



Selected methods of recruiting Islamic terrorists

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ABSTRACT

Recruiting an Islamic terrorist is part of an extremely complex process. So consider them in a broad context. This process, which directly precedes and prepares the basis for training with selected candidates and further radicalization of new terrorists, often takes several months or even years. During this process the newly recruited person is increasingly linked to their new friends.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

Recruitment is the first step in the process of radicalization of a person who is willing to take part in activities related to Islamic extremism. Definition of radicalization is understood as the path that a small part of the Muslim community follows to become terrorists or active proponents of this form of activity [1]. The process of radicalization of a person involves the following phases: inspiration (development of motivation or conversion to Islam); Recruiting (typing and evaluating operational suitability, identifying with the ideology of Islamic extremism); Creating a favorable environment for further activity) and terrorist activities (preparing for a terrorist attack, planning and conducting an attack) [2].

The analysis of the radicalization process has identified a number of events and events that are significant in the whole process. These events include: attending a mosque linked to Islamic extremism; The influence (by friends, spiritual leader of extremist views) on radicalization by anti-Western propaganda and the presence in training camps for jihadists.

This sequence of events may encourage a radicalized person to engage in terrorist activities, as well as provide logistical support for their implementation, or participate in jihad or incitement to extremist activities [3].

There is no classic model that would cover all or even most of the profile of the recruiter. The age of these people, their origin, the methods and the form of action they take are very different [4]. They may originate from outside the area they are seeking to acquire, or be former jihad warriors or traveling preachers with a great deal of knowledge of religion and ideology, and who enjoy trust and popularity. However, the common feature of canvasser is that they raise the respect and admiration of potential recruits. If fighters come, then converted to Islam, they often recognize their Muslim scout model for imitation in their future activities. Respect felt by recruits is related to the specific environment from which the recruits come from, in which they may gain experience in combat, or ideological or religious training. Recruits are fascinated by the fact that the recruiter was directly involved in jihad activities, which compensated for his possible lack of religious education. Some recruits are associated with Islamic extremists, others are not, but are willing to devote themselves to the various jihad matters. The presence of a verifier is not necessary for a person to decide to engage in extremist activities. Although it is sometimes the case that volunteering for extremist activities is spontaneous, the professional recruiter usually continues to contact with the person in order to maintain the process of radicalization.

2. RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Recruitment of persons to participate in jihad should be understood as a process involving different degrees of involvement in the attainment of terrorist networks using rape or violence. It must be emphasized, however, that it is not necessary to recruit terrorist attacks - it may also mean establishing cooperation to provide logistical support to such activities (providing false documents, helping people in risk areas, etc.). Attention canvasser focus not only on Muslims [5].

Recently, cases of recruiting people of different faiths have been observed. Very attractive people to recruit are people converted to Islam, so-called. converts. They are especially dangerous if they are related to: broadly understood intelligence and counterintelligence services, soldiers of special forces units, security and public security officers. Owing to the knowledge they possess, they are extremely supportive of extremist activity. Their newly acquired religious views and great enthusiasm make them particularly vulnerable to radicalization and recruitment by Islamic extremists. A well organized terrorist network focuses on the recruitment of young people who are sensitive to the jihad ideology. In this way, they try to manipulate these people to quickly make them addicted to each other. Some terrorist networks deliberately try to recruit those who are not under intelligence surveillance. Recruiters are looking for people who are willing to carry out a suicide attack, acquire skills in combat, or who are already committed combatants.

Islamic terrorist network recruiters are looking for Muslims or people of other faith who are willing to accept the religion of Islam. Islamic religious movements seeking to acquire new believers are eager to establish contacts with foreigners arriving in their respective countries who could possibly be converted. This procedure applies especially to those who are

susceptible to any socio-technical manipulation or who are in difficult financial and material situations [6].

Stages of Islamic terrorist recruitment process:

- typing a candidate for a new follower of Islam, Interview with the candidate, during which the recruiter shows great interest and compassion for the candidate's difficult life situation;
- proposal to provide spiritual and material support to the candidate (finding a job, apartment, etc.);
- contacting a candidate, a future Muslim, another Muslim who helps in solving problems (during this stage the candidate learns about the other people in the environment, the talks are conducted so that the interested person feels important to his new acquaintances and curious about religious issues. -social Islam);
- introduce to the mosque and get acquainted with the imam, who after acquiring knowledge of the past the candidate gradually gives him guidance and teaches the basics of knowledge about religion and Arabic language;
- ceremonial acceptance of the faith of Islam - occurs when the imam considers that the religious knowledge of the future follower of the religion of Allah is sufficient, and the candidate's view of the proper world;
- indicating a new believer in Islam for his mosque, with the recommendation of attending prayer and enrolling in Koranic school for the study of religion and Arabic language (the candidate remains there under discreet observation of new friends);
- gradual strengthening of religious indoctrination, manifested by the raising of the social consciousness of a new member of the Muslim world community (umma) and the inciting of hatred towards the hostile Western civilization;
- selecting, among the new followers of Islam, the most committed person, characterized by a sense of new mission and having appropriate psychophysical conditions for conducting extremist activities;
- gradual initiation and acquaintance with the principles of conspiracy, among others. With tactics and techniques to avoid surveillance by special services.

After completion of the whole individual process of radicalization of the views of the new follower of Islam, which can last for even years, he or she is likely to receive a proposal to return to his native country to carry out specific tasks related to extremist activity (eg logistical support). Persons considered the best fit for training in camps are selected from among those distinguished by their unique religious-ideological fanaticism. For this reason, they seem to be more interested in the ideology of jihad [7].

The recruiting grid usually tries to make members dependent on each other to strengthen their relationship with each other and engage in the issue they will fight for. One way to do this is to provide accommodation or employment. There may also be meetings of members of the network, during which radical teachings are given, and new recruits are indoctrinated further. Those who choose to become militants and fight on the fronts of the Islamic War are sent to countries such as Syria, Lebanon or Yemen, where they may be further selected and trained appropriately.

Recruitment can also be made to obtain operational information for specific terrorist attacks. The process is similar to the recruitment of jihad fighters. Recruiters are looking for

candidates who have access to specific information. The appropriate method and motive for recruiting activities are selected depending on the operating situation and the source profile [8].

Recruitment steps taken after selecting a suitable person to perform an operational task: collecting data about a person (family life, material status, character, pros and cons); Preparation of the candidate (observation aimed at establishing daily activities, kept personal contacts and visited places); Attempting to approach a candidate (establishing a relationship using a specific operational legend); Recruiting (directly - the agent agrees, in writing or not, to cooperate in return for appropriate remuneration [9]; indirectly - the person is unaware of the cooperation and the information is obtained naturally); Agent verification (assessment of its loyalty and credibility, agent training (forwarding information about future activities).

The recruits focus on places and communities where a large number of Muslims reside, because they can look for people who are vulnerable to recruitment.

3. TYPICAL RECRUITMENT SITES

Mosques - they serve as meeting places for many people and therefore play an important role in radicalization and recruitment. Mosques and related institutions are often considered to be the most important places where extremists choose and choose candidates because they provide a wide range of potential targets and are difficult to operate by an operational intelligence check by the intelligence services [10]. After recruiting the candidate, the recruitment process is continued in other locations to avoid possible inconsistencies (for example, a mosque in Brixton, south London where he attended and was recruited by shoe bombers by Richard C. Reid, who in December 2001 tried to detonate on an airplane A bomb flying from Paris to Miami, another example is the Egyptian Muhammad al-Atta, the leader of the bombers of 11 September 2001, who was in contact with the Afghan Taliban by the imams of the Hamburg Mosque, including Usama ibn Ladin [11].

Madras - Koranic schools are under constant scrutiny, but they can spread radical learning. Islamic extremists use it to recruit recruits to perform tasks for terrorist networks. In 2007 it was found that Islamic extremists in Bangladesh use madras for propaganda and recruitment purposes.

Universities/colleges - the presence of like-minded people, and even only one but determined person who does not need to work at the institution, can disproportionately influence radicalization in these places. An extremist view may be an important role for college personnel. The recruitment can be conducted directly at the university, or at meetings where the presence of charismatic and credible non-university speakers who profess a radical view is foreseen. Universities and higher education institutions are used for initial recruiting, and further stages of radicalization take place outside the campus.

Penalties - staying in them extremists is considered a factor increasing the risk of radicalization and recruitment of fellow prisoners. Those who went to the penitentiary for terrorist acts fixed their religious beliefs and showed a strong dislike for Western societies. A recruitment process was held in Germany, where a group of radical prisoners chose their emir and expressed their willingness to carry out terrorist attacks after leaving the prison. Also ordinary prisoners are recruited during their punishment [12]. Prisoners may be recruited by

their associates or by visiting prisoners of imams, for example. Persons accused of terrorism seek an overriding position against other prisoners to radicalize or recruit others for inclusion in jihad. Recruitment in prisons may be part of a process that continues after you leave the prison.

Internet - a global computer network that provides its users with a large anonymity and creates an atmosphere of intimacy and sincerity in interpersonal interactions. These features attract radicals and people who want to express their opinions different from traditional ones. Online recruitment can take place, for example, when chatting online [13]. The Internet can support the process of radicalization in several ways (propaganda, showing scenes from affected areas). The Internet provides a sense of belonging to the virtual community, which can lead to extreme attitudes. Websites are not able to completely replace the human factor in the training process. However, it can be assumed that the process of recruiting through the network can find its end in reality, which is ultimately necessary to strengthen ties with the verifier.

Other places of recruitment - Islamic extremists are starting to leave the mosques because they do not understand or want to avoid state control. They create alternative, more discreet mosques or plan their activities in private places (houses, gyms, fitness clubs, Muslim bookstores, Internet cafes. Places of recruitment may also be: refugee centers; Centers inhabited by a given community; Restaurants and international Islamic meetings. Recruiting can take place in the social circles in which a person lives - the members of the grid could grow up together, go to school, mosque or train, fight or marry their sister or daughter. In cases where personal relationships do not exist, the recommendation of trusted people is extremely important when building relationships.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Of those who have recruited recruits, not everyone will turn out to be suitable candidates for the adoption of terrorist methods as a form of activity, not to mention suicide missions. They may (as persons sympathizing with Islamic terrorist networks) be used to provide logistical support to Islamists (eg couriers). Extremists, even in pre-service (basic) training, are a big threat because using self-education [14] or exchanging information by email, they have the opportunity to create meshes and make contacts with others, and what is involved is also a very serious threat to the security of citizens and the state.

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

arms. Firearms and explosives will be used in sporadic cases so as not to expose participants to decontamination.

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

In Europe, there are training courses for Islamic terrorists who focus primarily on outreach activities linked to religious sciences [15]. Islamic extremists have organized training courses in British national parks under the cover of teaching Islam. It is difficult to prove the teaching of methods and forms of terrorist activities on such religious meetings, due to the fact that the persons conducting the trafficking work as well as the selection of trainees. Religious teachings are held officially and under their mantle are terrorist training. Training in Europe can be a first step towards further involvement in Islamic extremists.

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

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

Biography

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

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