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MADRASSAS INGRAINED WORLDWIDE

Identifying the source of *jihad* ideology, as taught in the Salafi madrassas in the West, as well as in other countries around the world, may not prevent every possible terrorist attack, but it would certainly help provide strong indicators (i.e. connect the dots) between the Islamic indoctrination of young boys and men, and future terror attacks.

Parental Connivance

On 23 March 2019, the DailyMail.com¹ reported the findings of a previously secret UK Home Office study. Entitled Terrorism fears as 3,000 UK children a year go to ‘*jihadi*’ schools in Pakistan, the chilling report reveals that young boys in Pakistani madrassas are taught a ‘glorified version of *jihād*,’ and that parents often send their sons to these madrassas during the summer holidays.

The Daily Mail article also stated that officials in the UK fear attending these madrassas increases the risk of radicalisation (toward *jihād*), while citing the example that two of the four known, 07 July 2005² London bombers, had also enrolled in such a madrassa before launching their attack, which killed 52 people and injured at least 770 more.

According to the report, more than 3,000 British children (almost exclusively boys) are being enrolled in these Islamic schools in Pakistan each summer. Interestingly, this is not really a new problem. As revealed in an October 2001³ interview with Ambassador Richard Holbrook, the practice of sending young boys to study in Salafi⁴ madrassas is common throughout the Islamic world, and has been a common practice long before the 11 September 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City which brought the reality of *jihād* to the West.

During the same October 2001 interview, Ambassador Holbrook stated:

“I think that one of the tragedies of this story is that the Saudi Arabians exported their problem

by financing the schools, the madrassas, all through the Islamic world. I saw this in Uzbekistan a few years after Uzbekistan got out of the Soviet Union, became an independent state in cities like Tashkent and Samarkand, where the Saudis were funding these schools teaching Koranic studies and creating a class of people for whom education was simply the Holy Book, the Koran.”

Saudi Connection

On 15 November 2001,⁵ Frontline released a detailed analysis of the global problem with fundamentalist (Salafi) madrassas entitled Saudi Time Bomb? In the Introduction, readers are informed that the Frontline programme will chronicle:

“[H]ow these madrassas grew into the thousands during the ten-year Afghan War against the Soviets... and how – because of the nature of that war – the madrassas, most notably in Pakistan, became training centers for *jihād*.”

“They were recruiting, organising schools which used Islamic ideology as a way of creating a very efficient guerrilla army,” says Vali Nasr,⁶ an authority on Islamic fundamentalism. “You have the whole rise, if you would, of Islamic West Points.”

Indian Scenario

On 13 May 2016,⁷ the co-author (Haney) discussed the threat posed by Salafi madrassas in the Indian sub-continent (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar) during an interview on Secure Freedom Radio, hosted by Frank Gaffney of the Center for Security Policy.



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PHILIP B. HANEY

The writer is a founding member of the US Department of Homeland Security and author of See Something, Say Nothing, a best-selling expose’ of the Obama Administration’s submission to the goals and policies of the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic groups around the world.

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6842855/Terrorism-fears-3-000-UK-children-year-jihadi-schools-Pakistan.html>
 2. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/uk/05/london_blasts/what_happened/html/ 3. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/saudi/interviews/holbrooke.html> 4. <http://www.aei.org/publication/terrorism-tactics-and-transformation-the-west-vs-the-salafi-jihadi-movement/> 5. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/saudi/etc/synopsis.html> 6. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/saudi/interviews/nasr.html> 7. <https://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/2016/05/31/see-something-say-nothing-sfr-sits-down-with-dhs-whistleblower-phil-haney/>

During the interview, the following was stated by Haney:

“Tablighi Jamaat is an organisation with between seventy-five and a hundred and twenty-five million members. Outside of America, it’s known as the Army of Darkness. It originated in the 1860s and very soon, they found out that they had an identical ideology as Wahhabi Saudis. And so, they formed an alliance. That is why you constantly hear about Saudis funding madrassas, schools, in places like Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. That is essentially the Deobandi movement, the branch of Islam that originated out of the Asian subcontinent.”

On 12 June 2016,⁸ Haney also joined SiriusXM host Stephen K. Bannon for a special edition of Breitbart News Sunday. This interview was conducted during the first evening after the early-morning shootings by Omar Mateen⁹ at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, which killed 49 people and injured at least 53 more.

“According to its website, the Islamic Center of Ft. Pierce – where Omar Mir Seddique Mateen regularly attended (according to the imam, Shafeeq ur-Rahman); he confirmed that [it] was the mosque... Mateen attended.”

American Spores

“[In turn], the Islamic Center of Ft. Pierce is directly linked to an organisation called the Sharia Board of America.” Haney explained that Sharia means “Islamic law,” and said the Sharia Board of America is, in turn, a “direct division of an organisation called Rahmat-e-Alam,” whose name means “Mercy to the World,” [and that] Rahmat-e-Alam is directly affiliated with the Darul



Tablighi Jamaat.

More troubling (perplexing) that **the US government** would **eliminate information (about a Tablighi case)** out of its **terror threat database**

8. <https://www.breitbart.com/radio/2016/06/12/philip-haney-orlando-shooting-remarkably-similar-san-bernardino-theres-lot-overlap-two-networks/> 9. <https://www.cnn.com/2016/06/12/domestic-terrorism-leaves-scores-dead-injured-at-orlando-nightclub.html>



The Deoband Movement

The global Deoband Islamic movement, which was founded²¹ as an Islamic revival movement in Deoband, India in 1867, has several major branches, including Jaish-e-Mohammed,²² Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind,²³ Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam,²⁴ Tablighi Jamaat,²⁵ and the Taliban itself.

Also, many members of these Deoband groups are now affiliated with Al Qaeda of the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS²⁶), which is a coalition of Salafi Islamic Jihad groups²⁷ from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The groups are called to abide by the 20-page AQIS *Code of Conduct*²⁸ (i.e. conduct according to Sharia).

And, although their leaders deny any promotion of radical (*Jihad*) ideology, the publicly-funded Deoband Darul Uloom Haqqania²⁹ (DUH) madrassa in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa³⁰ region of western Pakistan (near the border with Afghanistan), the Deoband Jamia Binoria³¹ madrassa complex in Karachi, and the Deoband Jamiatul Uloom Ul Islamia³² madrassa in Azad Kashmir were cited as sources of particular concern in the *Daily Mail* report.

The leaders of all three of these Deoband-linked madrassas continue to insist that extremism is not part of their Islamic teaching. However, the DUH madrassa, also known

Uloom Chicago,¹⁰ which [is] “a madrassa...that teaches young boys to memorise the Koran.”

Bottom line, Salafi madrassas are not solely a problem in India,¹¹ Indonesia,¹² Pakistan, South Africa,¹³ Uzbekistan,¹⁴ the UK,¹⁵ sub-Saharan Africa,¹⁶ or America,¹⁷ but also in virtually every place in the world where Islam is well-established, or is in the process of becoming established.

British Myopia

In the previous mention of the *Daily Mail* article, it was learned that exposing young boys to Salafi

Islamic ideology has some UK government officials fearful that these British-Pakistani citizens may return to the UK with a heightened affinity and inclination toward participating in terrorist (*jihad*) activities.

For example, Mohammad Sidique Khan¹⁸ and Shehzad Tanweer,¹⁹ British-born sons of Pakistani immigrants, both attended Deoband madrassa courses in Pakistan. A year later, on 07 July 2005, they helped conduct the bus bombings which killed and injured hundreds of people in downtown London.²⁰

10. <https://www.darululoomonline.org/> 11. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/indian-state-derecognises-madrassa-education-150702141231360.html> 12. https://www.jstor.org/stable/23750964?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents 13. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv80cdjn> 14. <https://eurasianet.org/uzbekistan-hopes-islamic-education-is-the-antidote-to-extremism> 15. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/657212/Dewsbury-madrassa-radical-Islam> 16. <https://www.pri.org/stories/2014-11-05/madrassas-africa-educating-or-indoctrinating> 17. <http://www.danielpipes.org/4441/a-madrassa-grows-in-brooklyn> 18. <https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/mohammad-sidique-khan> 19. <https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/shehzad-tanweer> 20. <https://www.britannica.com/event/London-bombings-of-2005> 21. <http://www.oxfordislamicstudies.com/article/opr/t125/e522> 22. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/02/profile-jaiish-muhammad-190215061851082.html> 23. <https://www.jamiatulama.in/> 24. <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/pakistan/jui.htm> 25. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2009/sep/08/religion-islam-tablighi-jamaat> 26. <https://www.counterextremism.com/threat/al-qaeda-indian-subcontinent-aqis> 27. <http://www.soufangroup.com/intelbrief-al-qaeda-in-the-indian-subcontinent-the-nucleus-of-jihad-in-south-asia/> 28. https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/al-qacc84_idah-in-the-indian-subcontinent-22code-of-conduct22-en.pdf 29. <https://www.rferl.org/a/pakistan-jihad-university-haqqania-government-funding-haq-taliban-omar/29092748.html> 30. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa> 31. <http://binoria.org/> 32. <http://jamiatulon.org/>



DUH madrassa's Chief Maulana Hamid ul Haq.

the 'University of Jihad' includes an impressive roster of former students such as Asim Umar,³³ Emir of AQIS, and Mullah Omar,³⁴ a former leader of the Taliban, who received an honorary doctorate from DUH.

Semantics Over 'Talib'

Also, when questioned about the school's sympathy toward the Taliban, the DUH madrassa's Chief Maulana Hamid ul Haq³⁵ (*aka* 'The Father of the Taliban,' who was stabbed to death³⁶ on 02 November 2018, in Rawalpindi), stated that all students at his madrassa were referred to as 'taliban.'

Technically, this is correct – since 'Taliban' is simply the plural form of the Pashto word³⁷ for student (Talib). Incidentally, the word for tulip (the flower) is derived from this same word (Talib), because tulip flowers were thought to look similar to the turbans worn by Islamic scholars

and students (the 'Talibs') in the part of Asia where tulips originally came from.

Denial

Meanwhile, according to the *Daily Mail* article, an official from the Jamia Binoria denied any involvement in *jihad* extremism, while adding that British students no longer attend the madrassa. Haji Bostan³⁸ of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, the British founder of the Jamiatul Uloom Ul Islamia madrassa, also denied that there were any ties to terrorism, while also adding that British students do not even enroll at the madrassa.

However, the truth is that virtually all members of the intertwined and closely affiliated Deoband groups discussed above will attend a madrassa at some point during their life. A small number of these taliban (students) will focus on academics and

Sharia law, and will go on to become imams in local mosques, while some will leave the madrassa to become Islamic missionaries in countries around the world, but many others will travel to conflict areas (sometimes very far away from their homes) to participate in the global *jihad*.

Funding

Although the agenda of indoctrination and the Islamic curriculum in these Salafi madrassas often goes unnoticed, they still pose a very dangerous threat. Parents in the UK (as well as in America and other countries around the world) are using the guise of summer holidays in their homeland to cover up enrolling their children in one of the estimated 20,000 madrassas in Pakistan, which, incredibly, may also receive financial support – including possible inadvertent funding through taxes – directly from Britain.

33. <https://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/maulana-asim-umar-al-qaeda-indian-subcontinent-aqis-individual-profile>

34. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47519157> 35. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GGwZE1RUrU>

36. <https://www.rferl.org/a/pakistani-cleric-maulana-samiul-haq-aka-the-father-of-the-taliban-has-been-reported-killed-/29579407.html> 37. <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Taliban> 38. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/354768-tableeghi-jamaat-in-britain-splits-into-two-factions>



Maulana Sami Ul-Haq, Father Of The Taliban.

center of gravity⁴² for the Salafi, pro-*jihad*, pro-Sharia Global Islamic Movement.⁴³

AQIS Ignored

Western specialists are largely ignoring the threat, focussing instead on Arabic-speaking Muslim Brotherhood-linked groups⁴⁴ like ISIS and Hamas, for example. This has created a blind spot in the big picture view of counter-terrorism analysts in the West, which should now include macro-organisations like AQIS that are operating mainly in Pashto / Urdu-speaking countries — which, in combination, have five to ten times more active Salafi *jihad* groups than all the rest of the world combined.

There's a clear parallel between what is happening in the UK, and what is happening in America (and, in other English-speaking countries around the world).

It's not a coincidence that the European headquarters of Tablighi Jamaat is in Saville Town, Dewsbury, England,⁴⁵ or that one of the largest Tablighi Jamaat mosques in Europe (and, thus, the West) — which is known as the Markazi Masjid,⁴⁶ aka the Central Mosque, the Dewsbury Markaz, or Darul Ulum — is also located in London.⁴⁷

Identifying the source of *jihad* ideology, as taught in the Salafi madrassas in the West, as well as in other countries around the world, may not prevent every possible terrorist attack, but it would certainly help provide strong indicators (i.e. connect the dots) between the Islamic indoctrination of young boys and men, and future terror attacks. **DSA**

In other cases (as in America), young boys are taken completely out of the public school system, and are sent instead to a local madrassa, where they memorise the Quran (earning the title of *Hafiz* = 'Guardian' or 'Memoriser'), which then qualifies³⁹ them to attend higher-level courses, where they study to become either an imam, or a teacher of Islamic Sharia and the Hadith.

Madrassas In America, Too

As alluded to earlier in this article, there are significant parallels between America's experience with the Tablighi Jamaat networks and what has been unfolding in the UK. For this reason, it remains all the more troubling (perplexing) that the US government would deliberately and intentionally destroy a Tablighi Jamaat-centered case and eliminate information out of its terror threat database.

However, as described in the book *See Something, Say Nothing*⁴⁰, this is exactly what happened⁴¹ under President Barack Obama in the Summer of 2012. As a result, members of Tablighi Jamaat were essentially granted a pass from most security agencies in the West. As of today (April of 2019), this situation has still not been remedied.

Meanwhile, as the Tablighi Jamaat movement maintains a foothold in American mosques, while possibly sheltering imams and Salafi leaders with known or potential ties to terrorism, the global coalition of Deoband-linked organisations is also generating a great deal of new-found momentum within the boundaries of the Indian subcontinent. This coalition, which became clearly visible in 2014, and is known as AQIS (as discussed above), has quickly become a new

39. <https://islamqa.info/en/answers/14035/the-advantages-of-the-hafiz-in-this-world-and-in-the-hereafter> 40. <http://www.garykah.com/seesosayno.html> 41. <https://pjmedia.com/blog/deobandi-roots-of-san-bernardino-jihad> 42. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z34c72xsw4Y> 43. <http://web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin/maps/view/islamic-state> 44. <https://www.investigativeproject.org/7734/report-muslim-brotherhood-linked-terror-group> 45. <https://www.pewforum.org/2010/09/15/muslim-networks-and-movements-in-western-europe-tablighi-jamaat/> 46. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/1526793/Army-of-darkness.html> 47. <https://tablighijamaat.wordpress.com/2008/05/13/worldwide-tablighi-markaz-address/>