

CHAPTER III

THE RISING OF HOMEGROWN TERRORISTS IN UNITED STATES

Since Osama bin Laden and many other Jihadi scholars around Muslim world issued a *fatwa* (verdict) on February 1998 declaring war on the United States.¹⁸ Certain elements within American society have awoken, as Bin Laden's call to jihad have been heard by individuals and groups, and even, sometimes, answered. In 1993, foreign Islamist attacked the World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than a thousand.¹⁹ And in 2001, another cell of Middle Eastern-born Islamic militants finished the job, destroying the Twin Towers and severely damaging the Pentagon, in the worst terrorist attack in American history, killing nearly 3,000 people. But while the most "successful" attacks against American interests have been perpetrated by foreign terrorists, more than a handful of American citizens have sought to take up arms against their own country, or to go off to battle foreign allies, in the name of divinely ordained holy war.

A. The New Face of "Terrorism"

The number of attacks on US soil involving Islamic radicals who are U.S. citizens has seen an uptick in recent years. Like what was mentioned in a report

¹⁸ On February 23rd 1998, The International Islamic Front for The Struggle Against The Jews and The Crusaders formed and subsequently issued a *Fatwa* targeting US and Israel's citizens and infrastructures signed by Osama bin Laden, Dr. Aiman al Zawahiri (Egyptian Islamic Jihad), Abu Yasir Rifa'I Ahmad Thaha (Jama'at al Islamiyah, Egypt), Sheikh Mir Hamzah (The Jama'at al Ulama secretary, Pakistan), Fazlur Rahman (Bangladeshi Jihad Movement) etc. (source: *Negara Tuhan*, SR-Ins Publishing, p.621)

¹⁹ Larry Neumeister, "1st Trade Center Attack: 10 Years Ago," CBS News, 26 February 2003, www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/02/12/attack/main540376.shtml. Accessed on March 23rd 2011

by Brian Michael Jenkins, an author in Rand Corporation, between September 11, 2001, and the end of 2009, the U.S. government reported forty-six incidents of “domestic radicalization and recruitment to jihadist” that involved at least 125 people including the 13 occurring in 2009.²⁰ The year of 2009 was troubling because it saw the most incidents of domestic radicalization since 2001.

The dramatic increasing phenomenon of “Homegrown Terrorists” in United States recent years is unprecedented. It has been considered to be “the new face of terrorism”. The term “homegrown terrorism” is being used increasingly to describe groups or individuals who are inspired by al-Qaeda and other radical Islamist ideologues. The Homegrown terrorists of focus in this research is driven by some form of “fundamental” Islam and involves citizens or residents of Western countries who are willing to attack their own countries, even if they are themselves killed in the process. This may range from lone wolf individuals who wish to perpetrate an attack, to groups who are a “self-recruited, self-trained, and self-executing” “group of guys” with few connections to an international Islamic militant groups, to those who may be groups living in a particular country who have trained with and maintained connections to the al Qaeda transnational network, and finally to “ sleeper cells” planted by al Qaeda in a particular country who are bent on conducting a medium or long-term mission.²¹

Most scholars and analysts at least agree that the nature of the threat has

²⁰ Brian Michael Jenkins. *Would-Be Warriors: Incident of Jihadist Terrorist Radicalization In The United States*. Santa Monica, CA. RAND Corporation. May 2010.
<http://www.rand.org/> accessed on January 22nd 2011

²¹ Kimberly L. Thachuk, et all (2008). *Homegrown Terrorism: The Threat Within*. Center for

changed over time. Sageman describes three “waves” of global Islamist Jihadism since the 1980s.²²The first wave is comprised of the “old guard” who fought against the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s. These *mujahideen*, who were primarily Egyptians of middle or upper socio-economic status rose on the Muslim Brotherhoods (al-Ikhwān al-Muslimīn) and Egyptian Islamic Jihad (Jama’at al-Jihad), formed strong relationships in combat and became the key leaders of al-Qaeda, like the al-Qaeda deputy, Dr. Aiman az-Zawahiri. In the 1990s, young people, mostly from the middle class, joined the global Islamist social movement, forming the second wave. During this wave, Saudis and Muslim expatriates in Europe became the most important players. Many traveled to Afghanistan to train, and some volunteered to fight in Bosnia, Chechnya, and Kashmir, while others traveled to the West to carry out attacks. The second wave ended with the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan. The third wave, which began with the 2003 invasion of Iraq, is marked by second-generation Muslims in the West, generally from middle to lower-class roots. Unlike the external threat to the West posed in the second wave, the threat posed by the third wave is an internal, “homegrown” one, composed of Jihadists radicalized in the West with limited or no training abroad.

That, then, is the threat America faces at home today; tiny plots, lone gunmen, one-off attacks rather than sustained terrorist campaigns. The wave of arrests and thwarted plots recently seen in the US soil has severely undermined the long-held assumption that American Muslims, unlike their European counterparts, are virtually immune to radicalisation.

²² Marc Sageman, *Leaderless Jihad: Terror Networks in the Twenty-First Century*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008, pp. 49-50.

B. American Muslim's View on al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden

In the Muslim world, journalists, commentators and scholars have long recognized the primacy of Islam in bin Laden's thinking and behavior, as well as in providing much of al Qaeda's appeal, cohesion, and durability. Since the 11 September attacks, they have focused on the increasingly prominent leadership position bin Laden holds in the Islamic world. In their writings, Muslim authors have begun to discuss and assess bin Laden in terms of his resemblance to the major leaders and heroes in Islamic history. In a culture where historic figures and events a millennium and more old are revered and still discussed or alluded to in public and private discourse, this sort of pan-Islamic conversation about bin Laden's place in history increases his popularity and the esteem in which he and al Qaeda are held. It also makes bin Laden the leader on whom untold numbers of Muslims pin their hopes and aspirations for the future.

Contrarily In 2007, The Pew Research Center released a report titled "Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream" found 68 percent of American Muslims expressed an unfavorable opinion of al Qaeda. However, the report also found that 27% of those polled refused to express an opinion of al-Qaeda while 5% actually had a favorable view of the terrorist organization. In addition, the report found that 8% of Muslim Americans say suicide bombings against civilian targets tactics are often (1%) or sometimes (7%) justified in the defense of Islam.²³ There are more than 3 million Muslims in the United States,

²³ Pew Research Center, *Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream*, Washington

and few more than 100 have joined jihad, about one out of every 30,000, suggesting an American Muslim population that remains hostile to Jihadist ideology and its exhortations to violence.

This research also concludes that Muslim Americans are largely assimilated, happy with their lives, and moderate with respect to many of the issues that have divided Muslims and Westerners around the world. Muslim Americans are a highly diverse population, one largely comprised of immigrants. Nonetheless, they are decidedly American in their outlook, values and attitudes. Overwhelmingly, they believe that hard work pays off in this society. This belief is reflected in Muslim American income and education levels, which generally mirror those of the general public.

C. Incidents Of Domestic Attacks Between 2002-2010

2002

- **Jose Padilla.** Jose Padilla (32), a US citizen, convert to Islam, and al Qaeda operative, was arrested upon his return from the Middle East to the United States. Although there is no question of his al Qaeda connection, his mission remains unclear.
- **The Lackawanna Six.** Six Yemeni-Americans; Sahim Alwar (26), Yahya Goba (25), Yasein Taher (24), Faysal Galab (25), Shafal Mosed (23), and Muktar al-Bakri (21), all U.S. citizens, were arrested for training at an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan.
- **The Portland Seven.** Seven individuals; Patrice Lumumba Ford (31),

Jeffrey Leon Battle (31), October Martinique Laris (25), Muhammad Ibrahim Bilal (22), Ahmed Ibrahim Bilal (24), Habis Abdulla al Saoub (37), and Maher Hawash (38) (six Americans and a Jordanian national) arrested for attempting to join al Qaeda and the Taliban.

- **Earnest James Ujaama.** Earnest James Ujaama (36) was arrested for providing support to the Taliban.
- **Anwar al-Awlaki.** Anwar al-Awlaki (31) was born in New Mexico, studied engineering in college and motivation in graduate school, then became an increasingly radical imam. After being questioned by the FBI several times, he left the United States in 2002 and went to Yemen, where he is now a leading spokesperson for al Qaeda.

2003

- **Lyman Faris.** Lyman Faris (34), a naturalized US citizen, was arrested for reconnoitering the Brooklyn Bridge for a possible al Qaeda attack.
- **The Northern Virginia Cluster.** Eleven men were arrested in June 2003 for training at a jihadist training camp abroad and planning terrorist attacks: Caliph Basha Ibn Abdur Raheem (28), Sabri Benkhala (27), Randall Todd Royer (39), Ibrahim al-Hamdi (25), Khwaja Mahmood Hasan (27), Muhammed Aatique (30), Donald T. Surratt (30), Masoud Ahmad Khan (33), Selfullah Chapman (31), Hammad Adur-Raheem (34), and Yong Ki Kwon. Two other individuals were also arrested in

Six of the accused pleaded guilty. Another three were convicted. Benkhala was acquitted but was later charged and convicted of making false statements to the FBI. The case against Caliph Basha Ibn Abdur Raheem was dismissed.

- **Ahmed Omar Abu Ali.** Ahmed Omar Abu Ali (22), a US citizen, was arrested by Saudi authorities and later extradited to the United States for providing support to a terrorist organization and plotting to assassinate the president of the United States.

2004

- **Amir Abdul Rashid.** Ryan Gibson Anderson (26), a convert to Islam calling himself Amir Abdul Rashid, he was a soldier in the US Army at Fort Lewis, Washington, when he was arrested in February 2004 for contacting Islamist websites related to al Qaeda and offering information about the U.S. Army.
- **Mohammed Junaid Babar.** Mohammed Junaid Babar (31), a Pakistani-American, was arrested in New York for providing material support to al Qaeda.
- **The Herald Square Plotters.** Shahawar Martin Siraj (22), a Pakistani national, and James Elshafy (19), a U.S. citizen, were arrested for plotting to carry out a terrorist attack on New York City's Herald Square subway station.

leaders of a mosque in Albany, New York, were arrested for attempting to acquire weapons in order to assassinate a Pakistani diplomat.

- **Adam Gadahn.** Adam Gadahn (26), an American convert to Islam, moved to Pakistan in 1998. In 2004, he was identified as a member of al Qaeda planning terrorist attacks in the United States and subsequently became one of al Qaeda's principal spokesmen.
- **Nuradin Abdi.** Nuradin Abdi (32), a Somali native, was indicted in June 2004 for plotting with Lyman Faris to blow up a Columbus, Ohio, a shopping mall.

2005

- **The New York Defendants.** Three defendants; Mahmud Faruq Brent (32), who had attended a training camp in Pakistan run by Lashkar-e-Taiba; Rafiq Abdus Sabir (50), a medical doctor who volunteered to provide medical treatment to al Qaeda terrorists; and Abdulrahman Farhane (52), who agreed to assist in fundraising for the purchase of weapons for insurgents in Afghanistan, linked to defendant-turned-informant Tarik Shah (42), who was arrested in May 2005 for offering to provide training to insurgents in Iraq. Shah identified his co-defendants, and all four were convicted.
- **The Lodi Case.** Hamid Hayat (22) and his father, Umar Hayat, two Pakistani-Americans, were arrested in June 2005 for secretly attending a

... ultimately pleaded guilty

of lying to federal authorities.

- **The Torrance Plotters.** Kevin James (29), Levar Washington (21), and Gregory Patterson (25), all are US citizens, and Hammad Riaz Samana (21), a permanent resident from Pakistan, were charged in August 2005 with planning to carry out terrorist attacks on National Guard armories, a US military recruiting center, the Israeli consulate, and Los Angeles International Airport. (This case is sometimes referred to as the Sacramento Plot.)
- **Michael Reynolds.** Michael Reynolds (47), a US citizen, acquired explosives and offered them to an informant whom he believed was an al Qaeda official to blow up the Trans-Alaska pipeline in return for \$40,000.
- **Ronald Grecula.** Ronald Grecula (70) was arrested in Texas in May 2005 for offering to build an explosive device for informants he believed to be al Qaeda agents.

2006

- **The Liberty City Seven.** Seven Americans; Narseal Batiste (32), Patrick Abraham (39), Stanley Grunt Phanor (31), Naudimar Herrera (22), Burson Augustine (21), Lyglenson Lemorin (31), and Rotschild Augustine (26) and charged in June 2006 with plotting to blow up federal buildings in Florida and the Sears Tower in Chicago.
- **Syed Hashmi.** Syed "Fahad" Hashmi (30), a Pakistani-born American,

was charged in London on charges of providing material support to al

Qaeda.

- **Derrick Shareef.** Derrick Shareef (22) was arrested for attempting to buy handguns and hand grenades for a planned suicide attack on an Illinois shopping mall.
- **The Fort Dix plotters.** Six men; Mohammad Ibrahim Shnewer (22), Serdar Tatar (23), Dritan Duka (28), Shain Duka (26), Eljvir Duka (23), and Agron Abdullahu (24), charged with plotting to carry out an armed attack on soldiers at Fort Dix, New Jersey. (The three Duka brothers were Albanians living in the United States illegally; the other three plotters were legal U.S. residents.)
- **The Toledo Three.** Mohammad Zaki Amawi (26), Marwan El-Hindi (43), and Wassim Mazloun (25) were arrested in Toledo, Ohio, for plotting to build bombs to use against American forces in Iraq.
- **The Georgia Plotters.** Syed Harris Ahmed (21) and Ehsanul Islam Sadequee (20), an American and a Pakistani from Atlanta, Georgia, were arrested in April 2006 for discussing potential targets with terrorist organizations and receiving instruction in reconnaissance.
- **Daniel Maldonado.** Daniel Maldonado (27), an American convert to Islam, was arrested for joining a terrorist training camp in Somalia.

2007

- **Hassan Abujihad.** Hassan Abujihad (31), a former US sailor, was

organization accused of supporting terrorists.

- **The JFK Airport Plotters.** Russell Defreitas (63), Abdul Kadir (55), Kareem Ibrahim (56), and Abdal Nur (57) were charged in June 2007 with plotting to blow up aviation fuel tanks at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York. Defreitas, a U.S. citizen, was arrested in Brooklyn. The other three plotters, one Trinidadian (Ibrahim) and two Guyanese citizens (Kadir and Nur), arrested in Trinidad and extradited to the United States.
- **Omar Hammami.** Now known as Abu Mansour Al-Amriki, Omar Hammami (23) left Alabama some time not later than 2007 to join the al-Shabab group in Somalia. He later appeared in the group's recruiting videos.

2008

- **Christopher Paul.** Christopher Paul (43), a US citizen living overseas, was arrested upon his return to the United States in April 2008 for having plotted terrorist attacks on various U.S. targets.
- **Bryant Vinas.** Bryant Vinas (26), an American convert to Islam, was arrested in Pakistan and extradited to the United States for having joined al Qaeda in Pakistan. He also provided al Qaeda with information to help plan a bombing attack on the Long Island Rail Road.
- **Somali Recruiting Case I.** As many as a dozen Somalis may have been recruited in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, area by Shirwa Ahmed to fight in Somalia. Ahmed subsequently may have been killed in a suicide bombing in Somalia.

- **Sharif Mobley.** Sharif Mobley (26), a US citizen of Somali decent, moved to Yemen in 2008, ostensibly to study Arabic and religion but in reality, authorities believe, to join a terrorist organization. He was later arrested by Yemeni authorities in a roundup of al Qaeda and al-Shabab militants. In March 2010, he killed one guard and wounded another in an attempt to escape.

2009

- **The Riverdale Synagogue Plot.** James Cromite (55), David Williams (28), Onta Williams (32), and Laguerre Payen (27) were arrested in New York in May 2009 for planning to blow up synagogues.
- **Abdulkhikim Mujahid Muhammad.** In June 2009, Abdulkhikim Mujahid Muhammad (23), also known as Carlos Bledsoe, a Muslim convert, killed one soldier and wounded another at an Army recruiting station in Arkansas.
- **The North Carolina Cluster.** Daniel Boyd (39), a US citizen who fought against the Soviets in Afghanistan in the late 1980s, was arrested in July 2009 along with his two sons, Zakariya Boyd (20) and Dylan Boyd (22), and four others, including three U.S. citizens—Anes Subasic (33), Mohammad Omar Aly Hassan (22), and Ziyad Yaghi (21)—and Hysen Sherifi (24), a legal U.S. resident from Kosovo, for plotting terrorist attacks in the United States and abroad.

▪ **...** (21) — US citizen — was arrested in September

2009 for traveling overseas to join al-Shabab or to attend a terrorist training camp in Somalia.

- **Michael Finton.** Michael Finton (29), an American convert to Islam, was arrested in September 2009 for planning to blow up a federal courthouse in Springfield, Illinois.
- **Hosam Maher Smadi.** Hosam Maher Smadi (19), a Jordanian citizen living in the United States, was arrested in September 2009 for planning to blow up an office building in Dallas, Texas.
- **Najibullah Zazi.** Najibullah Zazi (25), a permanent US resident from Afghanistan, was arrested in September 2009 for receiving training in explosives at a terrorist training camp in Pakistan and buying ingredients for explosives in preparation for a terrorist attack. Indicted with Zazi were his father, Mohammed Zazi (53), and Ahmad Afzali (38), both for making false statements to federal investigators; neither was involved in the terrorist plot. In January 2010, authorities arrested Adis Medunjanin (24), a Bosnian immigrant, and Zarein Ahmedzay (25), an Afghan immigrant, and charged them with participating in the plot.
- **Tarek Mehana.** In October 2009, federal authorities in Massachusetts arrested Tarek Mehana (27), a dual citizen of the United States and Egypt, for conspiring over a seven year period to kill US politicians, attack American troops in Iraq, and target shopping malls in the United States. Two other individuals were allegedly part of the conspiracy.
- **David Headley.** In an increasingly complicated case, David Headley (49),

a Pakistani-American and resident of Chicago, was arrested in October 2009 along with Tahawar Rana (48), a native of Pakistan and a Canadian citizen, for planning terrorist attacks abroad. Headley was subsequently discovered to have participated in the reconnaissance of Mumbai prior to the November 2008 attack by the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba. Headley pleaded guilty in March 2010.

- **Colleen Renee LaRose.** Calling herself “Jihad Jane” on the Internet, Colleen Renee LaRose (46) was arrested in October 2009 for plotting to kill a Swedish artist whose drawings of Muhammad had enraged Muslims and for attempting to recruit others to terrorism. Her arrest was concealed until March 2010. LaRose pleaded guilty to the charges.
- **Nidal Hasan.** In November 2009, Nidal Hasan (38), a US Army major, opened fire on fellow soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, killing 13 and wounding 31.
- **The Pakistan Five.** In November 2009, five Muslim Americans from Virginia—Ulmar Farooq (25), Ramy Zamzam (22), Waqar Hassan Khan (22), Ahmad Abdullah Mini (20), and Ameen Hassan Yemer (18)—were arrested in Pakistan for attempting to obtain training as jihadist guerrillas. Khalid Farooq, Ulmar Farooq’s father, was also taken into custody. The five were charged by Pakistani authorities with planning terrorist attacks.
- **Somali Recruiting Case II.** In November 2009, federal authorities indicted eight men for recruiting at least 20 young men in Minnesota for

2009, a total of 14 indictments had been handed down as a result of the ongoing investigation. Those indicted, all but one of whom are Somalis, were Abdow Munye Abdow, Khalid Abshir, Salah Osman Ahmad, Adarus AbdulleAli, Cabdulaahi Ahmed Faarax, Kamal Hassan, Mohamed Hassan, Abdifatah YusefIsse, Abdiweli Yassin Isse, Zakaria Maruf, Omer Abdi Mohamed, Ahmed Ali Omar, Mahanud Said Omar, and Mustafa Salat. No age information is available.

2010

- **Faisal Shahzad.** A naturalized US citizen from Pakistan, Shahzad attempted to bomb New York's Times Square with a parked car full of explosives in May 2010. Shahzad was inspired by Pakistani militants and told authorities he was a "fan and follower" of radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, but appears to have planned the bombing alone. He plead guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.
- **Somalia Plot.** Fourteen Somali-Americans were charged in August 2010 with providing material support and recruits for al-Shabab, an Islamic militant organization fighting an insurgency in Somalia. Of the group, most were in Somalia at the time of the indictment.
- **Farooque Ahmed,** a 34-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen born in Pakistan was arrested on October 27, 2010, and charged with conspiring with others to be believed to be al Qaeda operatives to bomb subway stations in

Washington, DC. In fact, his co-conspirators were really undercover law enforcement officers. They provided Ahmed with a Quran with code words for locations of future meetings which were held in various hotel rooms in the Northern Virginia area and recorded by the FBI.

- **Mohamed Osman Mohamud**, a 19-year old Somali-born naturalized U.S. citizen, was arrested on November 26, 2010, moments after he tried to detonate a van he believed was packed with explosives in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square. The square was crowded with thousands of people who had gathered for an annual Christmas tree lighting event.
- **Paul Rockwood, Jr.** on July 21, 2010, a U.S. citizen and Muslim convert, pled guilty to making false statements to the FBI in connection with a terrorism investigation. On the same day, Rockwood's wife, Nadia Rockwood, also pled guilty to making false statements related to her husband's case.
- **Abdel Hameed Shehadeh**, a 21-year-old U.S. citizen born in New York City to a Palestinian- American family, was arrested on October 22, 2010, in Honolulu, HI. Among the accusations against him was that he tried to join the U.S. military so he could be deployed to Iraq but would desert and fight with anti-American insurgency forces.²⁴

Overall, the age ranges of these terrorists are among 17 to 70 and the average ages of the homegrown terrorists at the time of their arrest were 31. The jobs of these terrorists held show that many of them are high school dropouts or

²⁴ Jerome P. Bjelopera American & Mark A. Randol. Jihadist Terrorism: *Combating a Complex*

immigrant in entry-level job. However, at least several of them enrolled in university in subjects including computer science, engineer, pharmacology and medicine. A study of 2,032 western jihadists who join al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups domestically and broadly shows that many of them get military training.

D. Why Did They Become Traitors of America

There are many reasons why Jihadists (including American-based Jihadist), or perhaps Muslims in general, view unfavorably US policies and actions. In a field where objective and scientific data are hard to come by, the polling work of Gallup and the Pew Trust and the BBC also has provided a rare insight into how US words and deeds, yielding anger on America. A Gallup poll in February 2002, for example, found 53 percent of Muslims worldwide had an "unfavorable" view of America, and among the most frequently chosen words to describe Americans were "ruthless, aggressive, conceited, arrogant, easily provoked, and biased." Then, in March 2002, Gallup found that 80 percent of Pakistanis thought US military action against al Qaeda and the Taliban was "largely or totally unjustifiable." Gallup also reported that the Pakistanis' response was mirrored by 86 percent of Moroccans, 89 percent of Indonesians, and 60 percent of Kuwaitis. Finally, in June 2003, the Pew Global Attitudes Project found that majorities in seven of eight Muslim countries feared a US invasion; that anti-US sentiment had "drastically deepened" in Nigeria and Indonesia; and,

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world.²⁵

And following is a series of snapshots of how they view on America:

- America has declared that waging jihad against Islam's attackers is a criminal act and has seized and incarcerated, often without trial, hundreds of suspected *mujahideen* around the world. For a Muslim to refrain from joining a defensive jihad to protect Islam means disobeying God's law and earning damnation.
- America has demanded that Muslim regimes limit, control, and track the donations Muslims make to charitable organizations that serve their poor, refugee, or embattled brethren.
- America has demanded Muslim educational authorities alter their curricula to teach a brand of Islam more in keeping with modernity and, not coincidentally, US interests. Thus, America wants Muslims to abandon the word of God as He revealed it in the Koran - which Muslims consider perfect and unalterable - and the Prophet Mohammed's traditions and sayings for US - dictated and man-made replacements.
- US policy supports oppression and often aggression by Hindu India in Kashmir, Catholic Filipinos in Mindanao, Orthodox Christian Russians in Chechnya, Uzbek ex-communists in Uzbekistan, Chinese communists in Xinjiang Province, apostate al-Sauds in the Arabian Peninsula, and Israeli Jews in Palestine. The US military also has sent troops to help

governments kill *mujahideen* in the Philippines, the Caucasus, Yemen, and eastern Africa.

- America supports apostate Islamic governments in Kuwait, the UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere. The regimes are corrupt, ruled by man-made not God's law, and oppress Muslims trying to install shariah law. Muslims view these police states as being approved of and protected by the American democracy.
- America, on its own or with the UN, often imposes economic and military sanctions on Muslims, including the peoples of Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Libya, Pakistan, Iran, and Indonesia. These actions force Muslims to follow US orders, sanctioning Pakistan, for example, for building a nuclear weapon while condoning the possession of such weapons by India and Israel.
- The US government and oil companies are seeking control of the Arab Peninsula to make sure its energy resources are sold to the West at below-market prices.
- America now occupies and effectively rules the Muslim states of Afghanistan, Iraq, and the states of the Arabian Peninsula, the Prophet Mohammed's birthplace.
- America invariably backs Israel's occupation of Muslim Palestine and

... "Greater Israel" from

the Nile to the Euphrates.²⁶

The foregoing lists are enough to motivate Jihadists waging wars to United States. Many of the Jihadists recruits in the United States began their journey on the Internet; the Internet then provides opportunities for those who believe in the enlistment message to advance its cause. The dramatic growth in the number of Jihadist websites and chat rooms, especially the significant increase in English-language sites from a handful to hundreds, has made the narrative and message of violent jihad more accessible and compelling to those who cannot read or speak Arabic.

Native-born US citizens, currently acting as spokespersons for the jihadist cause, also have become motivators. They include Adam Gadahn, a Californian who speaks on behalf of al Qaeda; Omar Hammami, who makes jihadist recruiting videos in Somalia; and Yemen-based Anwar al-Awlaki, who communicated with Nidal Hasan and Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab and who also inspired Michael Finton.²⁷ What the US were doing and continue to do in the Muslim lands is what these Jihadists felt, totally unacceptable to their religion.

Another survey report by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) in 2007. They developed a model to explain how the phenomena of Homegrown terrorists occurred. The first stage is *Pre-Radicalization*. This stage is the point of

²⁶ Bernard Lewis. *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle East Response*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002, p. 100.

origin for individuals before they begin this progression. It is their life situation before they were exposed to and adopted jihadi interpretation of Islam as their own ideology. Secondly is *Self-Identification* is the phase where individuals, influenced by both internal and external factors, begin to explore fundamental model of Islam, gradually gravitate away from their old identity and begin to associate themselves with like-minded individuals and adopt this ideology as their own. The catalyst for this “religious seeking” is a cognitive opening, or crisis, which shakes one’s certitude in previously held beliefs and opens an individual to be receptive to new worldviews. The third stage is *Indoctrination*, the phase in which an individual progressively intensifies his beliefs, wholly adopts jihadi ideology and concludes, that the conditions and circumstances exist where action is required to support and further the cause. That action is militant jihad. And the last stage is *Jihadization*, the phase in which members of the cluster accept their individual duty to participate in jihad and self-designate themselves as holy warriors or *mujahedeen*.

Ultimately, the group will begin operational planning for the jihad or an attack. These “acts in furtherance” will include planning, preparation and execution.²⁸ Intermediaries, social networks, the Internet, and prisons have been cited as playing key roles in the radicalization process. Intermediaries - charismatic individuals - often help persuade previously law-abiding citizens to radicalize or even become terrorists. Three charismatic US citizens have taken an important role in global jihadist propagandas. Anwar al-Awlaki, a US born cleric

²⁸ A report by Arvin Bhatt and Mitchell Silber, *Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown*

who accused by the US administrations has linked to a number of domestic terrorist plots who also has been associated with the al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Adam Gadahn, born and raised California, served as a translator and English-language propagandist for al-Qaeda. Omar Hammami, also known as "Abu Mansour al-Amriki", is originally from Daphne, Colorado, has emerge as a key figure of intermediary for the Somali group al-Shabab. TheSocial networks, virtual or actual, support and reinforce the decisions individuals make as they embrace violent jihad, as does perusal of online materials. While there has been much discussion regarding the powerful influence online jihadist material may have on the formation of terrorists, no consensus has emerged regarding the Web and terrorism. Prisons, seen by some as potential hotbeds of radicalization, have not played a large role in producing homogeneous terrorists.