

fard`ayn (personal obligation) and it is therefore legitimate for any group or individual to carry out jihad based on their own initiatives and methods.

In this context, Noordin won fresh recruits from among hardcore members who “idolized” him and believed that the use of violence against the enemies of Islam is justified in any situation. Hardcore members also consider many senior JI members to be “NATO” (No Action, Talk Only) and no longer passionate in their commitment to the jihadist movement. This is because many JI members have matured, married and taken on family considerations.²¹

Members of Noordin’s pro-bombing faction are a fringe minority within JI. Nevertheless, it does not take a large organization to commit major terrorist attacks. The 2005 Bali bombing, for example, was committed by only three individuals who were willing to blow themselves up for the cause.²²

Future Dangers

Noordin’s death is a major government success. Yet if it is determined that Noordin’s faction was behind the July 17 Jakarta attacks, it demonstrates an advanced level of efficiency, sophistication and novelty of tactics compared to their previous operations that relied on vehicles and backpack bombs.²³ In the case of the 2009 Jakarta hotel bombings, Noordin’s key associate, Syaifudin Zuhri, allegedly recruited both of the suicide bombers and had them stay overnight in luxurious hotels.²⁴ The recruits assembled their bombs inside their hotel rooms. This allowed maximum operational security.

It is possible that Syaifudin Zuhri will succeed Noordin with the help from at least three of his followers, including

nesia, June 2009. He died together with Noordin during the police raid on September 17, 2009.

²¹ This statement is based on the author’s personal observations after a series of interviews with senior JI members.

²² In this attack, Salik Firdaus recruited two suicide bombers and he himself was the third suicide bomber.

²³ Based on evidence acquired from the attack, it is highly likely that Noordin’s faction is to blame. There are direct connections between the current suspects and Noordin. Moreover, Noordin’s faction is the only group in Indonesia that has conducted suicide bombings.

²⁴ *Gatra*, August 27, 2009.

Nur Hasbi, who is wanted in connection with the July 17 bombings. Two other possible successors are Reno (also known as Tedi) and Maruto Jati Sulistiono.

Unfortunately, there is no way to draw a profile of future JI suicide bombers. Previous profiles of suicide bombers, for example, describe young men, religiously devout, alienated from society, and social and psychological outcasts. Yet the two bombers in the 2009 Jakarta hotel bombings did not fit this profile. Dani Dwi Permana, 18-years-old, was a former high school student in Bogor, West Java. Dani’s teacher described him as not very talkative, but intelligent and diligent in his studies.²⁵ Dani sat on the executive committee of the school’s Intra-School Students Organization (OSIS) and was known by all of the school’s students.²⁶ He passed the school’s final examination in 2009, but still had to collect his SMA (high school) diploma.²⁷ In the case of the second bomber, Nana Supriyatna, 28-years-old, his neighbors describe him as “sociable” and “friendly.”²⁸ No one terrorist profile is likely to ever be drawn.

Noordin’s faction will continue to rely on the traditional tools of recruitment such as schools, kinship networks, friendships and small Islamic discussion groups.²⁹ To make matters more difficult, Noordin’s group have also embraced new technologies such as CDs, DVDs, coded SMS messages, secure e-mail, and password-protected websites to communicate and connect to new potential recruits. Until Noordin’s faction is dismantled, Indonesia will remain at risk for future terrorist attacks.

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²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ “JW Marriott Hotel Bomber was Bogor High-School Student,” *Antara News*, August 10, 2009.

²⁸ *Gatra*, August 27, 2009.

²⁹ These discussions, consisting of six-to-ten people, meet regularly for a number of social and religious activities. Due to their perceived harmless nature, these groups inhibit authorities from preventing possible violent outcomes.

Recent Highlights in Terrorist Activity

August 1, 2009 (SOMALIA): Burundi’s military announced that a third battalion of 850 soldiers had been deployed to Somalia to reinforce the African Union peacekeeping force in Mogadishu. – *AFP*, August 1

August 2, 2009 (RUSSIA): Militants attacked a three-vehicle police convoy in the mountains of southern Chechnya, killing “several” officers. – *Voice of America*, August 3

August 3, 2009 (GLOBAL): Al-Qa`ida deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri released a new video message saying that the group’s “truce” offer to the United States still stands. The conditions of the truce demand that the United States remove all troops from Muslim lands and that Western countries stop supporting “corrupt and apostate regimes in the Muslim world,” among other conditions. – *CBC News*, August 3

August 3, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): A bomb exploded near a police convoy in the western city of Herat, killing at least 10 people. The Taliban claimed responsibility, and said that the target was a local police chief. The local police chief was wounded in the attack. – *New York Times*, August 3

August 4, 2009 (AUSTRALIA): More than 400 police officers raided properties across Melbourne in a major Australian counterterrorism operation. Authorities arrested four men suspected of planning a “suicide terrorist attack on a defense establishment within Australia involving an armed assault with automatic weapons.” The men allegedly wanted to “kill as many soldiers as they could before they themselves were killed.” The four men were all between the ages of 22 to 26 and were Australian citizens of Somali or Lebanese descent. Police claim that the men are linked to al-Shabab, an insurgent group in Somalia that has ties to al-Qa`ida. – *al-Jazeera*, August 4

August 4, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): A bomb exploded under the convoy of the governor of Wardak Province. There were no injuries. – *Guardian*, August 4

August 5, 2009 (PAKISTAN): A suspected U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle killed or fatally injured Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan chief Baitullah Mehsud in South Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. – *AFP, August 20*

August 7, 2009 (UNITED STATES): A U.S. federal judge ordered the release and deportation of Shaykh Muhammad al-Mu'ayyad, who was previously convicted of supporting terrorism in a trial in New York City in 2005. His conviction, however, was overturned in October 2008. Al-Mu'ayyad, a cleric, will return to his home country of Yemen. His assistant and bodyguard, Mohamed Zayed, will also be released and deported to Yemen. – *Washington Post, August 8*

August 8, 2009 (MAURITANIA): A suicide bomber detonated his explosives outside the French Embassy in Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania. Two embassy guards were injured. Al-Qa`ida in the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility. – *BBC, August 8; AFP, August 18*

August 10, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): Taliban suicide bombers armed with rockets attacked Afghan government buildings in Logar Province. The attack killed two policemen. – *AFP, August 10*

August 10, 2009 (IRAQ): Two truck bombs exploded simultaneously in the Shi`a village of Khazna, just 10 miles east of Mosul. Estimates place the dead at 30. – *UPI, August 10*

August 11, 2009 (KUWAIT): Kuwait's state-run news agency announced that security forces arrested six Kuwaitis linked to al-Qa`ida who were planning to attack Camp Arifjan, a U.S. military installation in the country, with an explosives-laden truck. It is unclear when the arrests occurred. – *CNN, August 11*

August 12, 2009 (PHILIPPINES): Government troops attacked an Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) base in Basilan Province in the southern Philippines. At least 30 ASG fighters were killed, along with 23 Philippine soldiers. – *GMA News, tv, August 12*

August 13, 2009 (PAKISTAN): A suicide bomber rammed his motorcycle into a tribal elder's vehicle in South Waziristan Agency, killing four people. The bomber

targeted Malik Khadeen, who was killed in the attack. Khadeen was an anti-Taliban facilitator in Wana. – *AFP, August 13*

August 13, 2009 (PAKISTAN): A new Pew Research Center poll found that Pakistani views of al-Qa`ida and the Taliban have grown increasingly negative since last year. Pakistanis with an unfavorable view of al-Qa`ida and the Taliban doubled, with approximately two-thirds of those polled expressing negative views toward the groups. – *Washington Post, August 13*

August 14, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): A suicide bomber in a vehicle detonated his explosives at an Afghan National Army base in Helmand Province, killing at least one soldier. – *New York Times, August 14*

August 14-15, 2009 (ISRAEL): Hamas crushed an Islamist group called Jund Ansar Allah in the Gaza Strip. The Salafijihadi group defied Hamas by declaring an "Islamic emirate" in Gaza, sparking an intense gun battle as Hamas policemen launched an offensive on the group's positions. Jund Ansar Allah's chief, Abdel Latif Moussa, was killed in the fighting when he detonated an explosives vest. At least 22 people, including six Hamas police officers, were killed during the clashes. – *Bloomberg, August 15; Haaretz, August 17*

August 15, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): A suicide bomber in a vehicle killed seven people outside the International Security Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul. The attack occurred in Wazir Akbar Khan district, one of the most secure districts in the capital. The Afghan Taliban claimed credit for the attack, stating: "The target was the U.S. Embassy, but we could not reach it." – *Reuters, August 15*

August 17, 2009 (RUSSIA): A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden truck into the police headquarters in Nazran, the capital of Ingushetia, killing at least 20 people. – *Bloomberg, August 17; New York Times, August 17*

August 17, 2009 (PAKISTAN): Security forces apprehended Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Maulvi Omar. Omar was seized in Mohmand Agency, located on the border with Afghanistan. – *AP, August 18*

August 19, 2009 (IRAQ): A bomb deployed on a lorry exploded near Iraq's Finance

Ministry in Baghdad, killing at least eight people. Minutes later, a second truck bomb exploded outside the Foreign Ministry, killing at least 59 people. In the aftermath of the attacks, Iraqi authorities detained 11 security officers for questioning about security failures. The Islamic State of Iraq claimed credit for the bombings. – *Daily Telegraph, August 20; Voice of America, August 20; AP, August 25*

August 19, 2009 (SAUDI ARABIA): Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry announced that it arrested 44 al-Qa`ida suspects across the country during the past year. Details were not provided on whether the suspects were planning specific attacks, but authorities claimed that the suspects had links to the "original al-Qa`ida organization." – *CNN, August 19; AFP, August 19*

August 19, 2009 (LEBANON): Lebanese soldiers detained Wissam Tabbish, a Palestinian militant allegedly linked to al-Qa`ida. Tabbish was arrested as he tried to enter Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camp, Ain al-Hilwah. – *Reuters, August 19*

August 20, 2009 (SCOTLAND): Scottish authorities released Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi from prison despite his life sentence for his role in the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Al-Megrahi, who is said to be dying of cancer, was allowed to return to his native Libya. – *Washington Post, August 21*

August 20, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): Afghanistan held presidential elections, although there were widespread allegations of voter fraud. – *New York Times, September 15*

August 20, 2009 (PHILIPPINES): U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates decided to keep 600 U.S. troops deployed to the Philippines, where they have been involved in a counterinsurgency operation known as the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines. – *New York Times, August 20*

August 21, 2009 (UNITED STATES): A U.S. federal judge ordered the release of Muhammad al-Adahi, a Yemeni who has been held at Guantanamo Bay since 2002. The judge ruled that al-Adahi's brief time at an al-Qa`ida training camp and two encounters with Usama bin Ladin was not enough to justify his continued detention. – *Washington Post, August 21*

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not of the U.S. Military Academy, the Department of the Army, or any other agency of the U.S. Government.

August 21, 2009 (RUSSIA): Suicide bombers riding bicycles detonated their explosives in various locations in Grozny. Four police officers were killed in the attacks. - *Voice of America, August 21*

August 21, 2009 (PAKISTAN): Pakistani Taliban commander Hakimullah Mehsud was appointed as the new head of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Aides to Faqir Muhammad told reporters that Hakimullah was chosen by a 42-member Taliban *shura* (council). - *AP, August 22*

August 21, 2009 (PAKISTAN): A suspected U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle killed at least 13 people near Miran Shah in North Waziristan Agency. - *AFP, August 20; AP, August 22*

August 21, 2009 (PHILIPPINES): Philippine authorities arrested Khalil Pareja, the suspected leader of the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM), an al-Qa`ida-linked group tied to a number of bomb attacks in the Philippines. Pareja, whose given name is Dinno Amor Rosales Pareja, was apprehended in Marawi City in the southern Philippines. His arrest is seen as a major blow to the RSM. - *GMA News.tv, August 21; AP, August 25*

August 25, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): A truck bomb exploded in Kandahar, killing at least 40 civilians. The Afghan Taliban denied responsibility. - *Voice of America, August 25*

August 25, 2009 (PAKISTAN): Pakistani Taliban commanders confirmed the death of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan leader Baitullah Mehsud. The Pakistani Taliban said Baitullah died on August 23 from injuries sustained in an August 5 airstrike. - *AFP, August 28*

August 26, 2009 (SOMALIA): A French security adviser held by al-Shabab fighters in Somalia managed to escape his captors. Marc Aubriere, who was kidnapped along with a colleague from a hotel in Mogadishu on July 14, snuck past his kidnappers and weaved his way through Mogadishu to reach the safety of the presidential palace. The whereabouts of the second hostage, also a French security adviser, are not known. - *Los Angeles Times, August 27*

August 27, 2009 (SAUDI ARABIA): A suicide bomber attempted to assassinate Saudi Prince Muhammad bin Nayif. Nayif was slightly wounded in the attack. Al-

Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula claimed credit for the operation, and it identified the bomber as Abdullah Hassan Taleh Asiri. The bomber traveled across the Saudi border from Yemen. - *AP, August 27; AFP, August 30*

August 27, 2009 (PAKISTAN): A suspected U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle strike killed eight militants in South Waziristan Agency. - *AFP, August 27*

August 27, 2009 (PAKISTAN): A suicide bomber killed 22 policemen in Khyber Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. The bomber blew himself up in the police barracks in the border town of Torkham. The Pakistani Taliban claimed credit for the attack, saying it was the "first response since the death of our chief Baitullah Mehsud." - *AFP, August 27; AFP, August 28*

August 27, 2009 (PHILIPPINES): The Philippines extradited Madhatta Haibe to the United States where he will face charges of "hostage-taking" in addition to other crimes. Haibe is an alleged member of the Abu Sayyaf Group, and he was reportedly involved in abducting four Americans in Mindanao on December 27, 1995. - *AFP, August 29*

August 28, 2009 (GLOBAL): Al-Qa`ida deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri released a new video statement accusing the United States of leading a crusade to divide Pakistan. - *ABC News, August 28*

August 30, 2009 (RUSSIA): Police stormed a home in Dagestan, killing "Doctor Muhammad," an alleged Algerian national with connections to al-Qa`ida. - *Reuters, August 31*

August 30, 2009 (PAKISTAN): A suicide bomber targeted a gathering of police recruits in Mingora in the Swat Valley, killing at least 15 of them. - *Washington Post, August 31*

August 31, 2009 (AFGHANISTAN): The commander of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, General Stanley McChrystal, said that a new strategy was needed to fight the Taliban. According to General McChrystal, "The situation in Afghanistan is serious, but success is achievable and demands a revised implementation strategy, commitment and resolve, and increased unity of effort." - *AP, August 31*