

Jihadi online forums explain how to become an Al-Qaeda member

On August 24th 2008, an online surfer posted on the "Al-Hesbah" Jihadi forum a post titled: "How to become an Al-Qaeda member?"¹. It should be noted that the "Al-Hesbah" forum has ceased operation since Ayman Al-Zawahiri's speech on November 19th 2008, condemning the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

According to the surfer, every Muslim who calls for the aiding of Islam and Jihad is branded a terrorist member of the Al-Qaeda organization, even if they have no connection with it. "This is proof enough that the Mujahideen have succeeded in instilling fear in the hearts of the Crusaders and their allies. The Jews and the Crusaders do not know another alert Muslim enemy other than the Al-Qaeda Mujahideen".

The surfer praises those dealing in propaganda for the "global Islamic Jihad and for awakening the nation from its slumber". According to him, the Al-Qaeda organization today is not "just an organization striving for the killing of Jews and Crusaders, but has become Da'awa for all the Muslims".

According to him, the following terms should be fulfilled in order to become an Al-Qaeda member:

a. Knowing the identity of the organization, its beliefs and objectives

The surfer states that whoever already knows the organization should display regard towards the Mujahideen in various ways, including spreading their

¹ This post has already been published on another Jihadi forum called "Ansar Al-Mujahideen" on October 11th 2008. <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb/showthread.php?t=98>

doctrine, praying for them etc. At the same time, the surfer presents a short profile of the organization.

b. Learning the terms, putting your faith in the Lord, and confidence in victory

"The Al-Qaeda Mujahideen learn the terms, and afterwards they put their faith in Allah, and they know that without training the faith or without physical and religious training there is no victory". In addition, religious knowledge should be acquired from the religious scholars, who deal in preaching for Jihad and the uniqueness of the Lord. The prayer itself is important too and is considered "the greatest weapon and the most excellent ammunition in the battle of the Mujahideen".

c. The power of resistance, patience, adherence to the Qur'an and the Sunnah in any situation

Anyone dealing in the work of Jihad is required to show patience and adherence to the principles, "do not allow yourself to comply with the soul's desires, as you will lose what you have achieved at the training stage. Always give out this prayer to the Lord: 'Oh God, turning the hearts and the gazes, strengthen our heart in your religion'".

d. Be honest with Allah, and Allah will be honest with you

Joining one of the Salafi-Jihadi groups, or walking in their path, complying with the three previous conditions legitimizes your becoming a Mujaheed.²

² <http://www.hisbah.net/showthread.php?s=91ebb82b148f19fcbd41d38d3fc8a537&t=4672>

Additional correspondence posted in the "Al-Faloja" Jihadi online forum on January 14th 2009 deals with the characteristics that every Al-Qaeda member must have³:

- **Sacrifice:** Al-Qaeda members must show willingness to sacrifice their soul in order to win the victory for the Lord. Therefore, the utmost importance should be placed on the battle of Jihad.
- **Discipline:** "This is the most important factor that characterizes the Jihadi organization compared with regular Islamic groups. The people's movements should be done in a precise and calculated manner, without neglecting anything". Discipline "is an important ongoing factor in the life of the Mujahed. His every move and every word he utters should be precisely calculated" so as not "to destroy the entire structure". The soul should be trained and accustomed to following small orders in small battles, as preparation for the large campaigns.
- **Courage:** Courage is required in order to belong to a Jihadi organization and especially the Al-Qaeda organization, as such affiliation is considered a crime in the eyes of the enemy. "Many fail this first test, that is the test of affiliation and overcoming the barrier of fear in the face of the tyrant [that is – the West] and his accomplices", and from the move "from the life of a normal Muslim to the life of a Mujahed Muslim, and not any Mujahed but an Al-Qaeda Mujahed".

The second barrier to overcome, more difficult than the first one, is the barrier of migration, as it entails that the Muslim give up all his material achievements up to that time, including leaving his family and children.

The third barrier is about his joining the fighting ranks, not in talk but in action.

³ The origin of this correspondence is the "Al-Ansar" Jihadi magazine.

The last barrier entails self-sacrifice for the Maker. Therefore, courage is required to overcome all these four barriers.

- **The relation between theory and reality:** "The tyrants" try to describe the Mujahideen as having limited and insufficient knowledge in religious law, who follow their commanders without exercising judgment. This accusation is an old one and has been hurled also towards the prophets and their supporters. Al-Qaeda people, their leaders and soldiers, are also charged with this but no value should be given it, as they have knowledge of the religions' foundations and rules. The way of Jihad is what has given birth to the Qur'anic generation, who stuck by the Shariah commandments and obeys them "and displays great courage in carrying out its orders, and sacrifice everything of value in order to satisfy the Lord".⁴

On January 23rd 2009 a post was placed on the "Al-Faloja" Jihadi online forum regarding the optimal conditions the Jihad groups should implement.

First

There is a need for religious foundations, upon which the Jihad groups will be founded:

1. Knowing the Shariah and the rules of the religion for each Jihad group member.
2. There is a need for a person that will serve as a religious advisory authority before making any decision about any action. Furthermore, "it is preferable that there will be several figures of religious authority...".
3. The results of the future terrorist attack should be taken into account, and the pros and cons should be weighed. "A terrorist attack that will cause more harm than good should not be carried out". In addition, a unit that knows the

⁴ <http://al-faloja.info/vb/showthread.php?t=41971>

mood of the residents of the region about to be hit should be allocated before making the decision on carrying out an attack.

4. The mention of the name of Allah should be widespread and He should be asked for forgiveness, and situations that are forbidden by Allah should be avoided, "as sins are the main reason for annulling victory". In addition, night time activity should be carried out, but not overdone.

Second

There is a need for theoretical foundations, on which the Jihad groups are based:

1. Establishing small groups, with special forces that include:
 - a. A military commander.
 - b. A chemistry expert (such as a pharmacist).
 - c. An explosives expert (this could be the pharmacist himself).
 - d. An electronics and computer engineer.
 - e. An assassination expert (sniper).
 - f. A guide for the region.
2. A group member should not be allowed to reach the commanding level before his way and conduct are examined.
3. One of the strategies that should be adopted states that the enemy should be misguided regarding the chosen target for the attack.
4. Knowing the entry and exit points of the attack location.
5. Forming small sleeper cells that will be used when need be.

Third

There is a need for propaganda in the group, which will clarify its objectives and face the enemies' claims. This propaganda will be done by way of publishing written announcements, audio announcements and visual announcements.

Fourth

Striving for the establishment of a governing council.

Fifth

Striving for establishing a connection with inner and outer organizations, known for their righteous paths.⁵

⁵ <http://al-faloja.info/vb/showthread.php?t=43270>