



TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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Graphic: The al-Quds brigade, the military wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad ([Group Profile](#)), publishes a photo alleging a female terrorist cell in its ranks.



Orientation/Introduction:

Please review the introduction to the Terror Web Watch at [Intel Report](#).

Item 1: Calls to Set Fire to More Embassies in the Region Joined by Instructions for Making Fire Bombs

The successful burning of the Danish mission in Lebanon ([Country Profile](#)) and the Embassy of Denmark ([Country Profile](#)) in Syria ([Country Profile](#)) by mobs was inspirational to the members of Jihadist forums over this past week ([WAR Report](#)). General calls to burn more embassies in the Muslim world were heard, and a message was circulated on main Jihadist forums that called for "a day of embassy burning" in the region.

Excerpts from that message:

"Why have we not burned their embassies like the sons of the Shem [eastern Mediterranean region, encompassing Syria and Lebanon], the good people of Jihad?

What keeps us, O Muslims, from doing the same as they did? Why do the Muslim youth not gather in front of every Danish embassy in their country and burn it down upon those inside? Are they afraid of prison? Are they afraid of death? Or are they afraid of the people?

This is support for the Prophet, and whoever supports it supports God and the Messenger and the believers...

O Muslim, O worshipper of God, these Danish embassies are spread throughout all of the Muslim countries, for why do you not turn them into fire as has happened in al-Shem?

We shall begin by distributing these messages by cell phone and in Internet forums and on websites. This will be the beginning of the spread from al-Shem, and we will finish, with God's permission, with the embassies of the Americans.

Come, O sons of the Gulf, sons of Egypt, sons of al-Shem and Arab North Africa, let us go to support our religion and our Prophet and turn them into fire and rise up from beneath the feet of the Crusaders. The Islamic world will gather in front of Danish embassies during one day at one time and burn them down upon those inside..."

Another message followed that affirmed that February 13 would be the day for people to gather in front of Danish embassies to burn them. It does not seem likely that such forums garner enough of an audience throughout the Muslim world to stir up a mob to burn the embassies – even if it does spread to other sites and cell phones, though an attempt is possible if combined with other factors or organizers on the ground.

The importance of this message may be the extent to which the burning of Danish diplomatic buildings seemed to inspire and encourage members of the forum with its success. On the al-Ghorabaa forum, this posting was followed by instructions in how to make napalm, a thermite device, and fire bombs to aid in the immolations.

As with suicide bombings, once a tactic proves its success or appeal, it is often mimicked. Lighting buildings afire may not be as difficult as trying to blow them up in terrorist operations, but it draws attention, makes headlines, and is a fitting symbol for radicals' message: we do not want you in our countries.

Item 2: Palestinian Paper Publishes Warnings of "A Season of Migration" from Iraq ([Country Profile](#)) to Lebanon

The following report was published in the Palestinian paper *al Watan Voice*. It relies on Lebanese and Arab press sources to describe Lebanese fears that al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) may be trying to exploit the currently fragile security situation in Lebanon.



[begin translation]

Al-Qaeda witnesses "a season of migration" from Iraq to Lebanon

Gaza - In Lebanon these days, indications have appeared that al-Qaeda has some activity in the country, in the form of events that bear the group's fingerprints. The presence of the al-Qaeda organization in Lebanon mainly comes from what observers are calling "the returnees from Iraq" who snuck into Iraq to take part in what they call "the Jihad," in circumstances similar to those during what was called the "Afghan Jihad." The Lebanese saw traces of these fundamentalists during demonstrations that took place on February 5, protesting Danish newspapers' publishing of the injurious cartoons. More than one Lebanese observer has warned of "a season of migration" to Lebanon that threatens to disrupt Lebanese security.

The American National Security Council has warned of the danger of the "returnees from Iraq," saying that they may take the place of the Afghan Arabs. They have mentioned in a special report that Iraq has become "the land of training, the region of recruitment, and a place of opportunity to improve technical skills."

News reports have recently talked about the return of a number of fundamentalist extremists, Lebanese and Palestinian, who had left the region around Sidon in Lebanon a couple of months prior. They have now returned, after establishing relationships with key al-Qaeda leaders. The London-based paper, *Asharq Alawsat*, has reported that its sources in Beirut say that these returnees may carry orders to return to Lebanon to carry out Jihadist activity and to form a base to be the foundation of al-Qaeda in the Shem [eastern Mediterranean] region.

These same sources point to the announcement of what is called "the district of Lebanon" in the al-Qaeda organization, for which most of its components are fundamentalists who were immersed in extremist organizations of various names. Supporting the hypothesis of the development of al-Qaeda in Lebanon, the Lebanese national security forces announced that they had uncovered a network of 13 al-Qaeda members of various different Arab nationalities, among them Lebanese.

The situation of the Afghan Arabs repeats itself.

One of the observers of fundamentalist groups in Lebanon rejects the idea of an al-Qaeda presence in Lebanon in terms of al-Qaeda's traditional definition, explaining that "al-Qaeda" is a way of thinking and acting "...and there are people in Lebanon who think like al-Qaeda and act as they do."

Lebanese journalist Hazem al-Amin clarifies that the situation of the Afghan Arabs has repeated itself in Iraq. Now, "returnees from Iraq" who are Lebanese and Palestinian have begun to appear. *Al-Arabiya Net* [the website of al-Arabiya television news channel] said "that those who went to Afghanistan were volunteers with no connection to the al-Qaeda organization, who formed into cells to be used by organizations like al-Qaeda. This applies to Iraq, where fundamentalist youth have not joined any organizations before they go. What has happened in Iraq must be researched further. For those who return, do they return with missions? These are questions to which answers must be sought."

Al-Amin points to more than 100 people from the Bekaa Valley, northern Lebanon, and the [Palestinian refugee] camps, the most prominent among them from [the terrorist organization] Asbat al-Ansar, who have headed to Iraq, motivated by a number of things—among them poverty and ideology. Some of these have met their fate there, and some of them have returned to Lebanon. In spite of indications of a link between the Asbat al-Ansar organization and al-Qaeda, sources in the Fatah organization reject the idea of an al-Qaeda presence in the Ein al-Hilweh refugee camp, seeing Asbat al-Ansar not as a Salafi organization, but as an institution of Hisham Shreidi influenced by the ideology of Islamic Hizb al-Tahrir.

As for traces of al-Qaeda activity in Lebanon, Amin says that the most obvious of them are the returnees from Iraq, who find a "receptive environment" for their ideas. "Lebanon has a sound environment for the development of al-Qaeda-like networks that will share al-Qaeda's characteristics."

The story of Lebanese emigrants going to Iraq to fight was first revealed when the people of the village of Qiroun in the western Bekaa Valley spoke of Omar Darwish, a man of the village who was killed in the Iraqi city of



Samarra in an American-Iraqi attack on a group of Arab fighters there. The people of Qiroun revealed that Darwish was a Salafi youth who headed to Iraq a couple months prior to his death with a group of young men from his village.

Official indications of al-Qaeda activities on Lebanese territory are increasing also:

- The Lebanese government uncovered a cell from the al-Qaeda organization and announced the arrest of 13 members, including people of Saudi, Yemeni, and Sudanese nationalities.
- The al-Qaeda organization in Iraq announced its responsibility for the release of rockets from southern Lebanon into northern Israel, in a statement circulated on the Internet.
- The statement from the al-Qaeda organization mentioned that "a band of lions of tawhid from the sons of the al-Qaeda organization...carried out a new raid on the Jewish state...after a period of surveillance and planning...when they launched 10 Grad missiles from Muslim land in Lebanon at targets in the north of the Jewish state.
- Lebanese security sources have said that investigations are ongoing into the 13 elements from the al-Qaeda organization in Lebanon but have said that they uncovered a serious attempt to establish the material, military, and human infrastructure for the organization in Lebanon for the first time, with a direct connection to Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi in Iraq.

As the Lebanese political analyst George Ilim has said, a point in need of clarification is whether the arrival of the al-Qaeda organization in Lebanon means the arrival of the organization itself or the arrival of individuals who developed a distant relationship to the organization after spending time in Iraq.

George Ilim has said, while speaking to *al-Arabiya Net*, that if the information about the returnees is credible—that they snuck into Iraq, carried out operations, and returned—then it means that "the links of this chain have begun to come together, one at a time, especially with the appearance of these latest signs bearing the signature of an incubating al-Qaeda, such as the release of missiles into Israel."

The talk is continuous about the presence of returnees from Iraq in Sidon and in the [Palestinian refugee] camps. George Ilim responds that "everyone who undertakes an action breaching the security in Lebanon or who needs to hide can take refuge in a camp and the security forces cannot legally follow...the[se camps] may become places of refuge for some of these elements threatening security..."

The signs of a migration of the al-Qaeda organization from Iraq to Lebanon is a tense topic and provokes fear in the Lebanese populace. It is possible that fighters deciding to return from Iraq are intent on the Lebanese theater as a front from which to launch new conflicts under the banner of "the Lebanese Jihad," to follow the "Iraqi Jihad" and the "Afghan Jihad." After the assassinations of the past year, this only further complicates the security situation in Lebanon.

[end translation]

Links: Israel ([Country Profile](#)), Asbat al-Ansar ([Group Profile](#)), Hizb ut-Tahrir ([Group Profile](#)), al-Qaeda claims missiles launched from Lebanon ([Terrorist Incident](#)), Hariri assassination in 2005 ([Terrorist Incident](#))

Item 3: The E-Jihad Against Denmark: Protests over Cartoons Depicting the Prophet Mohammed Spread to Cyberspace

Throughout this past week, Muslim hacktivists have carried out a series of website defacements in response to the cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed published in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* ([WAR Report](#)). According to Zone-H, a European consortium of IT security professionals that track cybercrime, over 600 Danish websites have been attacked. A majority of these attacks were website defacements; however, there has been an unverified claim of a denial of service attack against the *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper (www.jp.dk) website.

A video posted on the *Mohajroon* forum showed a series of screen shots that claimed to illustrate a successful denial of service attack against the *Jyllands-Posten* site. A more detailed analysis of this video reveals that the



claimed attack was executed through a ping flood command, which is simply an infinite loop of ping commands from the command line. This loop of commands can overwhelm the targeted server and, therefore, render it unavailable to the rest of the Internet. However, it is unlikely that an attack of this nature will work in any sustained fashion, as any competent systems administration can simply filter out the repeated ping commands and block them from overwhelming the targeted server. Therefore, it is more than likely that the video demonstrating this purported attack is simply empty propaganda designed to illustrate the technical sophistication of al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) operatives and supporters.

While these website defacements and unconfirmed denial of service attacks are significant, it is important to remember that this is not the first time a sustained cyber vandalism campaign has taken place in the backdrop of real world events. For example, during the second Intifada Pro-Israeli and Pro-Palestinian hacktivists carried out a sustained campaign of website defacements targeting Palestinian and Israeli websites. Likewise, during the US-China Spyplane incident in 2001, pro-US and pro-Chinese hacktivists also carried out a series of website defacements targeting Chinese and American websites.

The recent attacks against Danish websites support the lessons learned from the previous cyber vandalism campaigns. First, website defacements are relatively easy to carry out and do not require a great degree of

technical sophistication. In essence, this type of attack is the digital equivalent of graffiti. Defacements are relatively low risk for the attacker because the impact from the victim's site rarely rises above the level of a nuisance. As a result, the victim of the defacement is unlikely to pursue legal remedies against the attacker. However, as the defacements of Danish websites have illustrated, a well-coordinated defacement campaign can reap enormous propaganda benefits for the attackers, as the stories of various website defacements filter into the mainstream media. The low risk nature of these attacks in combination with the potential for high payoff in the form of propaganda makes website



GO TO www.modleznark.com and Boycott Danish Products, If you love your last prophet.

defacements an attractive form of digital protest for those unwilling to undertake more extreme forms of protest or violence. Therefore, it should not be assumed that the purported Islamic hacktivists responsible for the defacements of Danish websites are necessarily extremists or are ideologically intertwined with al-Qaeda.

Please view the CNN video clip of this analyst's commentary on hacktivists targeting Danish sites: [clip](#). Image: defacement of <http://www.proffdata.dk> by DarkBlo0D

Item 4: Hamas' On-Line Children's Magazine: Al-Fateh

Among the growing array of radio, television, and Internet products run by Hamas ([Group Profile](#)) and spreading its anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli message, the most troubling may be *Al-Fateh* (The Conqueror). Launched in September 2002, *Al-Fateh* is an on-line children's magazine that provides games, poems, and stories for its youthful audience with cartoon illustrations. However, consistently intermixed with the normal childish content are the themes of resistance against Israel ([Country Profile](#)) and the beauty of martyrdom. Targeting children, this outwardly innocuous website is especially dangerous as it provides an attractive and fun medium for kids to learn while ingraining a radical viewpoint of the conflict for a new generation of Palestinians. *Al-Fateh* establishes a framework of influence by imposing a language in line with the Hamas ideology, creating a slanted version of historical and current events and presenting role models for resistance: suicide bombers.

The website's text, as reported by The Media Line, describes Israelis as barbarous, criminal Zionists and often "rapists." Moreover, towns and cities within Israel are only referred to by their Arabic names, with one author stressing "I am absolutely sure that you, dear people, will use only the Arabic names, and not the Zionist ones." Using this vocabulary, *Al-Fateh* presents a historical narrative of relevant events. The 1948 war is described as



an act of aggression by criminal Zionists who were aided by imperialist superpowers and tried to conquer Palestine with "murderous weapons and their devastating fire." It is added that Zionists and imperialists are still attempting to erase the Arab Islamic identity of Palestinians. Retreating further historically, the website also contains a short story on the rise and fall of Al Andalus ([Spain](#)). The city of Seville, a narrator in this first person account, relates a proud Islamic heritage and a desire to once again be under Muslim control: "I beg you, my loved ones, to call me to return along with the other cities of the lost paradise to Muslim hands so that happiness may reign in my lands" ([Source](#)) ([WAR Report](#)). Furthermore, in its coverage of current events, *Al-Fateh* presents children with news items about injured or killed Israeli soldiers, prisoner abuse within Israeli jails, and the wounding or deaths of Palestinian resistance fighters.

With the conflict and Israel placed in its proper context, the website then extols the *shaheed*, "martyr," who made the ultimate sacrifice and is now in paradise. For example, articles glorifying the perpetrator of the 2001 Dolphinarium attack ([Terrorist Incident](#)) that killed over 20 Israelis appeared on the website, including a picture of the bomber and a copy of his will. Similarly, a picture of a female suicide bomber was posted on *Al-Fateh*, emphasizing that girls can also grow up to be *shaheeda* and join the fight against Zionists ([Source](#)).

A key to establishing the legacy and duration of an ideology is to shape the minds of the next generation. Schools have been the traditional mode of influencing children, and it noteworthy that the US government launched a program following the Iraqi invasion to replace textbooks that reinforced pro-Baathist, anti-Zionist, and anti-American sentiments. With *Al-Fateh*, Hamas—which likewise runs a network of schools—has seized on the popular Internet medium as an additional means of reaching Palestinian youths. The cartoon-filled, user-friendly website is promoting a violent message and attempting to shape the malleable mindsets of tomorrow's peacemakers or vengeful martyrs.

Item 5: Video: Islamic Radicals in New York

The Arabic forum *al-Boraq*, has published a video showing a small demonstration by radical Muslims in New York City. The demonstrators stood on the street during the Shia holy day of Ashoura to protest Shi'ism, reflecting the extremist belief that Shia Muslims are not legitimate members of the faith. At least one protester carried the white and black flag of the Taliban ([Group Profile](#)) regime (see pictures below). The message accompanying the video claimed that the demonstrators were a group of "Supporters of the Mujahideen" in New York.



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