Terrorist Essentials: Bombs, Poisons, and the Internet

The Internet has long been a favored tool of terrorist organizations as a means of indoctrinating, spreading propaganda, and recruiting members. But increasingly, websites are now being used to share crucial information on terror techniques, how to manufacture and use explosives, weapons and poisons, how to forge documents and how to withstand interrogation. Most of the material is translated into Arabic from non-Arabic sources. Details on websites include the manufacture of rockets, bombs, mines, and mortars, and instructions for using assault rifles, sniper guns, and handguns. Several contain links to online encyclopedias of weapons and warfare, including poisons, and information about the armies of Western countries. Many of these websites are not only archives of content on military topics, but also serve as a virtual meeting place where the terrorists exchange information and advice relevant to their ongoing activities, such as the manufacturing of homemade bombs.

American Conversions Rejected by Israeli Court

Sephardic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar has assured government ministers that the Chief Rabbincial High Court decision to overturn recent conversions to Judaism will not stand. Last month the Rabbinate’s High Court had overturned a specific conversion of a woman who apparently never lived a religious Jewish lifestyle, as required by Jewish Law. In addition, the Court retroactively voided all the conversions performed in the last several years by Rabbi Chaim Druckman, the head of the Conversion Administration. The number of people directed affected by this decision is unknown, but could be in the thousands. At the heart of the matter is a halachic dispute over how a convert must affirm his intention to observe the Torah’s commandments. The Conversion Administration feels that if a convert appears to be sincere in his desire to be a religious Jew when he comes before before the rabbinical court, the judges may allow the conversion without any follow-up monitoring. The stricter school of thought is that if a convert is later seen to be living a non-religious lifestyle, this renders the conversion invalid almost automatically.

New Israeli Law Encourages Organ Donation

Groundbreaking new legislation in Israel seeks to reverse the reluctance of many Israelis towards organ donation. In the first part of the legislation, the state will provide live organ donors with a fixed financial compensation package, determined by the Health Ministry, for their lost earning potential due to surgery and recuperation, and allocate a NIS 5 million annual budget to educate the public about organ donation.

The second law considers issues of medical ethics and religious law. It bans the trade in organs on the one hand, while, on the other, facilitating organ donation for religious Jews concerned that organs could be removed before the occurrence of death as defined by Jewish law. Recently, Sephardic Chief Rabbi Hacham Shlomo Amar stated that complete brain death constitutes actual death according to halachah – even if a person’s body is kept functioning through machines. The new law establishes a committee consisting of three doctors and three rabbis, one of the latter a doctor as well, two ethicists and a legal expert, who will authorize doctors to determine if a person’s lower-brain activity and breathing has stopped, thus constituting halachic death. After the doctor makes his determination, the family of the patient is to be given the information and afforded the opportunity to decide whether or not to disconnect life support.

The law is a key tool for organ donation since the success rate of transplanting vital organs is much higher when the donor body was functioning during or shortly before the time of the transplant.

Halachic Organ Donor Card

Rabbi Yaacov Warhaftig
Chief Rabbinate of Israel

1. Rabbi Yaacov Warhaftig, agree to donate all my organs for transplant only after irreversible cessation of autonomous breathing (as confirmed by brain-stem death).

2. Rabbi Yaacov Warhaftig agrees to donate all my organs for transplant only after irreversible cessation of heartbeat. Any and all preparations for transplant may begin only after consultation with a family appointed Rabbi. All medical procedures must be done with utmost care, respect, and minimum damage to the cadaver.

Family Contact: Phone: ***-***

Phone: ***-***

Phone: ***-***
Recent polls show that less than 50% of Israelis express a willingness to donate organs. One reason commonly cited by Israelis for refusal to sign donor cards is the fear that doctors’ incentives to declare death for organ harvesting and their ability to do so are not limited enough.

United Torah Judaism opposed the law consistently as it went through the legislative process, saying that it was against Jewish law. But the bill had the approval of several leading rabbis, including former Chief Rabbis Hacham Ovadia Yosef shlita and Hacham Mordechai Eliyahu shlita, as well as current Chief Rabbi Hacham Shlomo Amar shlita.

Israel National News

**Terrorist Detector**

The surge in suicide bombings in Israel in 2003 helped convince the founders of WeCU Technologies to explore ways to identify terrorists before they take action, and five years later they have patented technology that does just that. Their automated system integrates methods from the behavioral sciences with biometric sensors. It can screen an individual in less than a minute without his knowledge or cooperation, and without interfering with routine activities, and it can disclose intentions to carry out criminal or terror activity. People do not even have to be carrying suspicious objects or engaging in suspicious behavior to be identified as dangerous. Unlike systems currently in use, such as polygraphs or systems based on measuring emotional pressure, this new system does not attempt to determine whether the subject is lying, concealing information, under stress or feeling guilty. It works to identify concealed intentions by measuring subtle physiological and behavioral changes in the subject when he is exposed to items or symbols associated with his plans, during routine screenings. The system, which is about two years away from mass implementation in Israel, has also piqued the interest of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other international agencies.

– Dave Gordon

**Palestinian State Would Be American Enemy**

“There is overwhelming evidence that the contacts between the Palestinian Authority and the enemies of the United States are relations between allies who share a common ideological bond. Strikingly, hatred of the United States and disdain for the US role of world leadership are what unite them.” This was the conclusion of a report delivered by Palestinian Media Watch director Itamar Marcus to the US Congress last month.

“Unless the Palestinian Authority demonstrates a major shift in ideology, a future Palestinian state will be firmly allied with North Korea, Syria, Cuba, Iran, Chavez’s Venezuela, and Hezbollah, the forces that are seen as threats to the US and which are linked to world terror...There is no reason to believe that were a Palestinian Fatah state created, and its dependency on the US reduced, it would then choose to embrace the US. Indeed, in all likelihood the ties with the enemy states would intensify.”

The report examines the current ideology and political allies of the Fatah government as expressed by Fatah leaders and in the Arabic-language Palestinian Authority (PA) media. Documents examined include contacts and statements by the Fatah political, academic and religious leadership, reporting, editorials and education in the Fatah-controlled PA daily newspapers, PA television and PA schoolbooks. The results reveal that the Palestinian Authority-Fatah government of Mahmoud Abbas is allied with many states who see themselves as enemies of the US and whom the US sees as threatening US security and world peace, including North Korea, Cuba, and Chavez’s Venezuela.

Master terrorists such as Hezbullah’s Imad Mugnhiyeh, killer of 241 American soldiers in Lebanon, and the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, are celebrated almost every anniversary with a political cartoon in the official PA daily.

The US, on the other hand, is depicted by Fatah leaders, their controlled media and PA education with disdain and contempt. Language such as, “the greatest Satan in the world, America” [PA TV, March 3, 2008], used by a Fatah legislator, is routine in the Palestinian media.

– Palestinian Media Watch

**PA Daily: Arabs Caused the Refugee Problem**

The Arabs who became refugees in 1948 were not expelled by Israel, but left on their own to facilitate the destruction of Israel, according to a senior Palestinian journalist writing in a Palestinian daily. This plan to leave Israel was initiated by the Arab states fighting Israel, who promised the people they would be able to return to their homes in a few days once Israel was defeated. The article in Al-Ayyam concludes that these Arab states are responsible for the Arab refugee problem.

“The first war between Arabs and Israel had started and the ‘Arab Salvation Army’ came and told the Palestinians: ‘We have come to you in order to liquidate the Zionists and their state. Leave your houses and villages, you will return to them in a few days safely. Leave them so we can fulfill our mission (to destroy Israel) in the best way and so you won’t be hurt.’ It became clear already then, when it was too late, that the support of the Arab states (against Israel) was a big illusion. Arabs fought as if intending to cause the ‘Palestinian Catastrophe’.” (Jawad Al Bashiti, Palestinian journalist in Jordan, writing in Al-Ayyam, May 13, 2008)

A backbone of Palestinian English-language propaganda is the myth that Israel expelled hundreds of thousands of Arabs from Israel and created Arab refugees. But in recent years, Palestinian Media Watch has documented an increasing willingness among Palestinians to openly blame the Arab states, rather than Israel, for the problem of Palestinian refugees.

– Palestinian Media Watch