



# TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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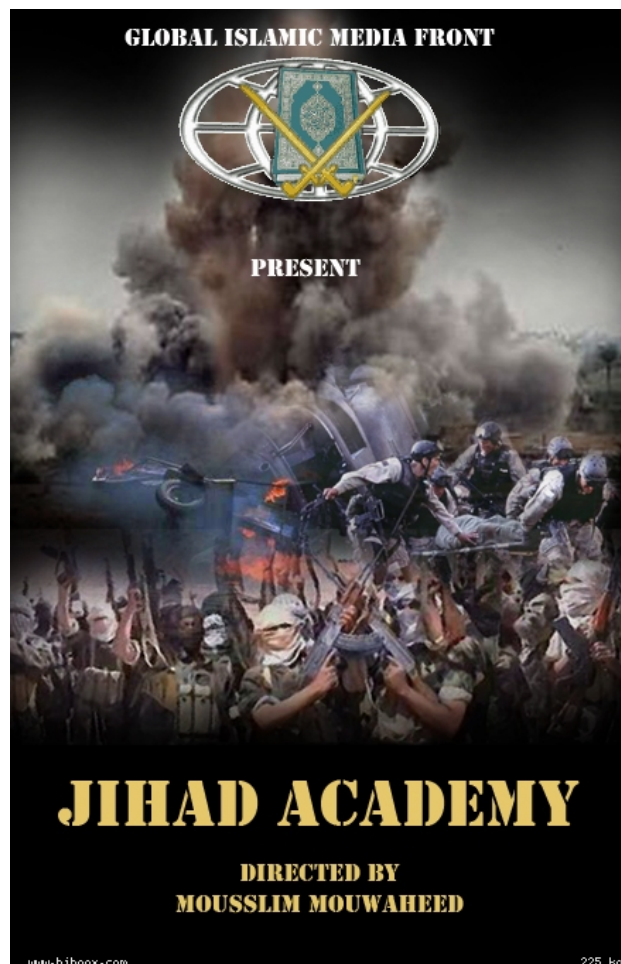
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**Graphic:** "The Jihad Academy," a new propaganda video from Iraq (Item 7)



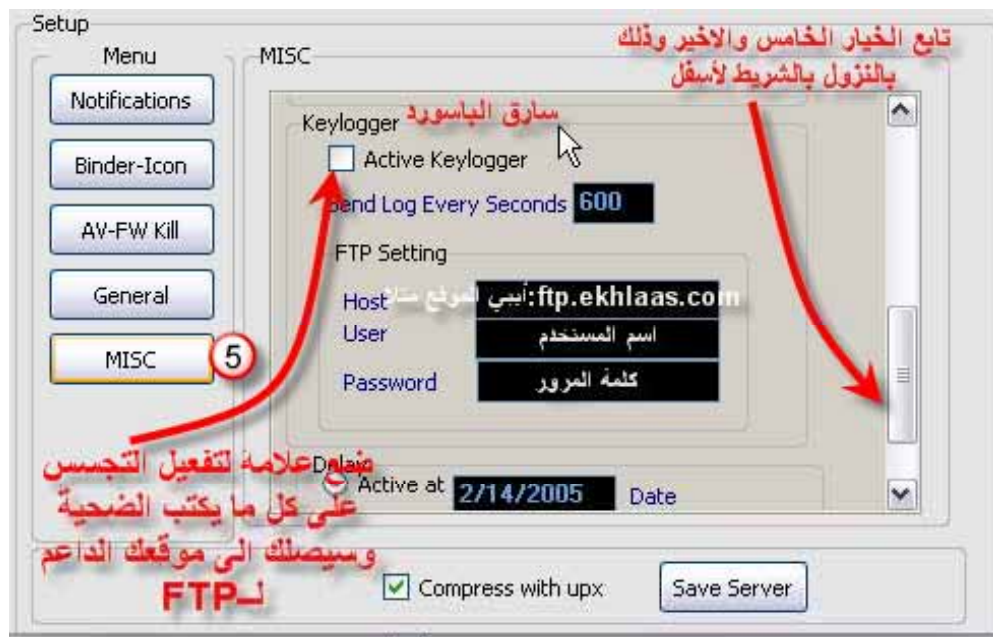
## Orientation/Introduction:

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

### Item 1: Identity Theft and Jihad

According to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, "a common pre-requisite for any criminal and terrorist alike is their [sic] ability to move unhindered from point A to point B through the use of forged identity documentation. Today's terrorist [sic] rely on a triad of financial criminal enterprise: identity theft, credit card and bank fraud." In the past year, it has become increasingly obvious that al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) operatives and sympathizers use both identity theft and credit fraud for other important purposes. Specifically, a survey of WHOIS registration information reveals that important al-Qaeda-affiliated websites have been registered with stolen identities.

For example, the now deactivated sites [www.ansarnet.us](#), [www.ekhlaas.net](#), [www.ekhlaas.org](#), and [www.alekhlaas.com](#) appear to have been registered using stolen identities. These sites were registered to residents of Miami Beach, Florida. An affected individual reported fraudulent charges on her credit card made in both Paris and London. It is also interesting to note that all of these sites were registered between February 13-21, 2005. While it is unclear exactly how these identities were hijacked, the following screenshot was recovered from a file upload service and may reveal that these identities were stolen using keylogging software.



The domain ekhlaas.com is different from the domains above that were registered using stolen identities. However, based on the chosen naming convention, the ekhlaas.com domain and the domains listed above all appear to be associated with the self-proclaimed "Ekhlaas Electronic Islamic Network" ([source](#)). While it is unclear exactly how this keylogging software was used, it was configured to begin sending its pilfered logs back to the ekhlaas.com on February 14, 2005. The domains listed above were registered shortly before or shortly after this date and, therefore, may indicate that the domains were registered with information garnered from surreptitiously installed keylogging software.

The above screenshot demonstrating the use of keylogging software is consistent with other information gathered from other al-Qaeda-affiliated websites. According to Jeffrey Pool, a researcher for the Jamestown Foundation, posting on the now defunct al-Farouq website showed a strong interest in 'e-Jihad.' In particular, the al-Farouq website contained a forum specifically dedicated to virus writing, spyware, IP spoofing, the use of proxy servers for anonymous web surfing, and for keylogging software.



It is possible that the identities used to register the above websites were stolen through more conventional means, such as pick pocketing. However, the Internet may still play a role in distributing identities stolen through low technology means. For example, the screenshot below was taken from the almjlah.net website. Now redacted, it shows a user posting the credit card and personal information required to hijack an identity. Therefore, it appears that jihadists use the Internet to aid in both the acquisition and the distribution of stolen identities.



## Item 2: Hamas' new propaganda wing: Al-Aqsa television

Hamas ([Group Profile](#)) recently launched the 'Al-Aqsa' television station, adding a crucial propaganda vehicle to its existing print, Internet, and radio outlets. Espousing a strict Islamist ideology, preaching hatred against Israelis, and calling for the destruction of the state of Israel ([Country Profile](#)), Hamas now aims to spread and reinforce its message in the Palestinian territories through television programming. The control of media outlets provides an avenue for institutionalizing specific vocabulary and a slanted coverage of events that can influence public perception dramatically. Hamas now has all the critical propaganda tools to instill resistance in the Palestinian population, to twist their group psyche into believing peace with Israelis is undesirable and that the destruction of the Israeli state is an attainable goal.

Al-Aqsa television launched on January 7, 2006. It is owned and operated by Al-Ribat Communications and Artistic Production, the same company running Hamas' Al-Rissalah newspaper and Sawt al-Aqsa radio station. The chairman of Al-Ribat Communications, Ahmad Muhammad Fathi Hamad, has served time in both Israeli and Palestinian Authority prisons for terrorism-related activities. The station manager and employees are all Hamas members, and they received industry training abroad, including from Al-Jazeera Television in Qatar ([Country Profile](#)). Though its current broadcasting capabilities are limited to the Gaza Strip and West Bank, the station aims to follow the model of Hezbollah's ([Group Profile](#)) Al-Manar TV ([Terror Web Watch](#)) and eventually become a satellite station that can reach a Pan-Arab audience throughout the Middle East. The station's launch date was expeditiously timed two weeks before the Palestinian legislative elections (see February 1, 2006 WAR Report), providing an important platform for Hamas candidates to air their views. Indeed, the majority of Al-Aqsa's programming has been coverage of Hamas candidates, intermixed with videos of Hamas martyrs, patriotic songs, and readings from the Koran.



Representatives of Al-Aqsa television acknowledge the station will not be objective, but rather broadcast news, documentaries, and cultural programs oriented toward the Hamas ideology. In this vein, Al-Aqsa programming will strictly use disparaging and belligerent vocabulary to frame Israelis and the occupation; the Israeli Minister of Defense will be referred to as the 'Zionist Minister of War and Terrorism' and Prime Minister Sharon as a 'War Criminal.' Interestingly, the Israeli government employed the same strategy in the early 1980s when it placed controls on how the Israeli media portrayed settlements and the West Bank and Gaza Strip territory. Complementing the strategy of creating facts on the ground, the government also attempted to remove the Green Line borders from the Israeli psyche and instill a notion of 'Eretz (Greater) Israel.' To this end, the West Bank was referred to as 'Judaea and Samaria,' occupied lands could not be described as 'enemy territory', and PLO members were characterized as terrorists, not 'individuals.' The Israeli campaign failed, domestic society never crossed the threshold of believing the West Bank and Gaza were Israeli territory, in entirety and without question. Hamas' effort to transform the Palestinian mindset is in the early stages, and the result of their propaganda campaign is still to be decided.

With the overwhelming success of Hamas in the 2006 legislative elections ([Intel Report](#)), the funding and technological capabilities of Al-Aqsa TV are likely to grow exponentially. Possessing television, radio, and Internet capabilities, Hamas can now utilize a full range of media tools to influence dramatically Palestinians' perception of events and overall political and social ideology.

### **Item 3: Jihadist Groups in Iraq ([Country Profile](#)) Announce Council to Improve Coordination**

Jihadist groups in Iraq ([Country Profile](#)) announced the formation of the "Mujahideen Shura Council in Iraq," to tie together six groups fighting in the country. A "Shura" council refers to a consultative council that advises on the Islamic legality of activities, provides general advice, and typically has some decision making power. The formation of a "Shura" council among Mujahideen groups in Iraq may be an attempt to stem rumors of infighting among the groups. The announcement was signed by Abu Maysara al-Iraqi, the traditional spokesperson for al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers ([Group Profile](#)) and circulated on Jihadist websites typically used by al-Qaeda to distribute its statements and videos.

The groups said to be represented included al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers, the Army of the Victorious Faction, the Ansar al-Tawhid brigades, Islamic Jihad brigades, the brigades of al-Ghorabaa ("the strangers") and the "Terror" brigades. Missing from this list are two of the highest profile groups: Ansar al-Sunna ([Group Profile](#)), which is linked to Zarqawi's group, and the Islamic Army in Iraq ([Group Profile](#)). The statement said that the group would invite more Mujahideen to "join its ranks."

This Shura council, if it does exist, seems to indicate an attempt by the groups to formulate a somewhat more cohesive strategy. According to the statement, some of the purposes of the Shura council are to provide leadership in the conflict, "join up the ranks of the Mujahideen," and "declare a clear plan for Jihad against the Infidels." Members of Jihadist forums have been urging more cohesiveness and cooperation between Iraqi insurgent groups as a result of rumors and reports of some fighting between them and also arguing that the groups would be stronger if they united under one flag.

Another recent statement by the council claimed that its member groups had taken part in their first joint operation. That statement was signed by the head of the Shura council, who called himself Abdullah Rashid al-Baghdadi.

### **Item 4: The Islamic Army in Iraq Culls Open Source Western Media for Indications of Progress**

The latest issue of the online magazine of the Islamic Army in Iraq, a highly active Iraqi insurgent group, was published this week. The great majority of the content, however, does not originate in Iraq, rather is Arabic translations of western media reports that paint a discouraging picture of Coalition efforts. News reports translated and printed in the magazine include those that speculate that the insurgents' numbers are rising and





that the Coalition will be unable to sustain the occupation long enough to win the war. There is also a report describing how insurgents' skills in making explosives are advancing, another on how insurgents are using missiles to penetrate American armor, and yet another on reports that French Muslims have gone to Iraq to fight Jihad.



كان هيرام نوريس (21 عاماً) من بورنوريكو يلف بجوار بندقية اليد مئبنة فوق مركبة هملفي مدرعة حين أصابت قنبلة زرعت على جانب الطريق القافلة العسكرية الأميركية التي كان معها. وفقد نوريس الوعي ولكنه لم يصب في الهجوم الذي شن الشهر الماضي قرب بعقوبة شمال بغداد.

ويذكر نوريس الحادثة في قاعدته قرب المدينة قائلاً: "كان ذلك قبل عيد ميلادي بثلاثة أيام. فقلت الوعي. لم أتذكر شيئاً. كنت ارتجف بعد أن أفتت".

ومن حسن حظها ان القنبلة ليست من أنواع تستخدم بشكل متزايد مثل تلك التي تخترق الدروع او "الشحنات المتفجرة الموجهة" التي تركز على هدف.

ويعد أكثر من عامين من إعلان مسؤولين اميركيين ان مصير المسلحين الموت أصبحت هجماتهم أكثر فتكاً من ذي قبل بينما يقترب عدد الفسلي الاميركيين منذ الغزو في آذار (مارس) 2003 من اثنى. ويؤكد القادة الاميركيون الان ان العنف لن ينته قبل التوصل لحل سلمي.

وقال الميجر ستيفن ملبورن المتحدث العسكري البريطاني في البصرة ان القنابل التي تزرع على جوانب الطرق أصبحت أكثر تطوراً في العامين الأخيرين وقال: "كثرت بدالية الصنع الى حد كبير في تكو بنها ولكنها أصبحت الآن أكثر فعالية قليلاً".

ويضع المسلحون شحنات المتفجرات محلية الصنع في أي شيء بداية من صناديق الموز الى حيوانات نالفة. ويمكن التمر بسهولة على طريق تصنيعها على شبكة الانترنت.

ونستخدم اجهزة التليفون المحمول اجهزة منبه او اشعة متطور تحت

و: شة اصلاح سكة ات كندا

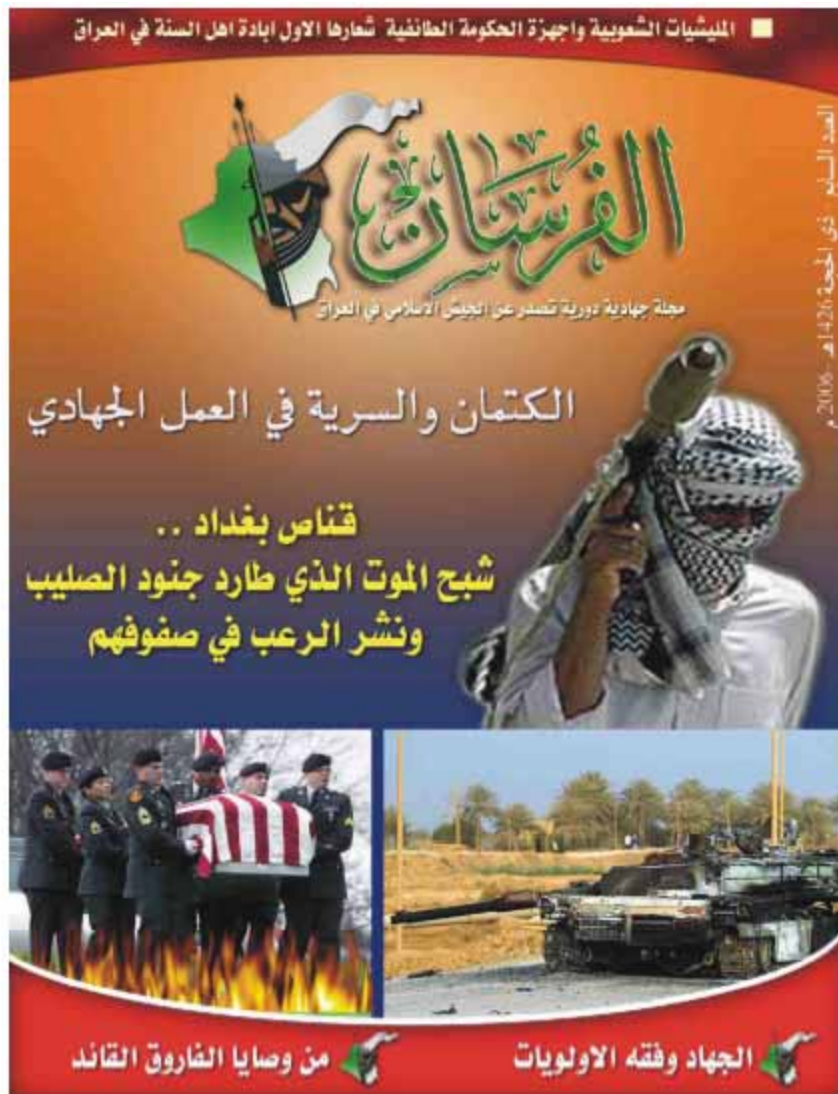
*Islamic Army in Iraq article describing insurgent advancement in making explosives.*

A translation of an article discusses how much money the White House will request for military operations in Iraq from Congress in the 2006 budget. An article from the United Kingdom ([Country Profile](#)) newspaper *The Independent* says that the US ([Country Profile](#)) withdrawal from Iraq is only a matter of time. The magazine called *al-Forsan* (The Knights) is essentially a digest of western news reports that seem to herald near victory for the insurgents and that divulges information on the toll that the war is taking on Coalition countries, all translated into Arabic so that the Islamic Army in Iraq, other insurgent groups in Iraq, and supporters of the insurgency worldwide can benefit from the information contained within.

Jihadist web forums have demonstrated that terrorists in Iraq and elsewhere have more sophisticated open source intelligence collection than may be expected, thanks to the Internet and also to the numbers of bilingual and trilingual supporters in the region and abroad.

*Cover of al-Forsan*





## Item 5: Algerian al-Qaeda Branch Comes Out with Latest Edition of Internet Magazine

The sixth edition of *al-Jama'a*, the online publication of al-Qaeda's branch in Algeria ([Country Profile](#)), the GSPC ([Group Profile](#)), has been issued. The online magazine is part of an apparent attempt on the part of the group to raise its profile in the Jihadist cyber world over the past year and a half. GSPC has its own website on which it publishes statements, interviews of its leaders, video propaganda clips, and its editions of *al-Jama'a*.

The GSPC seems to have been more active on the Internet than it has in the physical world recently, achieving only minor and scattered skirmishes with Algerian soldiers and police. The group has put out statements declaring its desire to attack members of the Algerian elite in France ([Country Profile](#)) as well as any foreigners in Algeria, but it has not been able to carry out attacks against either thus far.

However, there have been French reports that the GSPC may be looking for help from Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi's network to attack French citizens. Saudi intelligence reports that Algerians make up a plurality of foreign fighters in Iraq ([source](#)); this could mean that the GSPC is dormant only because it has sent a number of fighters to gain experience and connections in Iraq. When they return, the GSPC could come back in force.

In this most recent communication from the GSPC, the group claims that it spent the holiday month of *Dhu al-Hijjah* plotting attacks: "The only concerns of the Mujahideen this holiday month have been...how to attack the



apostates and how to work their swords into Crusader and Jewish targets. Among the lesser of their concerns are: how to explode a bomb, or how to make this ambush succeed....or, will the ammonium nitrate used to make these mines work, or will it be affected by the humidity?"

At the same time, the GSPC also claims that its fighters are hungry and cold. They claim that the widows and orphans of "martyrs" and Mujahideen who have been driven from their homes are forced to work as servants in houses or in other lowly positions. The message seems to be a call for outside assistance.

Another notable article in this publication discusses alleged plots and conspiracies of the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, and international businesses, all of which may imply a desired target set for the group if they ever do gain the strength to carry out more difficult attacks.

## **Item 6: Jihadist Websites Urge Boycott of Danish Goods in the Middle East in Response to Political Cartoons**

When a newspaper in Denmark ([Country Profile](#)) published cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed this past fall, it sparked quite a controversy. Depicting the Prophet in any way is forbidden in Islam, in addition to the fact that the cartoons were perceived as mocking the religion. The decision of a Norwegian newspaper to republish the cartoons in January 2006 has reinvigorated the anger of some Muslims. Jihadist websites have responded by compiling a list of goods made by Danish or part Danish companies sold in the Middle East to circulate as part of a campaign to urge a boycott of those goods. Some 38 products were on the list, among them common and popular brands in the Middle East.

Because the Jihadist forums reach a relatively small number of people in the Middle East, the call for a boycott would have to spread beyond their scope to be effective. The boycott campaign is perhaps more relevant because it is a relatively moderate tactic to appear on such radical sites. Typically, an offense to Islam results in calls to attack the country or assassinate an individual, as was witnessed in the Netherlands in the murder of Theo Van Gogh ([Terrorist Incident](#)). Urging a boycott, a fairly accepted form of political protest, is very unusual in such forums.



*This graphic, showing Lurpak brand butter, urges a boycott of all products from Denmark.*

As to why Jihadist forums should urge a softer approach to Denmark is up for speculation. It may be because the country is not involved in the Iraq war and is not a typical focal point of Jihadist wrath for any of its policies. It also could be that, having heard their calls for assassinations and attacks go unanswered in the past, different tactics to respond to such slights are being explored.

## **Item 7: Video Available: "The Jihad Academy"**

In the days leading up to the publishing of this new propaganda video on the web, the following message was published across Arabic-language Jihadist web forums in both Arabic and English. Messages and materials are published in multiple languages to try to ensure the widest distribution possible, an indication that the "Global Islamic Media Front," which issued "Jihad Academy," is prioritizing circulation of this particular video. The English was as follows [all spelling and grammar errors are reprinted from the original]:

Allah is great Allah is great, await for the first Jihad production of a kind "JIHAD ACADEMY", it's a movie that portrays the events of a single day for whom struggle in Allah's cause, while the channels of fornication and prostitution portrayers the detailed days events for immoral guys and girls, and describe the details of their wrong deeds to poison this generation of Muslim youth and to produce a more dissolute generation.



While they do this, our visual production "JIHAD ACADEMY" has come, to restore things back to order, this film focuses on the events of that day for our Mujahideen brothers from dawn till late night so that the youth of our nation see how they live – may Allah support them-. Their dawn is killing and overstraining the enemy, their noon is grants and gifts, and their afternoon is setting ambushes for the enemies of the LORD of the heavens and the earth, and so they are in a struggle till late night through dusk and early night.

The film also includes various Jihad attacks in different times of a day that heal the breasts of those who believe and enrage the infidels along with the hypocrites.

So be prepared O' brothers in faith to live a whole day with our beloved and pious Mujahideen brothers, live with them the details of that day.

So make sure that you see it and to distribute it as much as you can....

The video does not seem different than other propaganda videos like it, and it contains some footage that has already been released on Jihadist websites. The 20+ minute video is a montage of different scenes from the Iraqi insurgency, featuring footage of US soldiers being shot by snipers and grisly images of soldiers' bodies being struck and kicked by Iraqis. In one scene, a charred body is shown tied to a rope and dragged in the street. The group logos, which mark attack footage, show that this film is a compilation of attacks from different insurgent groups in Iraq. It is available from TRC upon request.

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