom of the world’s most powerful intelligence service. Hayden variously stated that “al-Qa’ida [sic], operating from its safehaven in Pakistan’s tribal areas, remains the most clear and present danger to the United States today”; that, “If there is a major strike on this country, it will bear the fingerprints of al-Qa’ida”; and, that, “Today, virtually every major terrorist threat my Agency is aware of has threads back to the tribal areas.” Revealingly, Hayden did not even mention once the threat posed by “bunches of guys” or self-radicalized, self-selected individuals belonging to a social network rather than a bona fide terrorist organization.

The DCIA’s unequivocal verdict was all the more stunning given his candid remarks in an interview published last May in the Washington Post. At the time, almost every sentence quoted from the interview coupled the words “al-Qaeda” with the phrase “near strategic defeat” — all of which, it was claimed, suggested al-Qaeda’s decline, if portending its demise. “Near strategic defeat of al-Qaeda in Iraq,” Hayden had said. “Near strategic defeat for al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia. Significant setbacks for al-Qaeda globally . . . as a lot of the Islamic world pushes back on their form of Islam.” The dramatic reversal by Hayden from this rosier assessment in May to his more pessimistic analysis of November was doubtless heavily influenced by the escalating violence and mounting instability plaguing south Asia that also gave rise to the Mumbai attacks. Taken together, the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan that has prompted serious consideration of negotiations with the Taliban; the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul last July that both India and the US claim involved Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence Agency; along with the recent bombing of the Marriot Hotel in Islamabad all conform to a pattern of violence evidencing organizational backing, direction, training, and orchestration.

A Death Foretold: The DCIA and Contemporary Terrorism’s Organizational Dimension

Coincidentally, the continued salience of the threat from organized terrorism was precisely the message that the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Michael V. Hayden, had imparted in a major public address delivered on 13 November 2008 before a Washington, DC audience. His words are all the more important, not only for their timing — coming just two weeks before the Mumbai attacks — but also because when the DCIA talks he is not speaking only for himself but is inevitably expressing the collective wisdom of the world’s most powerful intelligence service. Hayden variously stated that “al-Qa’ida [sic], operating from its safehaven in Pakistan’s tribal areas, remains the most clear and present danger to the United States today”; that, “If there is a major strike on this country, it will bear the fingerprints of al-Qa’ida”; and, that, “Today, virtually every major terrorist threat my Agency is aware of has threads back to the tribal areas.” Revealingly, Hayden did not even mention once the threat posed by “bunches of guys” or self-radicalized, self-selected individuals belonging to a social network rather than a bona fide terrorist organization.

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Looking To The Future — And Perhaps To More of The Same

Nor is there much likelihood of the organizational salience of the threat from organized terrorism changing in the future — at least not for the next 17 years. According to the US National Intelligence Council’s recently published, authoritative assessment of global trends to the year 2025, “Terrorist and insurgent groups in 2025 will likely be a combination of descendants of long-established groups—that inherit organizational structures, command and control processes, and training procedures necessary to conduct sophisticated attacks . . . .” Admittedly, while the report also mentions the continuing threat posed by “newly emergent collections of the angry and disenfranchised that become self-radicalized,” its emphasis clearly is on the continued predominance of, and the more serious threat posed by, organized terrorism and the operational entities that orchestrate it rather than by “bunches of guys.”

In this respect, the Mumbai attacks are a timely and powerful reminder that, in terrorism, organizations most certainly still matter. The tragic events in that city also provide an important lesson about how a small number of well-organized, modestly armed but well-trained and ably-directed terrorists can paralyze an entire city: stymie its police and national security forces; undermine public confidence in the ability of government and the authorities to respond effectively and quickly, much less protect its citizens and guests from such violence; and, generate worldwide attention, fear, publicity and anxiety. The lesson of how easily India’s premiere financial capital and tourist center could be brought to a standstill, and the immense challenges of responding to multiple, coordinated urban assault will rightly preoccupy federal, state and local authorities in the United States and elsewhere in the months to come.


CARNAGE IN MUMBAI: THE WORLD’S LONGEST TERRORIST ATTACK?

DR. ROHAN GUNARATNA
SENIOR ADVISOR, SITE

The vulnerability of cities worldwide to terrorism was highlighted when ten terrorists willing to kill and die brought India’s commercial and entertainment capital to its knees from November 26-29, 2008. Within two hours of landing in Mumbai, the terrorists seized landmark targets beginning a prolonged siege that would last three days. While Indian security forces failed to subdue the attackers and rescue the hostages during the first 60 hours, a world in shock watched the terrorists systematically kill 171, maim and injure 300, and damage and destroy ten targets.

Mumbai, India’s most vibrant city of 18 million people, have suffered previously from terrorism. However, this high-impact, media-grabbing, bloody attack was different in scale and magnitude. The terrorists selected high-profile, symbolic and iconic targets including Mumbai’s most luxurious hotels: the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower and the Oberoi Trident. To shock the world and to overwhelm emergency response, the attack was coordinated and near simultaneous. It was a mass-fatality, mass-casualty attack by terrorists willing to kill and to die. The attackers killed mostly Indian Hindus but singled out Westerners, particularly American, British and Israeli. A total of 26 foreigners were killed. Both the attack method of operation and target selection denoted a classic al-Qaeda attack. Although not perpetrated by Osama bin Laden’s predominantly Arab group, the attackers and their masterminds were certainly influenced by al-Qaeda’s methodology and ideology of killing infidels in return for paradise. The attack demonstrated the lethality of the expanding geography of al-Qaeda influenced if not directed operations.

To maintain operational security, during the training phase, the attackers did not know each other’s identity. Until they left Karachi, the compartmentalized member units of the attacking teams did not communicate with each other. They travelled to their targets mostly on water. The mission began on November 23, 2008 in Karachi after they loaded a Pakistani boat with weapons, ammunition, and food. Close to Indian international water they hijacked Kuber, an Indian fishing boat. Kuber, a 45-foot fishing boat with four Indian crew members, originated in Porbandar in Gujarat, India on November 13. After killing three of the four crew members and

Attack Plan

A WATERSHED ATTACK in planning and style, the attacking group was innovative and the targeting was complex. Unlike most attacks conducted during the last two decades on Indian soil, the attackers that wreaked havoc in Mumbai were exceptionally well-trained and equipped with weaponry, GPS, satellite communications and forged Indian identity documents. The attackers were trained in close-combat techniques, hostage-taking, handling of explosives, satellite navigation, and high-seas survival. They were highly motivated. It was a one-way mission. They did not intend to return.

1 Rice In India To Ease Post-Terror Tension: Top Diplomat Arrives As India, West Point To Evidence That Mumbai Attackers Came From Pakistan, New Delhi, CBS Dec. 3, 2008
2 Interview with Nic Robertson, CNN, London, December 3, 2008
After reaching Mumbai on November 26, the terrorists used two inflatable dinghies to land on the southern tip of Mumbai at about 8:30 p.m. After the first group of terrorists conducted a seaborne landing in Cuffe Parade, a second team landed at Colaba Coast. Wearing t-shirts and jeans, they carried backpacks containing weapons, explosives, communication equipment, and food. They operated in pairs and struck ten targets, finally concentrating on two iconic hotels and a Jewish community centre.

CCTV footage and those who spotted the clean-shaven teenagers saw them appear confident. The attackers had an intimate knowledge of the targets and law enforcement authorities. Ruthless and skilled, they did not wish to waste any time until they reached the two hotels. They did not distinguish between Muslims and Hindus except when inside the five-star hotels.

A detailed account of the events of the Mumbai attack appears on page 11.

The Perpetrators

India has claimed that the operation was staged by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a local Pakistani group from mainland Pakistan. At this point in time, it is not known if al-Qaeda and Pakistani Taliban recruited, retrained and directed individual members of Pakistani and other groups to mount the Mumbai attack. It is also not known whether the attackers received training in tribal Pakistan and came under the influence or direction of groups controlled by al-Qaeda or by al-Qaeda directly.

The only terrorist captured in Mumbai, Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, is the son of Mohammed Amir Kasab from Faridkot village in Okada district of Punjab Province, Pakistan. The 21-year-old, poorly-educated Pakistani joined Lashkar-e-Taiba two years ago and underwent one and half years of initial training at various LeT training camps, but principally in Musafrabad, Kashmir, in Pakistan. According to Nic Robertson of CNN who spoke to Mumbai Joint Police Commissioner of Crime Rakesh Maria who is leading the Mumbai investigation: “Kasab was given small arms training, automatic weapons training, explosives training, survival training, nautical training. The last three months of his training was specific to the Mumbai attack. This is true for the other gunmen although they didn’t know each others mission and the training varied dependent on the targets. Kasab was shown photographs of the locations he was to target. The train station, the hospital etc. At each location he was told things like you’ll come in through this door, then go out here, then go out through that door, very very detailed explicit instructions. The gunmen were hand picked, but there were no examinations per se. While in the camps they all had code names.”

What is known is that both LeT and Pakistani Taliban had conducted hostage-taking operations and al-Qaeda had trained for such operations. For instance, when LeT attacked a camp of the Central Reserve Police Force in Srinagar, during the counter attack operatives retreated to a hotel and took hostages. The hotel stand-off continued. Both LeT and Jaysh-e-Muhammad (JeM) have staged fedayeen attacks. Fedayeen attacks are “no surrender” attacks in which the perpetrators come with the full intention to kill and die. Like the Mumbai attackers, they carry high-caliber weapons and grenades and kill indiscriminately.


6 Interview with Nic Robertson, CNN, London, December 3, 2008
The only occasion a Pakistani group targeted Westerners in India was in Pahalgam, Southern Kashmir, when al-Faran took nine hostages on July 4, 1995. Believed to be a breakaway faction of Harakat-ul Ansar (now renamed Harakat-ul Mujahideen) released three women and one old man. The six western tourists held included two Americans, two British, one German, and one Norwegian. While one of the captives escaped, the Norwegian was beheaded on the ninth day of captivity. The perpetrators then demanded the release of terrorists in custody. In December 1995, the Indian government mounted an operation to rescue the captives.

In 1996, a terrorist in captivity, Nazir Ahmed, said that the five hostages were killed and buried in southern Kashmir’s Manigam. To free Pakistani terrorists in Indian jails, the Pakistani group Jaysh-e-Muhammad hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814 from Nepal to New Delhi on December 24, 1999. The hijackers killed one hostage and eventually India released Maulana Masud Azhar, Mushtaq Zargar, and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheik. The latter, a British citizen of Pakistani origin, was incarcerated in India after planning to kidnap Westerners. The association between Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheik and al-Qaeda subsequently led to the killing in Karachi of Daniel Pearl, the first American to be killed after 9-11.

Threat groups in Pakistan and Bangladesh have extensive links to groups in India. In the recent past, most terrorist attacks in India have been staged by the Indian Mujahideen, a group with extensive links to Harakat-ul Jihad-e-Islami Bangladesh (HuJI-B) and Muslim groups in Pakistan. As an email sent by the Indian Mujahidin specifically warned that Mumbai is on “our radar.” In comparing the technical capabilities of the pre-Mumbai attacks with the Mumbai attack, there is a clear leap. While the Indian Mujahideen used mostly crude bombs, the attackers in Mumbai have used modern weapons. Furthermore, by targeting Westerners, subcontinental threat groups have suggested they may seek to internationalize their domestic and regional issues. As threat groups in the subcontinent are interlinked, it is too early to conclusively identify the authors of the carnage in Mumbai.

**Terrorist Motivation**

To the terrorists, the attacks in Mumbai were carried out to avenge the mistreatment of Muslims. Their motivation was to avenge the deaths of Muslims killed in riots, the demolition of a historic mosque, and the mistreatment of Muslims in India. Instead of living with injustice, the attackers believed it better to fight and die. This is typical indoctrination by Muslim threat groups in the subcontinent, both in India and in Pakistan. When they were told that commandos were coming to kill them, they said that they have prepared for them and that this is only a trailer and that there will be more to come. They were indoctrinated into believing that the Indian commandos were trained by Israelis and Israelis were providing weapons to kill Muslims. They also said that no one is complaining about Israelis inflicted suffering on Palestinians.

The motivation driving the terrorists to attack is best exemplified in two phone calls recorded between the terrorists and India TV’s anchor. Speaking in English and Urdu, terrorists at Oberoi Hotel and Nariman House phoned India TV at the height of the attack. A terrorist identifying himself as Shadullah using cellphone number 09769679723, which belonged...
to Lisa Ringner, a Swedish guest in room 1856 at the Hotel Oberoi, phoned India TV’s popular number 93505 93505 at 9:30 a.m. on November 27, 2008.\textsuperscript{7} A transcript of the call reads as follows:

**India TV**: What do you want?

**Shadullah**: When so many of us were killed, who did anything for us? Babri Masjid was demolished. We were not allowed to stay in peace. That time, nobody was with us. You are talking of surrender. Let these commandos come. Hum Uski Aisi Chhutti karega ki Who apne bachhey ko yateem kar lega [We will get rid of them in such a manner that their sons will become orphans].

**India TV**: You belong to which place? To which faction do you belong?

**Shadullah**: We belong to Hyderabad.

**India TV**: Hyderabad of Pakistan?

**Shadullah**: No, Hyderabad of the Deccan. And we are from Deccan Mujahideen.

**India TV**: What are your demands?

**Shadullah**: We demand the release of all mujahedeen put in jails. Then will we release these people. Otherwise... Nahin Tob hum Eent se Eent Bajayega [we will destroy this place]. You must have seen what’s happening here.

**India TV**: Tell us, how many of you are there in Oberoi hotel?

**Shadullah**: Why should I tell you?

**India TV**: No, you tell us because you are claiming that so many people are fighting for you. At least tell us, how many of you are there?

**Shadullah**: Hum saath hain [We are seven]. Saath [seven].

**India TV**: You are seven there in Oberoi Hotel?

**Shahdullah**: Yes

**India TV**: Do you have the single demand that all mujahideen arrested be released or do you have any other demand?

**Shahdullah**: Yes, release them, and we, the Muslims who live in India, should not be harassed. Things like demolition of Babri Masjid and killings should stop.

**India TV**: Do you have the single demand that all mujahideen arrested be released or do you have any other demand?

**Shahdullah**: Yes, release them, and we, the Muslims who live in India, should not be harassed. Things like demolition of Babri Masjid and killings should stop.

**India TV**: Shabdullah, we want to tell you that you are yourself a citizen of India. You yourself say that you belong to Hyderabad. Don’t you have love for your own country, your own Hindustan? Because those who are killed they could be your brothers, or the brothers of others.

**Shabdullah**: We love this country. This is our country but the issue is this: when our elders, our brothers are killed, didn’t these people see all this? OK Allah Haafiz [May God protect you].

A second call was placed from another terrorist identifying himself as Imran Babar, once employed as a medical representative with a multinational company. Using the cellphone number 9819464530 belonging to Holtzberg Gaverlein, Nariman House, Imran Babar called India TV’s popular number kept aside for viewers 93505 93505 at 5:07 p.m. on November 27, 2008.\textsuperscript{8}

**India TV**: Hello, Imran, where are you?

**Imran**: We are here. You call their [Israeli] Army Staff to visit Kashmir. Why is it so? Who are they to come to J & K (Jammu and Kashmir). This is a matter between us and Hindus, the Hindu government. Why does that Israel come here. To say that Israel and Palestine.

**India TV**: Imran, you claim that you are in Nariman House. How many of your friends are there in Nariman House?

**Imran**: We know how to live. How to snatch our rights...

**India TV**: Imran, are you able to listen to what I am saying?

**Imran**: Yes, I can hear you.

**India TV**: Just reply to my question. How many of you are there in Nariman House?

**Imran**: I have five persons with me.

**India TV**: And when did you come to Mumbai?

**Imran**: Hum log. Hum log apne kaam se aaya hai [We have come here for our work]. Raah Dekhte

\textsuperscript{7} Terrorists Ring Up India TV Twice During Siege Using Hostages, India TV, November 27, 2008

\textsuperscript{8} Terrorists Ring Up India TV Twice During Siege Using Hostages, India TV, November 27, 2008
Raha [we waited]... Saara maamla aapke samne hai [everything is before you]... Zulmi aur zyadati badarshat karke jab hum thak gaya hai, tab humne eisa karne ko majboor ho gaya hai... Aapke saamne haalaat hai... Main toh wahi aapko baar baar ithaas bata raha hun... lekin [We are tired of facing torture and injustice, we are forced to do this... the situation is in front of you. I am merely dragging history to you, but] I don’t understand why you people talk like this?

India TV: What’s your age, Imran?

Imran: I am 25.

India TV: What’s the age of your friends?

Imran: My other friends are also of the same age… young adults.

Shadullah implied and Imran Babar said these attacks were to avenge “torture and injustice.” The terrorists tried to hide their places of origin. Shadullah lied that he came from Indian Hyderabad. Imran avoided stating his place of origin. India TV went out of its way to appeal to both the callers to surrender and release the hostages. Furthermore, India TV informed the authorities in Delhi and Mumbai enabling the security agencies to track terrorist communications.

Failure to Respond

E ver successful terrorist attack is an intelligence failure. India will need to restructure its security and intelligence apparatus as well as its quick reaction forces. Their performance fell behind the scale of the threat facing India in Mumbai. Despite Mumbai suffering from terrorism during past decades and repeated warnings, there was no mechanism in place to protect the city efficiently and effectively. Ten months ago, a member of a Pakistani terror group told Indian police that he had carried out reconnaissance on the two hotels. Intelligence pointing to an attack in Mumbai was relayed to domestic security authorities, but it is unclear whether the government acted on the information.

At the Taj Mahal Hotel, the scene of much of the bloodshed, had tightened security had reportedly tightened in the weeks before the attack after warning circulated of a possible threat. But according to the owner of the hotel, the additional measures were dropped just days before the siege. India’s own intelligence services repeatedly warned of plots to attack Mumbai from the sea. American intelligence sources confirmed that the US warned India twice that Pakistan-based militants were planning attacks - and that iconic buildings like the Taj Hotel could be among the targets. However, India lacked the good analysis and operational planning needed to anticipate and respond to the threat.

Implications for the Hospitality Industry

T he unprecedented attack in Mumbai will have major implications for travel, tourism, investment and several other sectors, hotels in particular. In Mumbai, most of the targets attacked were not government targets. This places a huge burden on government and private sector. Increasingly 90-95% of infrastructure in India is owned and operated by the private sector. Without an enduring partnership between these two crucial sectors, future security of a nation cannot be guaranteed. For instance, in protecting hotels, it is imperative for the exterior security to be jointly staffed by hotel security and government security.

Immediately after the attack began, the hotels in Mumbai went on high alert. Ms. Archana Tyagi Sharma, from the office of the Commissioner of Police, visited several hotel properties on the second day of the crisis along with her team to check the security arrangements. Ms. Sharma suggested watch towers should have better surveillance and advised an increase in the height of the periphery fencing of the hotel in totality, as well as the hiring of more private, armed security guards. Most international hotels requested that the government provide them with armed commando units and even offered that the cost be taken care of by the hotel.

One of the best secured hotel chains in the world, the JW Marriott Mumbai, went over and above “Threat Condition Red,” the highest threat alert. Restaurants, discothèques, banqueting halls, pools, and other public areas were kept closed for two days as per the instructions from local Indian authorities. All the main gates and beach sides were manned by armed local police. Similarly, no vehicles were allowed to enter except vehicles belonging to the hotel and only after proper checks were conducted by security guards and canine units. All vehicles were directed to outsource paid parking.

Furthermore, guest profile screening was conducted at the main entry gate before entering the hotel. Only in-house guests or guests with reservations at the hotel were allowed to enter the hotel premises. No walk-in guests were allowed to

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enter in the hotel premises. Visitors for in-house guest were allowed after proper verification from the in-house guest and after checking their photo identification. Visitors were then escorted by the in-house guest. Guests entering the hotel were frisked by security at the entry gate. A register to check in and out was maintained at the entry gate for in-house guests. The main gates were closed, locked and kept blocked by hotel vehicles. Visitors were not allowed into the hotel unless essential work was to be carried out. Likewise, vendor vehicles were not allowed at the loading dock and supplies were shifted from the gate after a thorough check conducted by security and canine units. An additional register for checking in and out was maintained at the main associate entry gate. Security measures were also placed at the beach side.

The Future

The terrorists that staged the al-Qaeda-style attack in Mumbai could attack again. Although the terrorist operatives have been neutralized, the masterminds that planned and the infrastructure used to prepare the attack on India's financial capital is intact. The ideology that motivated the attackers and generated the support is still intact.

Asian terrorism is on the rise. The epicentre of international terrorism has now shifted to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, a region straddling India and China. Today, the world’s top four countries that suffer from terrorism are Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and India. Unless India and Pakistan work together, both these countries will suffer heavily from terrorism in the coming years.

The Mumbai attacks have major implications for global security and for the new Obama Administration. If, as a result of the attacks, India threatens Pakistan, Islamabad could potentially withdraw some or all of its 100,000 troops on Pakistan's troubled border with Afghanistan, a region currently being used as a base by al-Qaeda and other threat groups, and redeploy the troops to the Indian border. A troop reduction such as this would undoubtedly increase the threat to Afghanistan, and global security generally, by easing the pressure on jihadists operating in Pakistan's tribal area. In fact, because of the potential benefit to these threat groups, one might question whether the planners of the Mumbai attacks conceived of the operation at least in part to ease the pressure on al-Qaeda, Pakistani Taliban, and affiliated groups in Pakistan's FATA.

Conclusion

The terrorist attack in Mumbai should serve as a reminder to governments that terrorism is a global threat. Unless governments understand that terrorism is a transnational threat, and that they must work together to counter it, they will continue to suffer from attacks. The spearhead of effective and efficient counterterrorism is intelligence. The key to fighting the current and emerging wave of terrorism will rest on India’s future ability to develop sound and timely intelligence and to develop liaison partnerships for intelligence sharing. The Indian security and intelligence services failed on both these counts.

India should strengthen its coverage of threat groups by investing in high grade, high quality intelligence collection at home and by building intelligence sharing partnerships with its neighbours overseas. Instead of accusing Pakistan for every attack on Indian soil, Indian leaders must understand that both India and Pakistan face a common threat. Without building a robust relationship with Pakistan, India has been strengthening its cooperation with Israel and the U.S. As the regional power, India must take the lead and reach out to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and share counter terrorism intelligence. It will require a visionary Indian leader to understand the change in paradigm after September 11, 2001, and build the structures to protect India from within and overseas.

Mumbai is a wakeup call for countries and people who have not taken the threat of terrorism and extremism seriously. Terrorism is the most serious national security challenge confronting the world today. To win, building skill and will at all levels of government is paramount. There is no better investment than educating leaders, including leaders at the highest level of government. India should call for a summit of Asian leaders to better understand the emerging threat in Asia and develop a plan of action aimed at reducing and managing the threat.
TIMELINE OF ATTACKS

**WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER**

9:35 p.m. Two terrorists entered Café Leopold, a posh restaurant frequented by locals and foreigners, and began shooting at random. Most were backpackers. Many were watching India play cricket against England.

9:20 p.m. Two other terrorists approached Nariman House business and residential complex housing the Jewish Chabad Lubavitch outreach centre. One of the terrorists threw a grenade at the nearby Bharat Petroleum gas station before entering the five-story Nariman House, a favoured destination of backpackers. After killing a Kosher food inspector, the terrorists took the rabbi, his wife, and five Israelis hostage and subsequently killed them. The two-year-old child of the couple survived.

9:24 p.m. Two terrorists entered Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST), Mumbai’s colonial era railway station. CST is one of the world’s busiest, handling thousands of passengers each day. The terrorists threw a grenade and randomly shot at passengers. As most unarmed policemen ran away, the terrorists killed 40 people, including three policemen.

9:30 p.m. The two terrorists who attacked Café Leopold broke down a side door and entered the Taj Hotel. Two other terrorists entered the hotel through the front entrance and started to shoot and throw grenades. The guests at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel, a landmark of Mumbai since 1903, were held hostage for 60 hours. On November 26, there were 450 guests staying at the hotel.

9:35 p.m. After two terrorists killed the unarmed security guard and two bellhops at Oberoi Trident Hotel, they breached through the entrance and ran

to the lobby firing at guests. After the terrorists shot dead a staff member at the Opium Den bar, they climbed the stairs and entered the Tiffin Restaurant killing guests. They took 16 diners to the 20th floor and confiscated their phones. When questioned by a guest, “Why are you doing this to us? We haven’t done anything to you,” the terrorists responded “remember Babri Masjid,” the 16th century mosque built by India’s first Mughal emperor and demolished by Hindu extremists in 1992 and “remember Godhra?”, where several tens of thousands of Muslims were killed by Hindu extremists in 2002. Before shooting them at point blank range, the terrorists freed two Turks who claimed they were Muslim and took the rest hostage. In a prolonged siege, the terrorists, who had by then established a command centre, systematically killed both the hotel guests and visitors and fought Indian security forces attempting to hunt them down and free the hostages. On November 26, there were 380 guests staying at the hotel.

9:55 p.m. A taxi used by the terrorists exploded in Viliparle, a suburb of Mumbai.

10:15 p.m. Two terrorists who attacked the train terminal entered the Cama Hospital. After killing unarmed guards, they killed one policeman who confronted them. In an alley separating Cama from the GT hospital, the terrorists fired at a police SUV, killing Mumbai’s anti-terrorism chief and two senior officials.

10:30 p.m. From the police vehicle commandeered by the terrorists, they fired at bystanders near the Metrocinama, a complex of movie theatres. Another police vehicle gave chase. The terrorists abandoned the police vehicle and hijacked a Skoda.

**THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER**

The stand off continued at the hotels and the Jewish community centre. Indian marine commandos responded but were not prepared for a hotel hostage rescue operation. A large fire broke out at the Taj Hotel and an hour later authorities begin escorting people out of the hotel.

**FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER**

Gun fire and explosions are witnessed from both the Taj and Oberoi hotels.

7:30 a.m. Commandos repelled from helicopters on to Nariman House killing terrorists.

11:00 a.m. Commandos killed the two terrorists and took full control of the Oberoi hotel and release remaining hostages.

3:00 p.m. Mumbai police report that five hostages inside the Jewish centre have been found shot dead.

**SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER**

4:30 a.m. Renewed explosions and gunfire are heard from inside the Taj Hotel.

7:30 a.m. Fire breaks out on the lower floors of the Taj Hotel.

8:50 a.m. Mumbai police declare the Taj Mahal siege over, with the deaths of three gunmen.

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1 Yaroslav Trofimov et al, Security Faulted as Survivors Tell Tale: 60 Hours of Terror, Wall Street Journal, December 2, 2008


Regardless of whether Lashkar-e Toiba (LeT), now operating under the name Jama'at Ud-Da'wa, did have a pivotal role in the Mumbai attacks, the group nevertheless poses a severe threat to India and the rest of the world. Though traditionally the group’s theater of conflict is considered to be in Kashmir and executing terrorist attacks against Indian targets, LeT must be treated as a global, rather than local, concern. With close ties to al-Qaeda, a strong foreign membership, extensive financial and operational resources, and a globalized ideology that demonizes the West as well as India, LeT remains a world-wide threat.

Despite being based in Pakistan, LeT attracts a wide variety of jihadists from numerous countries and has a clear desire to transmit its propaganda to a global audience. Under the Jama'at Ud-Da'wa name, which the group adopted following its official banning in Pakistan, LeT operates at least five websites in Urdu, English, and Arabic and runs an online chatroom called Dawah Radio. In addition to producing material in Urdu, the group publishes magazines in English and Arabic. LeT also maintains a website with hundreds of anasheed (Islamic songs) and sermons praising jihad. LeT has not taken credit for the Mumbai attack on the Jama’at Ud-Da’wa website; however, it should be noted that LeT has never claimed official responsibility for attacks believed to have been carried out by the group.

LeT also solicits donations for the group online, under the aegis of Jama'at Ud-Da’wa. The group maintains that the proceeds will serve to provide aid, relief, and medical support to the disaffected and destitute in Pakistan. Prospective donors can easily wire money to the group through bank accounts published in the group’s propaganda, despite having been designated a terrorist entity by the US Treasury. This fundraising is problematic. In the UK, officials investigated whether Jama’at Ud-Da’wa, under the guise of a charity, might have partially financed the 2006 transatlantic aircraft plot.

The themes of the propaganda distributed in LeT’s media overlap with al-Qaeda’s own rhetoric. Echoing the statements, trope, and ideology of al-Qaeda, LeT justifies and encourages a worldwide violent jihad, characterizing the United States and its allies as working together in a unified front to destroy Islam and Muslims. Jama’at Ud-Da’wa’s official website reported that Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, the founder and head of LeT, stated at an October sermon in Lahore that “there is an ongoing war in the world between Islam and its enemies. [Saeed] said it is not a matter of terrorism or peace; the fact is that crusaders of the east and west have united in a cohesive onslaught against Muslims.” Abdullah Muntazir, the spokesman for Jama’at Ud-Da’wa, wrote on the group’s website in November that “America is the leader of the war unleashed against Islam, [and] it is therefore also the one which is most affected...when Muslims decided to fight back in response to the brutal war imposed upon them by America and its allies.” With such rhetoric found on the group’s websites and propaganda, it is not surprising that LeT has been blamed for numerous terrorist attacks.

Perhaps more than any jihadist group other than al-Qaeda, LeT has attracted individuals from all over the world to its military training camps in Pakistan. Jihadists from the US, Canada, Australia, France, and the UK, as well as China, the

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1 See jamatdawah.org (English), jamatuddawah.org (Urdu), arabic.jamatdawa.org (Arabic), hudood.jamatdawa.org (Urdu), and radio.jamatdawa.org (Urdu, English, and Arabic).
2 Tranay.org.
4 http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/14/world/europe/14plot.html
6 http://e.jamatdawa.org/news_detail.php?news_id=752
Maldives, and Kuwait, have received training at LeT’s camps. For instance, David Hicks of Australia first received training from LeT camps before moving on to fight with al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Several of the convicted individuals involved in the so-called “Paintball” cell in Virginia received training at LeT camps in Pakistan before returning to the United States. Indeed, one of the individuals was asked by LeT to “case a chemical plant in Maryland,” according to the FBI.

Syed Haris Ahmed of Atlanta, arrested for making casing videos of landmarks in Washington, DC, also attempted to travel to a LeT training camp while in Pakistan. However, Jahmaal James, an acquaintance of Ahmed from Canada who was one of the 17 individuals arrested in 2006 for planning attacks against targets in and near Toronto, did manage to travel to Pakistan and receive training from LeT. Both Ahmed and James in Pakistan upon their arrival.

French citizen Willie Brigitte received training with LeT and was then allegedly sent by the group to Australia in 2003 to join the cell of Faheem Khalid Lodhi, a Pakistani-Australian convicted in 2006 for preparing to carry out a terrorist attack in Australia. Elsewhere, allegations emerged that Abdul Rahman, a Chinese national from the Uighur province of Xinjiang arrested in January of 2000, had been recruited to train LeT operatives in India.

Investigations into the first Islamist terror attack in the Maldives in September, 2007 also revealed apparent ties to LeT; one of the attackers, Moosa Inas, spent time at Jamia Salafiyya in Faisalabad, Pakistan, a seminary whose graduates include several LeT leaders. And in Kuwait, according to the US Treasury Department, Lashkar-e-Toiba set up offices with the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS), a designated terrorist entity which “provided office space to an LeT leader who visited Kuwait… RIHS officials accompanied the LeT leader while he raised funds throughout Kuwait. As of late 2007, RIHS sent money to LeT elements on a monthly basis.”

Because of the group’s broad recruiting base and functional training camps, LeT produces dangerous individuals who have the capability and desire to plot attacks not only in Kashmir and India, but also countries outside LeT’s traditional scope. While coalition forces have succeeded in putting pressure on training camps in Afghanistan, LeT’s camps remain operational inside Pakistani territory and can provide would-be jihadists from virtually any country with the knowledge and experience to mount attacks. LeT is not just an Indian and Pakistani problem, but a global one.
HOW TERRORISTS USE THE INTERNET TO TARGET CHILDREN

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The Emerging Trend: “Narrowcasting”

The Internet is the ideal instrument of communication for modern terrorists: it is decentralized, it cannot be subjected to control or restriction, it allows access to anyone who wants it, and it provides almost perfect anonymity. These advantages have not gone unnoticed by terrorist organizations. Today, all terrorist organizations, large or small, have their own websites. They use this medium to spread propaganda, raise funds and launder money, recruit and train members, communicate and conspire, plan and launch attacks. Websites are only one of the Internet’s services used by modern terrorism; there are many other facilities on the Net – e-mail, chat rooms, e-groups, forums, virtual message boards, YouTube, Google Earth – that are used more and more by terrorists.

This report is based on a decade-long project of monitoring and analyzing terrorist presence on the Internet, as reported in numerous publications.1

One of the emerging new trends in terrorist presence on the Net as noted by our analysis is “narrowcasting”: instead of “one-website-for-all,” Internet-savvy terrorists are moving to target specific sub-populations. Thus, instead of “broadcasting” (trying to appeal with the same message to as broad an audience as possible), they are now applying “narrowcasting.” This trend follows modern marketing and advertising tactics and attempts to apply their proved efficiency in the commercial world to the marketing of terrorism. The most alarming form of terrorist online “narrowcasting” is the targeting of children and youngsters.

Children and the Internet

In September 2008, a US survey conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project found that virtually all American teens play computer, console, or cell phone games, and that the gaming experience is rich and varied. The survey also revealed that game playing sometimes involves exposure to mature content, with almost a third of teens playing games that are listed as appropriate only for users more mature than themselves. The Internet today is a part of children’s natural environment. Most of the youth in Western societies have access to the Internet at school and/or at home. The number of Internet users worldwide is growing steadily with the greatest growth registered in Asia and South America. But the fastest growth is found among children and youngsters: they use the Net for many purposes including learning, entertainment and communication. Despite a large variability in empirical estimates, the average time spent online by wired children between the ages of 5 and 16 are very high (several hours a day), indicating that this medium is the one children are exposed to most, consuming the majority of their leisure time.

Children use computers at very young ages: 21 percent of babies two years and younger, 58 percent of three-to-four-year-olds, and 77 percent of five-to-six-year-olds, according to a study funded by the NSF and the Kaiser Foundation. Mothers and fathers report their children beginning to use computers while on their parents’ laps at about two-and-a-half years, and independently at about three-and-a-half years. According to research conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), children in the UK are spending more than twenty hours per week surfing the Internet. A survey by the website SmartGirl of children with an average age of 13 from the UK, Canada, India, New Zealand, Australia and the United States found that 49.5% are online for one-to-three hours per day. Over 60% had experienced adult material online. Young Internet users devote most of the time to social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace, playing games, listening to music, watching videos, and communicating (e-mail and chat rooms). Thus, most of their social activities—communications and entertainment, learning and networking—are facilitated through use of the Internet.

Targeting Children Online

These trends have not gone unnoticed by modern terrorists who are increasingly exploiting the Internet to target children, considering them to be their next generation of recruits and supporters as young as 13 are being “groomed” for terrorism by Islamic extremists, according to Sir Norman Bettison, Britain’s most senior police officer charged with countering radicalization. He points out that children entering secondary school were picking up extremist messages from Internet chat rooms by people who wanted to mold them into terrorists, exemplifying the growing concern among counterterrorism officials that Islamic extremists are trying to recruit children at an ever younger age.

One of the al-Qaeda videos used in Iraq shows an hour-long extravaganza of bomb blasts, sheep-slaying, and maimed Americans, with the end featuring hooded militants at work in a primary school class in the Iraqi city of Ramadi. Children are asked to sing jihadi songs,
In Afghanistan, children training as terrorists—and apparently honoring one of their own who died—are featured on a recent video (dated July 2008), released by the radical terror group, Islamic Jihad Union (IJU). The IJU is an Uzbekistan-based militant group that has now established operations in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area. This 27-minute-long video was produced by the media arm of the IJU and presents various militant activities at an IJU training camp inside northwestern Pakistan. The evidently preteen children in the video are wearing fatigues and knit caps, all of them armed with handguns and Kalashnikov rifles. The video shows them kneeling in a tent, standing at attention, and running through tundra. One of the youths, identified as “Abdurahem, the Kazakhstani,” is repeatedly circled in red on the video, a sign that he is now dead. The video, translated by the SITE Intelligence Group, states that the boy was wounded in battle and, because the bleeding couldn’t be stopped in the field, “our young mujahadeen became a martyr.” The body of the boy is later shown in the video wrapped in a white shroud. The boy was, according to the text, involved in “very bloody battles in Waziristan between soldiers of Allah and the friends of Satan.”

How Do They Appeal to Children?

When modern advertisers and marketers target children, they employ tactics and measures that will attract and appeal to that demographic. These include cartoons, comics, computer games, quizzes, prizes, and story-telling. Terrorists do the same, only that they sell death, destruction, suicide and violence. The following illustrations demonstrate some examples of the methods and techniques used online by youth-oriented terrorists.

On one of Hamas websites, Al-Fateh (“The Conqueror”) appears every other week a feature designed for kids, including its cartoon-style and colorful children’s stories. The website’s title promises “pages discussing jihad, scientific pages, the best stories, not be [sic] found elsewhere, and unequalled tales of heroism.” On the Al-Fateh site is a link to Hamas’ official webpage, www.palestine-info.com. Among its attractive graphics, drawings, children’s songs, stories (e.g., “The Troubles of Fahman the Donkey”) are texts written by children themselves. “The perpetrator of the suicide bombing attack, Zaynab Abu Salem. Her head was severed from her pure body and her headscarf remained to decorate [her face]. Your place is in heaven in the upper skies, oh, Zaynab, sister [raised to the status of heroic] men.” The same website, among its cartoons and children’s stories, posted the last will of a Hamas suicide bomber, who, on June 1, 2001, carried out a suicide bombing attack at the Dolphinarium, a club for Tel Aviv’s adolescence. The attack resulted in the deaths of twenty-one Israeli civilians, most of them teenagers. In his online will, the suicide bomber writes: “…the true heroes are those who write the history of their people in blood…I will turn my body into shrapnel and bombs, which will chase the children of Zion, will blow them up and will burn what is left of them…There is nothing greater than killing oneself… for the sake of Allah.”

Terrorists are also aware of young people’s fascination with computer games. Thus, a number of terrorist groups try to attract children by offering free online games that turn out to be instruments of radicalization and even of training. One such game is the “Quest for Bush,” a.k.a. “Night of Bush Capturing,” Adam: is this the name we used? a free online game released by the Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF), a virtual media outlet of al-Qaeda. Armed with a rifle, a shotgun, or a grenade launcher, players navigate various missions that include “Jihad Growing Up,” “Americans’ Hell,” and “Bush

3 https://www.siteintelgroup.com/getReportsClient.aspx?id=4272  
4 Ibid.

5 https://www.siteintelgroup.com/getReportsClient.aspx?id=4729
Another example is Hezbollah’s “Special Force,” an online game which allows players to become warriors in a terrorist campaign against Israel. The violent game also features a training mode in which participants can practice their shooting skills on Israeli ex-Prime Minister Sharon and other Israeli political and military figures. A “high score” earns a special certificate signed by Hezbollah leader Nasrallah and presented in a “cyberceremony.” At the end of the game, the players are presented with a special display of Hezbollah “martyrs”—fighters killed by Israel. In August 2007, a new version emerged entitled, “Special Force 2.” This game is based on the 2006 Lebanon War between Hezbollah and Israel, was produced by Hezbollah, and is available in Arabic, English, French and Farsi. “Special Force 2” is a role-playing game set in a 3-D environment in which the player takes the form of a Hezbollah combatant.

Even more appalling was beloved children’s character Mickey Mouse’s use as a means to incite children to hatred and violence on Hamas’ television programs and website. The video was shown on a children’s show called “Tomorrow’s Pioneers” and featured “Farfur,” a near-perfect clone of Disney’s Mickey Mouse. Farfur and his co-host, a young girl named Saraa, teach children about the importance of daily prayers while indoctrinating young viewers with teachings of Islamic supremacy, hatred of Israel and the US, and support of armed resistance. When political pressure forced Hamas to drop Farfur from its lineup, he was presented as ‘Martyred’ in the final episode (killed by an Israeli Mossad agent) and was soon replaced by Nahoul, the bee. The bee told the hostess he is Farfur’s cousin and that he wishes to “continue the path of Farfur... the path of martyrdom, the path of the jihad warriors... and in his name we shall take revenge upon the enemies of Allah, the murderers of the prophets...” Moreover, after killing off its Mickey Mouse look-alike, Hamas has turned to another Disney character—televising a cartoon with a “Lion King” wannabe to portray the Islamic group’s victory in the Gaza Strip over the Fatah movement. The cartoon depicts Fatah members as sneaky rats, brandishing guns and being showered with US dollars, while Hamas is portrayed as a confident, calm lion that resembles Simba in the 1994 Movie “The Lion King.”

Recently, a new character has joined the cast of the Hamas TV children’s show “Pioneers of Tomorrow”—Assud the Bunny. Assud returned from the “diapora”, and followed the death of his brother on the show, Nahoul the Bee. Assud states, “We are all ready to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of our homeland. We will sacrifice our souls and everything we own for the homeland”; program host Saraa’ Barhoum concurs. He also vows to “get rid of the Jews and eat them up.”

Finally, the Internet is also used for the recruitment and training of children. In February 2008, the American army in Iraq revealed a video captured in a raid in Diyala province and posted on the Web depicting children in ski masks kidnapping a grown man on a bicycle. The kids sit in a circle surrounding firearms while singing al-Qaeda songs and also storm a room with bound adult hostages and wave guns at their heads.

In Britain, the head of MI5, Mr. Jonathan Evans, said recently that Muslim children as young as 15 are being recruited by al-Qaeda to wage “a deliberate campaign of terror.” Evans warned that Islamists were “radicalizing, indoctrinating and grooming young, vulnerable people to carry out acts of terrorism.” The Internet has clearly become one of the most efficient instruments for targeting these young audiences.

These examples are only a few from numerous online sites, but the trend is clear: terrorists fine-tune their appeals, sharpening their messages according to narrowly defined sub-populations. Success, according to advanced marketing theory and research, is guaranteed. Sophisticated persuasion is more likely to succeed when the medium, stimuli, appeals and graphics are tailored to specific receivers. Some 300,000 children under 18 are being exploited in more than 30 armed conflicts worldwide, according to estimates from UNICEF. Increasing participation of youth in suicide terrorism and armed conflicts may serve as alarming signals of narrowcasting’s success.
Kuwaiti sheikh Hamed al-Ali argues that India that has long held ambitions to dismantle and destroy Pakistan, and it will use the Mumbai attacks as justification for pursuing a belligerent policy. Hamed al-Ali is a contemporary Salafist scholar who was designated as a terrorist facilitator by the US Department of Treasury in December 2006, for “supporting al-Qaida-affiliated groups seeking to commit acts of terrorism”. In this 3-page article, posted on his website and distributed on jihadist forums on December 1, 2008, he provides a history of India’s friendly relationship with Israel and the United States, and hostility to Pakistan and Muslims in Kashmir. The coming days, Hamed al-Ali predicts, will witness an Indian escalation supported by the US against the mujahideen in Kashmir, and possibly, a war against Pakistan. He states: “The smoke had barely risen to the sky over Mumbai before Indian fingers of accusation were pointed to Pakistan.”

Following is a translation of his article:

The Secret Why India Rejoices about the Mumbai Events
By Hamed bin Abdullah al-Ali

Consider this news that was written with all malice:

“New York – UPI: The New York Times reported that a map was distributed as a theoretical exercise for the neo-conservatives in Washington, which shows a truncated Pakistan. Recently, it reached Pakistani military officials, and it gave them the impression that the United States wants to dismantle Pakistan, the only Muslim country in possession of nuclear weapons.

“It mentioned that the redrawn map was sufficient to refuel fears engendered by the nuclear cooperation deal between the United States and India, and the progress achieved by the latter in Afghanistan.

“The newspaper considered the words of a government official who said that the most prominent source of concern is the cooperation between India and Afghanistan to destroy Pakistan with the complicity the United States, which can not be ignored.”

No sooner was the “media” conspiracy about to end than the Mumbai events occurred. The smoke had barely risen to the sky over Mumbai before Indian fingers of accusation were pointed to Pakistan.

India always used to play to the contrary of its romantic films! It plays the dirtiest roles against the Islamic issue in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the entire Muslim world by standing boldly and brazenly with the Zionist entity against the Palestinian cause. It is using all means of criminality and brutality to achieve its objectives.

Let us remind ourselves of some history. India is an occupier of Pakistani Kashmir, although the predominantly Muslim population of Kashmir wishes to join Pakistan. India, in 1947, prevented the region of Junakra from joining Pakistan, under the pretext that its majority was Hindu, as is the case in Hyderabad. But it insisted on occupying Kashmir and Jammu, whose majority is Muslim, and they continue to occupy them and commit the worst atrocities against the Muslim Kashmiri people, committing these crimes there for decades.

India supported the war of “Bangladesh” in 1971, which fragmented Pakistan into two countries.

India continued desperately to destroy Pakistan, until Pakistan was able to explode the first Pakistani nuclear test in the late nineties. As a result, India became frightened.

The terror to the Hindu rulers of India became greater after the Taliban gained control of Afghanistan and offered its support for the just cause of the Muslim Kashmir issue. As soon as the attacks of September 11 occurred, India put all of its weight behind the so-called “international campaign against terrorism.”

Its deceit has two objectives:

First: To penetrate Afghanistan under the umbrella of the American occupation, and to cooperate with it and with the Zionist entity to destroy the Islamic and jihadist case in Afghanistan. That is why India has enormous joint intelligence activity with the Zionists, under the cover of several Indian consulates spread over Afghanistan.

Second: To destroy and dismantle Pakistan, under the pretext that it is the main kitchen for the Islamic jihad in the entire Islamic world, and it is the heart of the global jihadi “reactor.”

India is used to inciting the Crusader West that there is no meaning for this enormous effort incurred by America and the West in order to divide Iraq, because it [Pakistan] is the starting point...
point of the threat to the Zionist entity. [It is used to inciting] Western ambitions to put tremendous pressure on the Saudis to make radical changes in the “cultural and societal infrastructure of Islamic Saudi Arabia,” which was accused of being the “uranium of Islamic revival.” India [is also used to] inciting Ethiopia to occupy Somalia, fearing that an Islamic regime would be established there. India was pleased to see Gaza choked to the point of killing children and the sick, starving 1.5 million Palestinians, and persecuting Islam everywhere, while Pakistan is left alone, which is more dangerous than Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Gaza, and every place where there is an Islamic renaissance.

India says in its incitement: The Taliban Movement began in Pakistan and is the most dangerous “terrorists” today are spread throughout Pakistani Wazirstan. Pakistan is filled with religious schools, which fill the minds of the Muslims with jihadist thought, and tells the Ummah that it must restore its lost rights. Pakistan is filled with Islamic and jihadist movements which move freely. It is the Islamic people most involved with Islamic issues. It is the only Islamic country which possesses nuclear weapons, and its army is filled with religious people.

In brief, the Indians say to the West: If you want to eliminate the Islamic cultural renaissance without dismantling Pakistan, then you will have done nothing.

It always pleases India to reminds the West, led by the United States, of its unmatched services to the Zionist entity since September 1950, when India welcomed the establishment of a commercial office of the Zionists in Bombay – where there is a Jewish minotiry – to oversee the migration of the Jews of India, Iraq, and Afghanistan to the Zionist entity. Then this office was transformed into a Zionist consulate in June 1953.

India is the first country to sign a nuclear pact with the Zionist entity in 1962. India offered to provide the Zionist entity with thorium and uranium, which are available in large reserves in India, and in exchange the Zionists supplied India with new nuclear technology and nuclear expertise.

Then the Zionist head of staff, David Shalfid, visited India in 1963 and signed a military agreement for intelligence cooperation, joint training, and provision of military needs to India.

Then, in 1965 when the war erupted between India and Pakistan, the Zionist entity offered India huge quantities of weapons and military equipment, especially anti-tank rockets, artillery shells, and communication devices. India, in 1967, sent to the Zionist entity a huge quantity of spare parts for military vehicles that the Zionists needed.

Then the Hindu-Zionist connection remained very strong until March 1992, when the Indian External Affairs Deputy Minister Gee Indiksh visited Tel Aviv in the aftermath of violent events in Bombay in which more than 350 people died. Also, the former Indian Minister of Defense, Chara Dayawar, visited the Zionist entity to see an exhibition of International Agricultural Technology that was held there and in which about 500 Indian companies participated.

Then in April 1997, the Sri Lankan authorities seized four containers carrying 18 tons of chemical materials used to make nerve gas. These containers were coming from Bombay and going to the Zionist entity. In July 2001, the two countries signed a $2 billion contract in which the Zionist entity supplied India with a sophisticated radar system, unmanned planes, and renewed a number of Indian air force planes. Then in January 2002, during the visit of the Zionist Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, to New Delhi, a $250 million deal was announced to sell Israeli radar planes type-Falcon.

It also pleases India to show its support for the West in order to help it contain Iran and to help it contain China, and in what is called the international war against terrorism in return for achieving its goal of destroying and dismantling Pakistan.

Finally, the coming days will experience an Indian escalation supported by America against the mujahideen in Kashmir. It is not ruled out that India will wage a military war against the Kashmiri jihad in particular and Pakistan in general, with America. Regarding Zardari, he has a rich history of corruption. He drank from it and grew up in it, so how can he not sell Pakistan? Have we seen for a long time – with few exceptions – but rulers who rush people to sell their faith in the market of Western political prostitution!

And yet hope is tied to Allah the Almighty to turn the Hindu malice upon its makers, and to turn their malice to their slaughter. This is what we anticipate with permission from Allah the Almighty, just as Allah eclipsed America, humiliated Karzai, disappointed Ethiopia, and disabled Sharon.

We ask Allah the Almighty, who made Gaza firm under siege and negative circumstances, and linked the hearts of the mujahideen everywhere despite horrors, to give the Muslim people greater firmness in Pakistan and Kashmir, and to make evident loss the consequence of the Hindus. Then, the Zionist entity nor the Western Crusaders will be of use to them.

Allah is sufficient unto us and sufficient unto our Ummah. We seek His assistance and on His assistance, assistance seekers should count.
DISCUSSION OF THE MUMBAI ATTACKS AMONGST PALESTINIAN FORUM MEMBERS

Discussion of the Mumbai attacks on a popular Hamas-affiliated forum, paldf.net, has shown members differing over whether the Mumbai attacks were justified. The discussion, which took place during and after the attacks, focuses on the attacks at the hotels and the Jewish Chabad House. Members of the forum are believed to be affiliated with Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and al-Qaeda inspired jihadist groups.

The thread, titled, “How Great They Are: The Heroes of the Bombay [Mumbai] Attack that Eliminated All the Jews in the Jewish Chabad Center”, began on November 27. While many responded positively to the attacks and reveled in the fact that Jews had been killed, others questioned the benefit the attacks provided Muslims, especially because Muslims were amongst the victims. One individual vociferously criticizes the terrorists, calling them “criminals” and apostates, who, like al-Qaeda, make people hate the Islam. This individual is targeted by other members who support the attacks and justify them as reciprocal actions. For example, one forum participant argues: “As they frighten peaceful Muslim people in order to achieve their goals in the Islamic lands, it is necessary that we strike their innocents everywhere.”

Still, others sympathize with the victims and see no benefit for Muslims in the attacks. One poster wrote, “If we kill innocents, people living in hotels, or individuals who are non-combatants in a non-combatant country, we do this because they are infidels... this is the worst of all crimes.” Another agrees, “These destructive actions, as the brother said, do not relate to jihad or Islam in any way... but they are destructive terrorist actions that do not provide any benefit to Islam or Muslims.”

Following is a translation of a sampling of these message postings:

How Great They Are: The Heroes of the Bombay [Mumbai] Attack that Eliminated All the Jews in the Jewish Chabad Center

[Waled Yusuf]

With the admission of the enemies, the heroes of the Bombay attack made a unique achievement – planning and executing – and they made the enemies suffer: Hindus, Americans, Britons, and Israelis sustained unexpected losses. [The heroes] frightened the hearts of those infidels.

Also, the United Press International agency said the following, which is copied from the Israeli Rescue Organization: “It is obvious that the hostages are no longer alive.” The agency added that the organization did not indicate the number of detainees nor their identities.

They eliminated them all.

[ibn_falasteen]

The sad thing is that the supporters of al-Qaeda started shouting and rejoicing. They described those who did these acts as mujahideen and by other names, before any group claimed responsibility for this attack. This means that the executors may not be Muslims or mujahideen, in the view of al-Qaeda, or any of those other names. In this instance, whoever executed these acts are criminals, in every meaning of the word. They raided hotels and locations where innocent people of all nationalities live, including Muslims.

[Tantheem]

Yes, how they great they are.

May Allah preserve those alive amongst them and bless the souls of their martyrs.

I am sure that those who executed these operations are Muslims and not “infidels.”

Regarding those accused of infidelity, I say that those who accuse them hate Muslims. If your belief is rotten, you can hate Islam, but it will remain forever.

[ibn_falasteen]

I, being a Muslim, have no problem with the Jewish people. My problem is with Israeli Jews who occupy Palestine or any other Muslim country. There are millions of Jews in different places all over the world. What am I going to gain from killing them? Let us say that all the people who were in the hotels were killed and thousands were killed. What is the result of this operation and what did it achieve for Islam and Muslims? Of course, I assume that everyone who carried out this op-
eration is a criminal, such as al-Qaeda, which pretends to be Muslim.

[al-Hazam al-Nasef]

May Allah bless them.

These attacks come as a response to the killing of 250 Muslims several months earlier in Kashmir.

The people responsible for it were the clergymen of the Sikhs and Hindus, and the Sikhs are a part of Hinduism.

[Arabi Maqhour]

How great, ibn_falasteen. [You say] killing Jews and Americans in hotels is a brutal crime against all religions, and make those who stand in lines to enter the religion of Islam, hate Islam. You, ibn_falasteen, did not ask about the killing of tens of innocents in Gaza and the Bank [West Bank], and the siege on about one million people in Gaza, which is against all traditions, faiths, and laws. Israel was afraid of committing this because it did not want to make the people hate the Jewish religion.

Did the Americans blink an eye when they killed the people in weddings, or those safe in their houses, or the like actions of their European henchmen [?] Did they refrain from doing it, fearing that the people would hate the religion of Christ [?] Is that how you judge [?] My brother, ibn_falasteen, the Shariah of Allah justified the punishment and said, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

As they frighten peaceful Muslim people in order to achieve their goals in the Islamic lands, it is necessary that we strike their innocents everywhere so as to let them know that killing our innocents is like killing their innocents. This is the only language which can stop their terrorism against our Muslim people.

Then, my brother, ibn_falasteen, do not [think with only that which you hear], and repeat what the enemies of Allah say about this religion.

[Muhammad al-Emir]

I ask Allah that all of those killed are Americans and Jews, and that there are not any Muslims amongst them.

[ibn_falasteen]

Each time the criminals carry out explosions in hotels, followers of al-Qaeda say that those who were killed in these hotels were Americans and Jews, as if Americans and Jews are the only ones who enter the hotels and public places in general. I believe that we saw, in the media, that those who were inside the hotels were of various nationalities and there were Muslims amongst them.

You want to tell me that the criminals who executed these operations and killed 130 people in public places were asking each person if they were an American or a Jew before they killed them? Does the Islamic religion allow for killing Americans or those other than Americans, if they are not fighters?

[Arabi Maqhour]

Why then, ibn_falasteen, do Hamas and [Islamic] Jihad launch rockets into the enemy territory, which could kill women, children, or men, who are not fighters. Then your understanding is the same as Fatah, and this is terrorism, and when they kill our innocents, we must have patience and not respond, so that the people do not hate our Hanif religion. Then, my brother, you are more just than Allah, who said, an eye for an eye and an ear for an ear? When they kill our innocents according to their identity and their religion, we remain observing and clapping for their criminal acts. We don’t return with the like action to stop them because this is against the religion.

Allah said: “And make ready against them all you can of power, including steeds of war to threaten the enemy of Allah.” [From Al-Anfal 8:60] Thus, we see that our religion is a terrorist religion. Allah asks the Muslims to terrify the peaceful infidels.

Therefore, you have to abandon this religion if you do not like its terrorism, and go to the religion which tells you that if you are slapped on your right cheek, turn the other cheek to be slapped.

[Ahed al-Ghuraba]

Why are you accusing them of being criminals, you ignorant fool.

You parrot, stop repeating your bad ideas and stop attacking the mujahideen. People like you have no right to talk about such great people. In other words, speak according to your size, you child.

[ibn_falasteen]

There is no way you can compare what Hamas, Jihad, and other Palestinian factions do, to what these criminals do who use the Islamic religion as a cover. Islam is innocent from them and their criminal actions. Hamas and Jihad launch their rockets at people who are occupying our land, and they
did not go to America or a place other than America to kill an American or a Jew or others. In addition, they do not intend to kill children. If they could direct these rockets to military targets, they would. But those who go to the hotels or other public places go intending to kill civilians, like what happened at the hotel in Amman. All they want to do is kill without achieving any significant goal, other than tarnishing the Islamic religion.

[Faris al-‘Alam]

I swear, by Allah, that our situation has become very dreadful…

We rejoice in every criminal action and we say that the executors are Muslims… then we ask the West to give up and we invite for Barack Obama to join Islam… !!!!!!!

Damn these thoughts… these thoughts of the idiot who compares Hamas to criminals…

Every Zionist in the Land of Ribat [Palestine] is an occupier and a colonizer… even their children should be slaughtered, as is permissible by Shariah. But if the colonizer leaves our land, returns to his own and does not fight the Muslims… his blood, honor, and money are inviolable…

Consequently, for every Zionist that is killed in Palestine, not one person cares about him… and every Zionist who supports Zionism can be killed anywhere in the world and no one will feel sorry for him…

If we kill innocents, people living in hotels, or individuals who are non-combatants in a non-combatant country, we do this because they are infidels… this is the worst of all crimes.

[Andalus]

It is unfortunate that our religion is misunderstood as being extreme, especially when some people argue that the religion is extreme.

These destructive actions, as the brother said, do not relate to jihad or Islam in any way… but they are destructive terrorist actions that do not provide any benefit to Islam or Muslims, as the fatwas say of scholars

I never heard that al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for these operations… even if they do, just mention to me one good thing that came of this for the Muslims…?

[Samer al-Kabeer]

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful:

My brothers, I personally bless these jihadist acts in response to your discussion. I present my gratitude to the families of the mujahideen, who did this work, whoever they are, which pleases the believers.

[Saheb Mabdaa]

In my opinion, if they had all these capabilities, why didn’t they raid the Indian army base and eliminate all who are there. Those are considered the fighters of the Messenger of Allah, peace and prayers of Allah be upon him, who ordered not to kill the non-combatants amongst the enemies. Those are people who are safe in their countries, with the exception of the Israelis, because I can not express my opinion on how to judge them because they are occupiers of our land, on the one hand, but they are not in our land, on the other hand.

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Jihadi Views on Mumbai Attacks

In the wake of the Mumbai attacks, jihadists continue to discuss its execution and implications, offering words of support to the mujahideen and encouraging others to commit similar actions. The ten coordinated attacks across Mumbai, the largest city in India, between November 26 and November 29, 2008 resulted in over 170 deaths and 300 injuries to Indian civilians and police, and foreign nationals. On al-Faloja, a password-protected jihadist forum, members praise the attacks, calling the event the “Mumbai Invasion,” and post their joyous reactions. One forum participant, on November 30, posted an analysis from an individual calling himself the “Lion of the Levant.” He argues that the mujahideen have entered a new kind of war, targeting large hotels. The Oberoi-Trident hotel and Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai, and the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan targeted in September 2008 are cited as examples. He also lauds the murder of foreign nationals, saying that it “[healed] the chests” of Muslims.

Another forum participant launched a media campaign for the “Mumbai Invasion,” asking other jihadists to contribute graphic designs to “infuriate” the enemies and support Muslims and mujahideen. He muses that supporters of jihad who sit idle felt ashamed while watching events in Mumbai unfold; that a “few people were able to turn this financial capital upside-down and paralyze it... while we are sitting.”

Aside from this total support for the Mumbai attacks, some jihadists question justification for the attacks on grounds that Muslim civilians were killed. Such thought is dismissed by ardent supporters of jihad and Salafism, one writing that doubts are a “suspicious” matter and are propagated by the “falsehoods” of mass-media. To a question about justification for striking India, a jihadist on al-Faloja argues that due to its cooperation with the US in the war on terror, and aggression against Muslims in Kashmir, India is a “belligerent state.” Another jihadist argues that what happened in Mumbai is an “individual duty” on every Muslim. He writes: “Killing innocents and committing brutal terrorist acts are what is done by the worshippers of Buddha, the Cross, rats, cows, menorahs, the dirham, and the dinar, in Palestine, India, Kashmir, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and elsewhere...”

Following is a translation of a sampling of message postings:

[Sabir]

Dots [Points] from the Blessed Mumbai Invasion... Our Dead are in Paradise and Your Dead are in Hell! by Lion of the Levant [Asad al-Sham]
So, it is a war of a new kind…and precisely hotels that are hostile to the provisions of Allah and His Shariah; hotels whose owners were pleased to turn them into nests for wars. They have to assume the consequences of their decision.

Before moving to the second dot, mention has to be made of other hotels who may be on the list waiting for their turn… such as al-Mi….n hotel? And al- Fa….n hotel?

Second Dot:

This dot will be the last dot that we offer on a golden plate. It is not wise to present all dots! According to reports from news agencies, the number of attackers in Mumbai invasion was ten….! Does this not call for mockery of forces that invade the world with its equipment and weapons to fight Islam?!

Those martyrs, as we consider them and we recommend none unto Allah, managed to heal the chests of a believing people through killing of Israelis, slaughtering of Americans, British, German, Italians, French, Australians, and Canadians, and others whose nationalities have not disclosed yet, in one blessed invasion…!!

Yet, has the operations in India ended at this limit, or is what is coming smarter and more bitter? Maybe it is finished… and maybe there remains in India some who are lurching for a valuable and mixed hunt again… maybe!!

Before appending this page, it is necessary to thank the heroes of the Mumbai invasion and to pray that Allah approves of them. There is no harm that we will not know them. They often declared that their invasion is in order to lift injustice of Muslims in Kashmir. It suffices them that the Lord of Omar al-Khattab, may Allah have mercy on him, knows them…

We ask Allah to accept their martyrs, to release those among them who were detained, and to grant them patience.

As to you O enemies of Allah, we say: Our dead are in paradise and your dead are in hell. Now fighting has begun…!

Consequence is for the pious.

[al-Wasati]

Workshop!!!… On the Occasion of the Mumbai Invasion

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful

You all followed the large-scale operation by our mujahideen brothers… and all of us despised ourselves, thinking that a few people were able to turn this financial capital upside-down and paralyze it!!! while we are sitting. What can we do?? Everyone asked himself this question!

I thought and I said that the least we can do is work in the media to create a symbol for this tale and historic epic.

Everyone should do as much as they can. Those who can design, let them do it. Those specialized in montages, let them roll up their sleeves.

There are plenty reports and pictures in the media (especially my brother, al-Murayqib and his like). It is a huge and very effective event… everyone who is good at something, let him do it.

Let this day be a day of truth with Allah… give for even five minutes… with a simple design…

I myself will start. This is a design in which I tried to collect all my feelings and joy for this great action.

We ask Allah to accept those who planned, financed and executed it.

Mumbai Invasion; As You Kill… You Will be Killed!

Come on, my brothers… by Allah, I did not do this humble job but only to urge my brothers who have experience… and also, so that those who are like me do not despise themselves… do something!

Put the biggest effort in dissemination! Publishing! Publishing!
Rejoice, O Muslims, for the attack by your brothers, and let them experience a taste of glory that was formerly lost.

Let them feel it while they are watching the Jews blood spill after it was sacred!!

[al-Qanas 1427]

Yes, with permission from Allah, we roll up our sleeves. Everyone who has expertise in planning, let him show us and heal our chests. He who can make montages, let him create and infuriate the enemies of Allah. Let us continue this topic like the topic of the September 11th events in order to infuriate our enemies and so that they know that by continuing to striking our brothers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in Muslim lands, and killing our children, we will respond with the same and more. Allah has full power over His Affairs.

Allah is Great… Allah is Great… Allah is Great

Glory is to Allah, His Messenger, and the believers, but the hypocrites do not know.

[abd101]

May Allah reward you.

The following picture illustrates the plan of the blessed operation. It is copied from one of the newspapers.

Mumbai Incident and Islam in the World

All mass-media, all around the world, came up with titles about the Mumbai events. All mass-media agreed that those events are nothing but terrorist acts perpetrated against Muslims who belong to one of the jihadist organizations. Most of these mass-media focused on the brutality of these events and on the results of these events that led to the killing of innocents. They wonder what is the guilt of those killed ones? What did they do to deserve this heinous death? They started talking about cruelty and violence of Islam?

Therefore, I found myself writing and asking the following: What is the goal from these operations? What pushed these youths to participate in these operations? What convinced those youths to participate in these operations, is it but jihad? and that their destiny is paradise? What evidence did they use to convince themselves that these operations are from Islam? Is it from jihad?

[bab]

Dear brother, may Allah reward you.

There is no doubt that India is a belligerent state, with the proof that it signed the agreement with America of the war on terror, and it provided support for [America’s] war against Muslims in Kashmir, and [these Muslims’] torture and murder, for several decades.

India is an original infidel country. The foundation of its people is infidelity, with the exception of those who proved their Islam, such as Muslims in Kashmir and remaining Muslim cities. Yet, it is like the others. It has been inflicted by the laws of pure infidelity. It is a Hindu infidel and atheist country.

It is a belligerent state, because of its war on Islam and Muslims. No doubt, this is enough to conduct jihadist operations in it.

As to the killing of innocents among them, those who were killed, if they were truly innocent, they will be resurrected for their intention if they were Muslim. But if they were infidel, it will be hell and what a damned destiny.

Its people are combatants with the exception of Muslims among them, the peaceful and the oppressed.
One of the causes of the invasion was to support [the peace and oppressed Muslims] and to strengthen their thorn against the infidel Hindu state.

Evidence to fight them is plenty, and these evidences may be reviewed in the books of jurisprudence and applied on the Indian reality for you to know the truth. About the innocents, as they claim, the police and infidel foreigners, the foundation regarding them is allowing their blood and their money. Above all of this they are considered combatants, because they are from states that fight Islam and Muslims, as it became that they were Americans, Jews, Britons, and parliamentarians.

It was not stated that one Muslim was killed in this invasion. If you have any tangible proof that Muslims were killed in this operation, I wish you would provide it.

May Allah reward you.

This is a very short statement. Forgive me for this summary, but I wanted to convey the idea to you.

You may ask for the proof of the legitimacy of the invasion. I say that India is a belligerent state, because Allah the Almighty said: “O you who believe! Fight those of the disbelievers who are close to you, and let them find harshness in you.” [From At-Taubah 9:123]

Those who are close to you, that is the closer enemy to you.

There is no doubt that India is a state that occupied Muslim lands in Kashmir. So, the Shariah provision that it is a belligerent state applies to it.

There is a full-video called, “Old Britain and its Indian Slaves,” by Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri, in which he describes the situation of India and its war against Muslims.

If you studies news websites to search for the role of India in its war on terror; that is, Islam, you will find what will suffice to condemn it and prove the full legitimacy of striking it, like the strikes on Madrid, America, and Britain, which fight Allah, His Messenger, and the believers.

We can apply what happened to Iraq in terms of hostility and occupation on the reality of India. The provision also applies to other countries that fight Islam and its people. Even Arab and Islamic countries are subject to this provision.

But the mujahideen leaders are those who decide where the next strike will be and what country…

[Ghobar Kheil Allah]

Most of the dead were infidels and from countries that fight Islam and Muslims… and the word “innocents” or “civilians” is applied to Muslims, only.

What happened in Mumbai is an individual duty on every Muslim, (and I ask Allah the Almighty to join us with the mujahideen), not only in India, but rather, everywhere Islam and its people are fought.

Killing innocents and committing brutal terrorist acts are what is done by the worshippers of Buddha, the Cross, rats, cows, menorahs, the dirham, and the dinar, in Palestine, India, Kashmir, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and elsewhere…

These words we said hundreds of times and we continue to say and repeat them…

Therefore, I ask you to stay away from these suspicious matters and questions. Seek knowledge and show piety to Allah in what you ask and report… Do not pay attention to the falsehoods of the mass-media whose people testify of their agency!!

Most of the dead in hotels were killed by the pagan special Indian forces after their bankruptcy and failure… It’s over and everything is clear to every seeing and insightful one…

The Mumbai invasion is the first, and the second, what is coming, will make you forget what you saw in Manhattan, Pentagon, Falcon Base, and Mumbai, with power and might from Allah! ▲
**Afghanistan**

**11/2** - The Taliban criticized the regional peace mini-jirga (assembly) between Afghanistan and Pakistan for not including Taliban representatives. These representatives, the group explains, would explain their motivations and rationale for opting for a military approach. Rather, within the jirga, “the plaintiff, the witness and the judge are all hailing from the same household.” The Taliban adds that US President George W. Bush has “ensconced” himself in the jirga, acting by proxy, and such councils will not succeed because the Afghan realize their low worth. They add that the jirga should include Taliban representatives, who would explain their motivations and rationale for opting for a military approach. Rather, within the jirga, “the plaintiff, the witness and the judge are all hailing from the same household.”

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**11/5** - The Taliban claimed a strike on an Awakening militia in Sabari district, Khost province. The group recently commented that the Awakening strategy, using local militias to fight insurgents, will not be successful in Afghanistan. Following the attack, an Awakening commander was captured. Also, the Taliban claimed strikes targeting Afghan, Dutch, and French forces. In Urugzgan, the Taliban claimed killing 11 foreign soldiers, identifying them as Dutch due to the presence of Dutch forces in the province. The attack on French soldiers occurred in Nijrab district in Kapisa province. One French soldier was killed. Nineteen Afghan soldiers were killed in Nad Ali district in Helmand province as a result of an armed clash.

**11/12** - The Taliban claimed wounding Ahmed Wali Karzai, the brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, in a suicide bombing in Kandahar province. Three additional suicide bombings in Helmand, Herat, and Nimruz provinces were also claimed. The strike in Kandahar hit the building of the provincial Shura Council and nearby intelligence building, purportedly killing 30 people and injuring 24. Other suicide bombings hit British and American soldiers, and the deputy governor of Nimruz province.

**11/13** - The Taliban denounced the Afghan government for executing three mujahideen from Pul-e-Charkhi prison, in Kabul province. The group’s Shura Leadership argues that the executed were punished for their “defense of their country” and participating in the establishment of an Islamic regime, rather than other alleged crimes. They warn justice officials and others involved in the Afghan government to avoid these “unmanly acts,” and further, threaten that parties involved in the prisoners’ execution will be pursued.

**11/19** - The Taliban clarified statements given by two officials regarding negotiations and other issues. These officials are Mullah Bradar Akhund, the Deputy Commander of the “Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan,” and Zabihallah, a Taliban spokesman. The group denies reports that Taliban representatives agreed to meet with the Afghan government for negotiations, and reminds that Mullah Bradar denied such a possibility. Regarding statements given by Zabihallah, the Taliban informs that BBC and Afghan Azadi Radio “distorted” his words about foreign mujahideen
coming to Afghanistan, and Tora Bora as independent from the “Islamic Emirate.” The message quotes Zabihallah as stating that he and Qari Muhammad Yusuf provide a “realistic representation” of the Taliban.

**11/19** - The Taliban criticized President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai for his ensuring protection for Mullah Muhammad Omar should he decide to negotiate. The Taliban argues that Karzai has no power to oppose actions by foreign forces, or guarantee the safety of any individual. Further, the group states that “personal immunity and power obtained” is not an issue for Mullah Omar.

**11/20** - The Taliban claimed killing 15 American and 25 Afghan soldiers in a suicide bombing in Sabri district, Khost province in Afghanistan. According to the group, the suicide bomber, Qari Omar, was the victim of a US raid on his house that killed members of his family.

**11/23** - The Taliban claimed a strike on Australian forces in Tirin Kot in Afghanistan and three attacks in Paktika province. The attack on a convoy of Australian forces resulted in the destruction of a number of vehicles and causing a “large number” of casualties. In Paktika province, the Taliban claimed “liberating” the Omna district center and inflicting the enemy with heavy casualties; they also claim detonating two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on two tanks belonging to US forces in Khostmand in Paktika. The following day, another two US tanks were destroyed in Mata Khan district in Paktika.

**Algeria**

**11/3** - Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) threatened Western interests in North Africa in a video featuring several of its bombing operations in Algeria targeting Algerian security forces. This video, “The War of Bombs and Mines,” is within the group’s video series, “The Shadows of the Swords.” The piece opens as a documentary highlighting cooperation between North African leaders, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in particular, and Western leaders, and their alleged disregard for their citizens. After presenting eleven operations of detonating multiple improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on enemy forces, an audio clip of AQIM leader Abu Musab Abdul Wadud states that Western interests cannot be protected, and they will be struck just as AQIM struck the United Nations, the Interpol quarters, and the Israeli embassy in Nouakchott, and foreigners hostage.

**11/12** - AQIM demonstrated one of their “efficient methods” of capturing enemy forces in a video is within the series, “The Shadows of the Swords.” It shows the mujahideen setting up a fake security checkpoint in Tizzirt, Tizi Ouzou province in Algeria, stopping motorists, distributing propaganda, and in one instance, shooting to death a police officer as he tries to escape. The AQIM members involved in the operation shaved their beards and wore military clothes of the enemy to disguise themselves.

**11/11** - Ansar al-Islam, through its media arm, al-Ansar Media Foundation, issued a video of bombing an Iraqi National Guard (ING) Humvee in Shahraban, Diyala province in Iraq. The attack is undated. Footage shows an improvised explosive device (IED) blowing up as the Humvee passes along the road.

**Iraq**

**11/4** - Jund al-Tawhid Brigades (Soldiers of Monotheism), presenting itself as an insurgent group in Iraq, announced its establishment and issued a video containing footage of a sniping operation in Baghdad. Their statement of establishment indicates that Jund al-Tawhid has been active in the insurgency for sometime, but delayed announcing its name so as to remain “secret and honest” in their work. They announce themselves now to “annoy the enemy and provoke the believers to fight for the Cause of Allah.”

**11/9** - Sheikh Abu Wael, the leader of the Shariah Committee of Ansar al-Sunnah, invited several Iraqi insurgent factions to participate in a joint attack to defy the proposed US-Iraq security agreement. The attack was dubbed, “The Campaign of the Pious Against the Agreement of Disgrace.” In his audio speech containing this invitation, the Sheikh justifies physical response to the agreement, stating: “Such kinds of agreements are not negated by mere statements of condemnation and denunciation. Rather, there is necessity for work, jihad, fighting that forces the enemy and those who are loyal to them to recant this agreement…” Over 15 factions were encouraged to join, including nationalists and Ansar al-Islam. Most of these groups, in turn, posted messages containing their approval to join the campaign, observing it as a means to unite their word.

**11/1** - The “Joint Media Office,” which is in charge of “The Campaign of the Pious Against the Agreement of Disgrace,” announced seventeen attacks total targeting coalition forces in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Ninawa, and Salah al-Din provinces. Four videos were provided also, containing footage of attacks within this campaign by Hamas-Iraq, JCF, and the Shariah Committee of Ansar al-Sunnah.
Mujahideen chant “Allah is Great” as the bombing occurs.

11/13- The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) issued a video containing footage of bombing a Humvee in Latifiya, Babil province in Iraq. It is within the ISI-Furqan series, “Hell of the Romans and Apostates in the Land of Two Rivers [Mesopotamia/Iraq].” The attack is undated. Footage repeatedly shows the detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) on what ISI informs is a vehicle belonging to “Crusader” forces. ISI adds that the vehicle was damaged in the blast.

11/16- Ansar al-Islam, through its media arm, al-Ansar Media Foundation, issued a video of firing mortar shells at a US base in Tikrit, Salah al-Din province in Iraq. The attack is undated. Footage shows three mujahideen in a field firing mortars from a launcher, then cuts to a scene where a mujahid in a car records smoke rising from a location in the distance.

11/16- The Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI), a nationalist insurgent faction in Iraq, claimed downing a US helicopter in Mosul, and denied a military report that the incident was an accident, combat-unrelated. IAI explains that in Mosul, Ninawa province in Northern Iraq, on November 15, its mujahideen struck a US helicopter with a missile, causing it to fall in the area of Tamim. The operation is an act of revenge for US strikes on innocents in Iraq and Syria. IAI mocks the incident being referred to by the enemy as an accident, and argues that the US cannot admit successes by the mujahideen. According to military reports, an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter made a hard landing in East Mosul on November 15 after coming into contact with wires. Two US soldiers were killed.

11/19- The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) issued a video of bombing a RG minesweeper in Diyala province in Iraq. The video is within the ISI-Furqan series, “Hell of the Romans and Apostates in the Land of Two Rivers [Mesopotamia/Iraq].” Footage shows an improvised explosive device (IED) detonating as the vehicle approaches. ISI does not indicate the date the attack occurred or to whom the minesweeper belonged.

11/19- The Political Council for the Iraqi Resistance (PCIR) condemned the US-Iraq security agreement and threatened parliamentarians who vote for its passage. The agreement entails the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq by December 31, 2011. PCIR observes the agreement as a “dangerous precedent,” and argues that should it pass, Iraqi parliamentarians will have betrayed the Iraqi people, its land, and Islam. PCIR is a nationalist insurgent group consisting of four factions: Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI), Shariah Committee of Ansar al-Sunnah, Hamas-Iraq, and the Islamic Iraqi Resistance Front (JAMI).

11/21- The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) issued a video of murdering three Iraqi National Guard (ING) elements in Diyala province in Iraq. The video is within the ISI-Furqan series, “Hell of the Romans and Apostates in the Land of Two Rivers [Mesopotamia/Iraq].” Footage shows a mujahid holding a gun and sitting in the back of a car. As the car passes three individuals, the mujahid opens fire on them.

11/21- Ansar al-Islam, through its media arm, al-Ansar Media Foundation, issued a video of bombing an Iraqi National Guard (ING) carrier vehicle in Diyala province in Iraq. The attack is undated. Footage shows an improvised explosive device (IED) exploding and hitting the rear of the vehicle. The message introducing the video claims casualties were inflicted amongst ING elements onboard.

11/26- Al-Rashideen Army issued a message with a video claiming the deaths of 15 American soldiers in South Baghdad. The group, an Iraqi insurgent faction part of the nationalist Jihad and Change Front, titled the production, “Message from the Revenge Invasion.” They direct it to US President-elect Barack Obama, recognizing his willingness to withdraw soldiers from Iraq, and also direct it to Muslims as a “clear message” that the resistance halted the aggression of America. The attack, which al-Rashideen Army boasts was finished in eleven minutes, involved the mujahideen firing mortar shells and rockets, and then detonating improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to destroy three vehicles: a Bradley, Humvee, and troop carrier.

11/26- The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) issued a video containing footage of a thermal grenade attack on Iraqi police in Mosul, Ninawa province. The video is within the ISI-Furqan series, “Hell of the Romans and Apostates in the Land of Two Rivers [Mesopotamia/Iraq].” The date of attack is not specified; however, a date stamp shown quickly during the beginning of footage displays August 15, 2007. Footage shows two men walking from a car parked near a police carrier vehicle, and throwing thermal grenades
at the vehicle that cause an explosion and engulf it in smoke.

11/26- Ansar al-Islam, through its media arm, al-Ansar Media Foundation, issued a video of bombing Iraqi police in Mosul, Ninawa province. The attack is undated. Footage shows an improvised explosive device (IED) exploding near a parked vehicle. The message introducing the video explains that the IED detonated on police officers who were trying to dismantle the device. An unspecified number of officers were killed, including the bomb expert.

Israel & Palestinian Territories

11/2- A group calling itself the “Armies of Tawhid and Jihad Organization in Palestinian,” claiming an active presence in Palestinian Territories, announced its establishment and support for al-Qaeda. They indicated to follow the messages of al-Qaeda leaders Usama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, as well as the late Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and Abu Laith al-Libi, a Libyan al-Qaeda leader killed in Pakistan in January 2008. The group claimed an attack on Israeli targets near Kisufim, in the center of Gaza, and provided a video showing its execution.

11/14- The Army of the Ummah [Jeish al-Ummah], a Salafist group operating in Gaza, declared the start of its revenge operations for Abdul Rashid Ghazi, a radical Pakistani cleric slain in Pakistan in January 2008. The group claimed an attack on Israeli targets near Kisufim, in the center of Gaza, and provided a video showing its execution.

Somalia

11/12- The Shabaab (Young Mujahideen Movement) announced its “conquest” of two cities in Southern Somalia, Jilib and Merka, and a village, Kimsuma. The group has gathered strength in Somalia, particularly in Lower Juba province in the south, where it claims control over the cities and to administering Islamic law. They report seizing Merka, the capital of Lower Shabelle province, without confrontation, receiving an “enormous” celebration from its people. The Shabaab, also, reported that without confrontation, it seized Jilib, a strategic city in Middle Juba, and the village of Kimsuma.

11/16- The Shabaab announced its “conquest” of another city in Southern Somalia, Baraawe (Barawa), which they boast is the second most important city in Lower Shabelle province. The group declares that its men gained full control over Baraawe, a strategic port city. Sheikh Abu Bakr al-Zayla’i, governor of the “Islamic Juba” province, addressed residents, asking them to support the mujahideen.