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OTHER SHARIAH-ADHERENT ORGANIZATIONS

The division of labor within the community of adherents to shariah that has the Muslim Brotherhood promoting their agenda, for the moment, mostly through non-violent means has counterpart efforts being made by other groups that seek the same goals – the triumph of Islam worldwide and the restoration of the caliphate – *through violence*. Since September 11, 2001, the best known of these is the perpetrator of the murderous attacks launched that day: al Qaeda. Its prominence has only grown with repeated declarations by U.S. government officials to the effect that Osama bin Laden’s group is *the* enemy we confront.

In fact, as the foregoing sections have demonstrated, al Qaeda is but *one* of the threats we confront, and not necessarily the most dangerous. The following pages discuss al Qaeda and a representative sample of other organizations in the world of adherents to shariah that are actively seeking to compel our submission and, ultimately, our destruction, through force and terror.

AL QAEDA

Contrary to popular opinion and stated U.S. national security policy, the real threat from al Qaeda is not its international network of jihadist training camps and cells, or even its trademark multiple, simultaneous suicide explosion attacks. Rather, the greatest danger arises from this group's singular ability to distract our leadership away from the stealth jihad aimed at insinuating shariah into our society and legal system.

Since the horrific 9/11 attacks, we have allowed ourselves to be sapped of blood and treasure, lured into faraway battlefields in Muslim lands, where the best and bravest American patriots have been asked to fight and die, too often with no clear strategy for victory and bereft of any understanding of shariah – even as they defend U.S. interests in shariah-dominated lands..

Such confusion at the top of U.S. national security ranks is inexcusable so many years after 9/11. That is especially so given that the enemy has explained his strategy clearly and repeatedly. Jihadist online postings from 2002 described in forthright terms the al Qaeda strategy to draw the American military machine into the Afghan maw to be bloodied and drained:

And it is known and transmitted amongst the pioneers in the fields of sacrifice that al Qaeda Organization adopted a new plan to lure [enemies] into Afghanistan; that is, attacking the Americans directly and in three different pillars of governance – politics, economy, and military power – in order to achieve a number of very important goals...[among which were]:

9 - To lure the American Forces into an Asymmetric battle, to liquidate the power of the enemy and have him bankrupt [himself], just like their Russian counterpart.

10 - To start a struggle between the American forces and the [Islamic] nation's men (not the armies of the rulers) in a long and unlimited battle that starts in America and expands from

Afghanistan to Mauritania, and with it the spirit of the Islamic resistance comes back and in it the Muslims youth will carry the weapons.²⁸⁷

As envisioned by al Qaeda strategists, years of grinding warfare in Afghanistan with no clear victory for Western forces not only have taken their toll on budgets and troops, but most importantly of all, have sowed doubts about America's military and political leadership in the hearts and minds of the American people.

Brigadier S.K. Malik wrote the Pakistani military doctrine in 1979 in a slim volume called *The Quranic Concept of War*. In it, he describes jihad as "a continuous and never-ending struggle, waged on all fronts including political, economic, social, psychological, domestic, moral and spiritual..."²⁸⁸ and says that "The whole philosophy [of the Quranic military strategy] revolves around the human heart, his soul, spirit and Faith." He went on to add, "In war, our main objective is the opponent's heart or soul..."²⁸⁹

Then, in July 2010, the *Washington Times* highlighted significant differences between the war-fighting doctrine of General David Petraeus, the new Afghan theater commander, and the Obama administration about the very nature of the jihadist enemy. Whereas the 2006 Petraeus counterinsurgency field manual refers explicitly to "Islamic insurgents," "Islamic extremists," and "Islamic subversives," current national leadership literally has banned the use of such terminology. The story only deepened the perception of an American leadership crisis in the jihad wars.²⁹⁰

From the perspective of the jihadist enemy, such developments contribute to the aforementioned pincer-movement against the West – in which violent terror demoralizes and intimidates even as it simultaneously distracts attention from and reinforces the Muslim Brotherhood's mission of "eliminating and de-

stroying the Western civilization from within and ‘sabotaging’ its miserable house by their hands.”²⁹¹

As U.S. civilian, intelligence and military leadership attention is consistently diverted to conflicts abroad, and new plots for terrorist attacks at home are uncovered at an alarming rate, the mantra of U.S. leadership remains narrowly focused on the threat of “violent extremism” – a euphemism often substituted for al Qaeda. At best, American attention, rhetoric and resources are as a result addressed to stopping al Qaeda, even though it is *just one of the many jihadist groups* (several of the most prominent of which are described below) that are using kinetic means to advance shariah – or preparing to do so.

Such a myopic characterization of the terror threat as the full extent of the jihadist enemy’s strategy to destroy our society and impose shariah has no basis in reality. It can only be considered a product of the enemy’s successful psychological offensive and information dominance. (For more on this strategy and its success, see chapter seven.)

If, in fact, the real threat is only *partly* about jihadist violence, then Western civilization must face up to the genuinely terrifying reality that the enemy we face is not al Qaeda per se or alone. We must instead come to grips with the jihadist imperative that derives from shariah doctrine itself – and the reality that all who know and actively follow that doctrine are dedicated to jihad for the purpose of imposing Islamic law on this country and all non-Islamic societies worldwide.

As will be discussed at greater length below, if the enemy at war with the United States is not just al Qaeda, but also a significant percentage of the hundreds of millions of Muslims who are dedicated to the imposition of shariah on us by violence or by stealth, and the U.S. leadership willfully is misconstruing the threat, then that leadership is failing in its constitutional responsibility to “support and defend the Constitution against all enemies

foreign and domestic.” This is the actual meaning of the Muslim Brotherhood Memorandum and mission in America: its stated purpose is to so blind U.S. strategic thinkers to the existence of doctrinal justification for Islamic terror that they themselves, “by their own hand,” will cripple America’s ability to respond effectively.

For all the horrific destruction of human life and endeavor thus far perpetrated by al Qaeda and its allies, both national (Iran) and sub-national (e.g., Hezbollah, Hamas and the Taliban), those atrocities have no power to threaten our way of life – unless we allow them to undermine our morale and erode our faith in ourselves, our abilities and our leadership. If America permits al Qaeda to instill the terror about which S.K. Malik (among many other shariah-adherents) have spoken, then we will have granted al Qaeda and its ilk the power to set the conditions for our acquiescence, appeasement and surrender.

Refusal to name the enemy or describe his ideology accurately is but the first step in the enemy’s program to divorce U.S. strategic thinking from confronting the real threat or having any hope of developing an effective strategy to defeat it. *It is imperative that we as Americans recognize and openly identify shariah as the font of Islamic terror.* The ultimate objective of al Qaeda and other perpetrators of that terror is not merely to inflict death and mayhem on infidels like us, but to advance our subjugation to shariah.

FORCES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The Islamic Republic of Iran is, according to its own constitution, dedicated to revolution and “the religious fight of Islam... inside and outside the country.” The duties of the vanguard in that fight, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), are likewise set out in Iran’s 1989 constitution:

“... The corps of Revolutionary Guards... have responsibility not only for the safeguarding of the frontiers, but also for a re-

ligious mission, which is jihad along the way of Allah, and the struggle to extend the supremacy of Allah's law in the world."²⁹²

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his followers were the second group of jihadists, after the House of Saud earlier in the 20th Century, to seize control of a nation state with vast natural resources. While the Saudi population is predominantly Sunni and that of Iran predominantly Shiite, both regimes are completely committed to the supremacy of shariah and its realization across the globe via jihad – whether by the pen, the purse or the sword.

As noted in chapter two, Khomeini's ideology of *Velayat-e Faqih* (or Rule of the Jurisprudent) calls for theocratic governance under a senior Shiite cleric. It derives from Khomeini's own deeply hostile attitude towards modernization and secularization in an increasingly Western-dominated world.

Velayat-e Faqih mandates strict implementation of shariah along 7th Century lines. Even though a 1989 referendum by the Iranian people suggested popular support for this official ideology, it imposes draconian *hudud* punishments, the death penalty for homosexuals and an institutionalized misogyny that are deeply resented and increasingly opposed by Iran's youthful population. Especially in the wake of the massive nationwide popular protests following the fraudulent June 2009 presidential elections, demonstrators in the street and senior members of the Iranian Shiite clergy alike have demanded an end to the institution of the Supreme Leader and *Velayat-e Faqih* itself, correctly declaring both to be perversions of traditional Shia Islam.²⁹³

In the face of such opposition, the clerical clique in Tehran maintains power today by means of draconian repression domestically and the projection of its ideology and power abroad. The latter is accomplished through proxy and allied terrorist organizations – which include Sunni organizations like al Qaeda and

Hamas, as well as Shiite ones like Hezbollah and a variety of Iraqi militias.

The mullahs' drive for a deliverable nuclear weapons capability is the *sine qua non* of this regime and will not be denied it, absent a credible threat to regime survival – or, perhaps, by its destruction alone. Their implacable antisemitism and declarations of genocidal intent toward the State of Israel provide inspiration, guidance and material support to entities bent on preventing an Arab-Israeli peace process.

At the same time, Tehran's aggressive drive for expanded geo-strategic influence in the Persian Gulf and the broader Middle East, in conjunction with its bid to seize leadership of the international jihad, alarms neighboring Sunni regimes, compounded by fear of an imminent withdrawal of traditional American power projection in the region by the Obama administration.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, its Qods Force division, and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) are the lead Iranian organizations for jihadist terror projection. Each of these organizations requires urgent attention by U.S. security policymakers.

THE IRGC

The Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), also known as the *Pasdaran* – derived from the more formal title *Se-pah-e Pasdaran-e Inqilab-e Islami*, which literally translates from Farsi as “Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution”) was established by the Ayatollah Khomeini in March 1979 to augment the regular army in defense of the physical borders of the state. Its primary function, however, is maintaining the clerical regime in power. In the wake of the chaotic civil disturbances that followed the June 2009 presidential elections, widely seen as fraudulent, regime resources increasingly have flowed to the IRGC to augment its ability to suppress regime opposition. The growing pow-

er and influence of the *Pasdaran* is so notable that its evolution of late has been termed a “military coup.”²⁹⁴

Today, the IRGC numbers some 125,000 and includes the Qods Force, the regime’s international terror arm.²⁹⁵ The Commander of the Guard directs and organizes the arming, equipping, and training of the Iraqi Shiite “Special Groups,” and al Qaeda and other Sunni forces.²⁹⁶

As the direct commander of Hezbollah cells in Iran and Iraq, the IRGC oversees the training camps where Hezbollah explosives experts pass on the deadly skills that kill American and Coalition troops and Iraqi civilians alike.²⁹⁷ Increasingly, the IRGC-Qods Force is also providing funding, training, and weapons to Taliban forces in Afghanistan, activity that had diminished for a time after 9/11.²⁹⁸ Reporting out of West Africa, Europe, and North and Latin America suggests an expanding presence of IRGC-Qods Force, MOIS and Hezbollah elements in these regions, as well.²⁹⁹

The IRGC controls Iran’s biological and chemical weapons programs, as well as its nuclear weapons program since being assigned the duty of acquiring the bomb by the Ayatollah Khomeini in the 1980s. It is also responsible for Iran’s ballistic missile development program, which it manages in a kind of joint venture arrangement with North Korea.

The IRGC has been amassing control over a significant segment of the Iranian economy. It is estimated that the IRGC, its top commanders and affiliates now own outright 30 percent or more of the entire Iranian economy.³⁰⁰ This situation contributed directly to the decision by the wealthy Rafsanjani clan to launch its election challenge in a bid to defend against further IRGC encroachment on its financial empire.

THE QODS FORCE

The Qods Force is specifically charged with extraterritorial liaison with terrorist organizations and is Iran's tip of the spear for arming, funding, training, and other support to groups such as al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Iraqi Jaish al-Mahdi, Palestinian Jihad and the Taliban.³⁰¹ The Qods Force also handles Iranian relations with organized crime and narco-trafficking organizations, such as the Afghan opium drug lords.³⁰²

Numbering around 21,000 members, the Qods Force members deploy to the field and also operate undercover out of Iranian embassies worldwide. The organization has trained members of dozens of international terrorist groups in guerrilla, paramilitary and terror tactics. In the wake of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, Qods Force commanders negotiated Iranian safe haven for hundreds of al Qaeda fighters, including at least two of bin Laden's sons, Saad and Hamza, and other bin Laden family members, plus al Qaeda's military operations chief, Saif al-Adl.³⁰³ It was Qods Force that maintained Iran's operational relationship with al Qaeda in Iraq's leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, until his elimination at the hands of U.S. forces in 2006.³⁰⁴

THE MINISTRY OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

The Iranian intelligence service is a "ministry" in name only, as its chain of command actually bypasses the cabinet and reports directly to the Supreme Leader. With up to some 30,000 officers and support staff, MOIS is one of the largest intelligence services in the Middle East and has been termed by Magnus Ranstorp, the renowned Scottish defense and security expert, "a superpower in intelligence terms in the region," because of its global reach and sophistication.³⁰⁵

MOIS performs all the usual functions of a national intelligence agency, such as collection, analysis, and dissemination of reporting. It is also tasked with keeping the regime in power by

any and all means, including but not limited to: infiltrating and disclosing conspiracies that threaten the regime; suppressing internal dissent; arresting, assassinating, jailing, intimidating, kidnapping, torturing and forcibly repatriating regime opponents; and maintaining liaison relationships not only with foreign intelligence services, but with terror organizations worldwide with whom the MOIS actively collaborates.³⁰⁶

The Iranian intelligence service has been faulted for failing to keep control of the situation following the 2009 elections and reportedly has lost status, particularly vis-à-vis the IRGC, as a result. The MOIS director was replaced and resources are flowing to augment the Intelligence Unit of the IRGC, a small but increasingly favored rival to the MOIS.

THE 'IRAN LOBBY'

In addition to the formidable capabilities the IRGC, Qods Force, MOIS and their proxies represent for influencing and, where desirable, violently attacking the Tehran regime's enemies, the Islamic Republic of Iran also can rely upon a well-organized network of influential individuals and groups in this country that its own government-controlled media have dubbed "the Iran lobby in America."

That network generally operates from a common script to urge a U.S. foreign policy towards the Tehran regime that features accommodation, concessions and unconditional dialogue, while arguing strenuously against coercive measures – notably, the imposition of political and economic sanctions and most especially military action against Iran's nuclear weapons facilities.³⁰⁷

The preeminent figure in the "Iran lobby" is an Iranian-born agent of influence named Trita Parsi. Emulating the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood model of spawning front organizations, Parsi founded the National Iranian-American Council (NIAC) in 2002. Under his leadership, NIAC has, in turn, helped to found

and/or established relationships with a variety of sympathetic organizations, including: some MB fronts like the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR, founded as noted above by Hamas in 1994); the Campaign Against Sanctions and Military Intervention in Iran (CASMI, founded in December 2005); the Center for a New American Security (CNAS, founded in February 2007), the Campaign for a New American Policy on Iran (CNAPI, founded in June 2008), and the American Foreign Policy Project (AFPP, founded in December 2008).³⁰⁸

It is of considerable concern that individuals associated with the Iran Lobby network, often through one or more of these organizations, have found their way into influential posts in the Obama administration. Even as events in the Middle East move inexorably toward renewed conflict and Iran defiantly accelerates its nuclear weapons program, such “friends of Iran” as Dr. Vali Nasr (now the senior advisor to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke for Afghanistan/Pakistan issues), Dr. Susan Rice (U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations) and John Limbert (until July 2010 a top official at the State Department’s Iran desk) – have helped ensure that U.S. policy towards Iran remains incoherent and contrary to long-term U.S. national security interests.³⁰⁹

The magnitude of damage Iranian elements are capable of perpetrating in America in furtherance of their shariah agenda is greater if, as seems to be the case, senior U.S. national security policymaking circles have been penetrated by agents of influence and those influenced by them whose actions, intentional or otherwise, serve to support the objectives of a hostile foreign power. To date, there is no evidence that such a possibility has been seriously considered, let alone thwarted by American counterintelligence.

HEZBOLLAH

Hezbollah (literally, the Party of God) is a Shiite Lebanese terrorist organization founded in the early 1980s by the Iranian government's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage once said that Hezbollah may well be the "A team" and al Qaeda the "B team" of global terrorism. As such, the organization, its role and capabilities warrant close study.

Hezbollah's purpose is to advance Tehran's agenda of: promoting shariah; destroying Israel; dominating Lebanon; and the readying of a global strike force. Although the immediate justification for Hezbollah's emergence was in response to Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon in 1982, an influx of Shia scholars from Najaf fleeing the 1968 Baathist coup in Iraq had laid the groundwork for the Islamicization of Lebanon more than a decade earlier.³¹⁰

Iranian sponsorship of Hezbollah enabled it to become not only a regional organization fighting against the Israelis, but also a global terrorist network. Hezbollah today is a tightly disciplined, superbly trained, and fanatically dedicated cadre of shariah-adherent jihadis that effectively controls Lebanon on behalf of Iran. The Party of God's expansion into politics, with representatives in the Lebanese cabinet and parliament, demonstrates the totality of the stranglehold Iran and Hezbollah jointly exercise over Lebanon.

CURRENT MILITARY CAPABILITIES

Hezbollah fields up to 20,000 fighters, of whom perhaps one-third have undergone advanced combat training in Iran. Such training involves a rigorous three-year basic course, which emphasizes: advanced individual commando skills; small unit tactics; terror training (such as assassination, bomb-making, explosives,

kidnapping and suicide-bombing); and weapons expertise across a broad range of light infantry arms.

Hezbollah's vaunted rocket and missile arsenal and other armaments were massively resupplied by Iran and Syria after the 2006 Lebanese war with Israel. Its current inventory includes Fajr-3 and Fajr-5 surface-to-surface missiles, Zelzal-2 ballistic missiles, tens of thousands of Katyusha rockets, and Chinese-model cruise missiles. In April 2010, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Hezbollah had "far more rockets and missiles than most governments in the world."³¹¹

In addition, Hezbollah has an array of unmanned aerial vehicles, Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles and anti-aircraft missiles, tanks, and armored personnel carriers. It also operates a state-of-the-art military-grade fiber optic communications network that is directly integrated with the Iranian IRGC network.³¹²

ROOTED IN SHARIAH

Hezbollah literally burst onto the world scene in 1983 when it killed 241 U.S. Marines in a suicide attack on their barracks in Lebanon. Operating in coordination with senior levels of Ayatollah Khomeini's revolutionary regime – which armed, funded, inspired and trained it, Hezbollah subsequently launched a campaign of global terror marked by bombings, hijackings, kidnappings, and incessant attacks against Israel.

These attacks included ones Hezbollah carried out (under Iranian direction), notably the 1992 and 1994 bombings in Buenos Aires against the Israeli Embassy and AMIA Jewish Cultural Center, respectively. As noted elsewhere in this report, at about the same time, Hezbollah joined its Shiite Iranian sponsors in an operational relationship with al Qaeda, under the aegis of the Sudanese government and the pan-Islamic Sunni cleric, Hassan al-Turabi. That partnership made possible the Khobar Towers sui-

cide attack of 1996, the East Africa Embassy bombings in 1998, the USS *Cole* attack in 2000 and, ultimately, 9/11 itself.

Hezbollah styles itself a violent movement in the service of shariah. Its official symbol is a globe and an upraised arm brandishing an AK-47 rifle. There is real meaning to the imagery of that symbol: It starkly shows that Hezbollah is an Islamic jihadist organization dedicated to the imposition of shariah across the world. Hezbollah's official name in Arabic, *Hizb Allah-Al-thawra Al-Islamiya fi Lubnan*, appears below the globe and means "The Islamic Revolution in Lebanon."

Visually, the positioning of the character "A" of "Allah" is linked above to the upraised arm with the AK-47, to signify divine sanction for the group. A Quran rests atop the letter "b" of the word "Hizb" (party), which is fashioned in the shape of a traditional lectern for the Muslim scriptures, conveying the message that Hezbollah is legitimate and based upon the Quran. Finally, emblazoned above the Hezbollah symbol is the Quranic verse, "*Fa-inna Hizb Allah hum alghalibun*," which means "Lo, the Party of God, they are the victorious ones."³¹³

Hezbollah was founded on and continues to follow the principles of not only traditional Shia Islam, but also the untraditional ideology of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. As discussed below, Khomeini's concept of *Velayat-e Faqih* puts a Shiite cleric in control of both political and theological power and claims supreme rule over all Shiites everywhere.

The Iranian constitution dedicates the regime to jihad to achieve the global spread of shariah. Hassan Nasrallah, the fourth and current Secretary General of Hezbollah, has publicly pledged fealty to the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as his *Marja* or spiritual leader. Like Iran, Hezbollah and Nasrallah proclaim their dedication to the destruction of Israel and "death to America."

HEZBOLLAH LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION

Nasrallah is an iconic figure to millions of Lebanese Shia. His fiery speeches evoking shariah and jihad contribute to the cult of personality that surrounds him. He was born in southern Lebanon and wears the black turban that signifies bloodline descent from the Prophet Mohammed. Nasrallah was educated in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf.

The Hezbollah leader is viewed as a tough, charismatic leader whose own son, Hadi, was killed in action against the Israelis in 1997. He lives under multiple layers of security in the Hezbollah stronghold of southern Beirut and is seldom seen in public for fear of Israeli assassination operations and rose to Hezbollah leadership in 1992 after Israeli forces killed his predecessor, Sheikh Abbas Musawi. He earned the sobriquet of “the man who never lies,” because of his record of turning military success against the Israeli Defense Forces into political gains for Lebanese Shiites.

Hezbollah is run by the Executive Shura headed by Secretary General Nasrallah, who manages the group’s day-to-day activities and makes all decisions related to financial, judicial, military, political, and social issues. The Consultative Council is comprised of 12 key figures among the Hezbollah leadership and meets on a weekly basis to discuss current matters. There is also a Supervisory Committee, or Politburo, comprised of 15 select Shiite clergy members, that conveys Consultative Council dictates to Lebanon’s regional areas and coordinates propaganda and support services at the local level.

Thanks to an annual infusion of funding from Iran that amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars, Hezbollah operates civil defense centers, clinics, hospitals, and schools across Shiite areas of Lebanon otherwise underserved by the central government. Hezbollah has been exceptionally adept at developing a grassroots network and insinuating itself into Lebanese society.

Hezbollah runs youth groups, scout troops, and summer camps that inculcate hatred of Jews, infidels and Americans from the earliest ages. In addition, it also provides physical and weapons training to children in preparation for later military service. The legendary loyalty of Hezbollah's fighters is inspired in part through absolute guarantees to care for its injured members and the families of the fallen, to educate their children, and to provide lifelong pensions to their widows.

Hezbollah's "social" and "charitable" activities do nothing to diminish its jihadist agenda and terrorist operations. They not only serve to promote *dawa* and recruit new adherents to shariah; they serve as a visible form of *taqiyya* as well. Specifically, these activities are calculated – and shrewdly used – to blur the hard edges of its identity in the eyes of a poorly informed and credulous international community.

One indication of the success of such deflections is, as noted below,³¹⁴ that even the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) issued – albeit under the guise of a *plausibly deniable* "Red Team" study – a paean to Hezbollah in May 2010. The paper suggested that because, among other considerations, Hezbollah has been so successful in translating its social services into a popular following, a change in U.S. government policy towards the organization is now warranted, with a view to expressing American-support for the Party of God's integration into the Lebanese political mainstream.

HEZBOLLAH'S INTELLIGENCE OPERATION

The organization has developed and fielded an intelligence apparatus that is highly capable, tightly organized and exceedingly difficult to penetrate. In part, its effectiveness derives from the fact that it functions along the lines of, and benefits from, Lebanese Shia clan loyalties. That reality is also a function of the organization's professional training under the formidable Iranian

services. Indeed, the Iranian IRGC and MOIS provide Hezbollah with secure training facilities on Iranian territory where Hezbollah cadres develop advanced intelligence and counterintelligence capabilities.

Hezbollah brings to bear double-agents, information and psychological operations and intelligence-gathering and penetration operations against both the Israelis and the United States. Busted cigarette-smuggling operations from North Carolina to Michigan suggest the presence of active Hezbollah cells in the United States.³¹⁵ The 2007 case of Hezbollah agent Nada N. Prouty, who obtained U.S. citizenship through a sham marriage, and then succeeded in infiltrating both the FBI and the CIA, provides an indication of the sophistication of Hezbollah's operations.³¹⁶

HEZBOLLAH'S INFORMATION OPERATIONS

Al-Manar (The Beacon) is the Hezbollah official television station that reaches across the Middle East and, via satellite, around the world. Al-Manar amounts to a powerful propaganda, indoctrination and recruitment vehicle, although it masquerades as a full schedule of news, commentary and educational programming.

In addition, Al-Manar pumps out a steady stream of dramatic music videos about Hezbollah suicide bombers and military operations. The cumulative effect of this diet of violent content in shaping public understanding of and support for shariah and jihad – including by inciting hatred against Israel and the West – among millions of Arabs and Muslims cannot be overstated.

HEZBOLLAH'S TERROR OPERATIONS

Hezbollah's worldwide terrorist operations are directed by the Special Security Apparatus (SSA), which is also responsible for intelligence and security matters. Long led by Imad Mughni-

yah, the man Israeli intelligence called “a triple Hezbollah-Iran-al Qaeda agent and terrorist executive,”³¹⁷ the SSA is charged with carrying out Hezbollah terror operations on orders of the Iranian Supreme Leader.

Mughniyah was killed in 2008, reportedly by the Israelis with inside support from Syrian intelligence. He remains, however, an iconic figure for jihadis the world over, remembered for masterminding a long list of high-profile terrorist attacks that culminated in the attacks of September 11, 2001, carried out in coordination with Iran and al Qaeda. In an emotional eulogy, delivered at Mughniyah’s funeral, Nasrallah promised Hezbollah revenge for Mughniyah’s killing.

STATE SUPPORT FOR HEZBOLLAH

Hezbollah activities are enabled by the support of two state sponsors of terrorism: Iran and Syria. Both find utility in using Hezbollah to conduct proxy warfare against Israel. As noted above, Iran provides the financial underpinning, without which Hezbollah would be incapable of operations on its current scale. Additionally, Iran supplies Hezbollah with its massive modern arsenal of missiles and rockets, whose expanding ranges increasingly are capable of reaching Israel’s major cities.

As noted above, Iran’s IRGC Qods Force, whose ultimate commander is the Iranian Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, serves in coordination with the Iranian MOIS as the Iranian regime’s liaison in this exceptionally close relationship with Hezbollah.

For its part, Syria, under the Baath dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad, also uses Hezbollah as a strategic force-multiplier to give the Alawite regime a front-line capability against Israel. Analyst Rachel Ehrenfeld cites intelligence sources as finding that, “The Bashar Assad regime not only allows Hezbollah to carry out terror attacks from Lebanese territory, as one of the expressions of sup-

port for the [Palestinian] Intifada, but also provides direct aid to Hezbollah, a step from which [Hafez] Assad Senior refrained.”³¹⁸ Syria views its ability to maintain military pressure against Israel as critical to its longstanding goal of forcing Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights and, thereafter, resuming the effort to destroy the Jewish State outright.

Syria plays a key role in Iranian efforts to supply arms to Hezbollah. Typically, shipments of such arms arrive at Damascus airport and are then trucked to the Bekaa Valley and other Hezbollah strongholds. The importance of this overland route is evident in the successful interception by Israel or the United States of ships carrying arms from Iran on no fewer than six different occasions between 2001 and 2010. As a result, Hezbollah was denied tons of sophisticated Iranian weaponry, underscoring the premium it must place on logistical arrangements with Syria that are less susceptible to such setbacks and humiliations for both the terror group and its sponsors.³¹⁹

HEZBOLLAH'S GLOBAL REACH

At Tehran's direction, and in support of the Iranian regime's global terror mission, Hezbollah has established cells throughout the world, including as noted above, in the United States. These cells are dedicated to fundraising, logistical support and terror operations and typically work in close liaison with Iranian IRGC/Qods Force and MOIS undercover operatives attached to Iranian diplomatic facilities. This arrangement gives Iran an expanded capability to attack American, Israeli and other Western interests while maintaining a measure of plausible deniability.

Two areas of Hezbollah activities outside of Lebanon warrant special mention:

Africa: Iran and Hezbollah have been expanding activities in West Africa since the 1990s, piggybacking off of large Shia Le-

banese populations who pursue business interests there. Iran's African outreach serves two overt purposes: (1) to court diplomatic support, especially for its nuclear program, in international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and (2) to extend Shia proselytizing to areas either traditionally Sunni or non-Muslim.

In addition, the Shia diaspora in West Africa, numbering hundreds of thousands, provides Hezbollah with millions of dollars in revenue each year. Besides voluntary contributions (*zakat*), Hezbollah levies an annual tax assessment on Shia businesses which is collected either in cash (by Hezbollah couriers) or remitted by electronic funds transfers directly to Lebanon.³²⁰ The lenient security environment in much of Africa provides Hezbollah a benign area in which to find safe-haven and conduct recruitment, fundraising and racketeering operations.

Hezbollah also derives illicit income from criminal enterprises in West Africa: The organization has long been involved in the "conflict" or "blood" diamonds trade. Hezbollah operatives introduced al Qaeda representatives to that business in the months before 9/11. Hezbollah is also involved in the precious mineral trade in Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and possibly Angola.³²¹ The money Hezbollah raises from its African gold and diamond business is used to buy weapons and fund jihadist operations, both in Lebanon and elsewhere around the world.³²²

Latin America: Hezbollah criminal and terrorist activity in the Tri-Border area of South America dates at least to the early 1990s. This region, where the borders of Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil come together, is notorious as a lawless safe-haven for arms-trafficking, contraband of all kinds, counterfeiting, drugs and terrorists. The Tri-Border area is a perfect breeding ground and recruiting venue for adherents to shariah, especially since a large

percentage of the population in the region is Muslim Arab, with Lebanese Shiites being the most numerous.

The Tri-Border area served as the Hezbollah planning and recruitment nexus for the Iranian plots in Argentina to bomb the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and AMIA Jewish Cultural Center in 1994. Declassified National Security Agency reporting traced the initiative and direction of the Israeli Embassy attack to the Supreme National Security Council of Iran.³²³ As Iran expands its diplomatic presence and influence throughout Latin America, Hezbollah, too, increasingly is active in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Mexico and elsewhere.

HEZBOLLAH AND THE DRUG TRADE

Hezbollah generates millions of dollars annually from the drug trade in the Balkans, Latin America and Lebanon. A benefit of Iran's expanding presence in South America is the opportunity it increasingly affords Hezbollah to derive significant income from the Andean cocaine trade, especially since Iran intensified its relationship with the Hugo Chavez regime in Venezuela.³²⁴

The Lebanese Beka'a Valley poppy and cannabis crop is another source of illicit narcotics income for Hezbollah. The Balkans serve as a major gateway to Europe for Hezbollah heroin which traverses the Balkan Road running through Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia.³²⁵ The fact that European "infidels" are the primary end-user of these drugs adds motivation and a source of satisfaction for Hezbollah jihadis.³²⁶

HEZBOLLAH AND THE UNITED STATES

The narcotics trade is not Hezbollah's only criminal enterprise, including some involving America and its vital interests. For example, the group was the manufacturer and distributor of high-quality counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills in the early 1990s, which were produced in the Beka'a Valley.³²⁷ Hezbollah also has been

involved with a laundry list of criminal scams, including the aforementioned cigarette smuggling operations, inside the United States that all contribute to the group's ability to conduct jihad in the service of Iran and their shared, worldwide mission of imposing shariah. They constitute a direct and material threat to this country and its people – one that is, to some extent, already present within the gates.

Still more Hezbollah operatives may be here soon, thanks to the organization's expanding presence just south of our border. The arrest in Mexico of one of the group's top terrorist commanders, Jameel Nasr, on charges of organizing and recruiting cadre there is deeply worrying.

Reports that such activities also involve converting Hispanics to Islam and the embrace of shariah greatly compounds a problem that has been evident for some time: A March 2009 report in the *Washington Times* described Hezbollah's use of Mexican drug cartel channels to run narcotics and illegals into the United States. According to Michael Braun, former assistant administrator and chief of operations at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Hezbollah relies on "the same criminal weapons smugglers, document traffickers and transportation experts as the drug cartels."³²⁸ To the extent that Hezbollah terrorists not only can pass for but actually *are* illegal aliens from Mexico (rather than Lebanon or elsewhere in the Middle East), the already complicated job of shutting down its smuggling operations will be made more difficult.

In sum, the Hezbollah track record gives Western security officials good reason to consider it even more dangerous than al Qaeda. Hezbollah's sponsors in the Iranian, Syrian and Lebanese governments provide: secure geographic bases of operations; access to increasingly modern and lethal weapons; and nation-state financial, intelligence, logistical and training resources.

Hezbollah remains fanatically dedicated to shariah and jihad, sophisticated and tenacious. Its mastery of explosives makes it the indispensable trainer of choice for Islamic terrorists, including al Qaeda, Iraqi Shiite and Sunni militias, and the Taliban. Hezbollah's close links to al Qaeda, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, coupled with bragging rights for having pressured Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and then fighting the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to a standstill in the Lebanese war during the summer of 2006, make it a force that commands and enjoys respect in all the wrong places.

Rising tensions across the Middle East fueled by Iran's aggressive ascendancy and its drive for a nuclear weapon, taken together with Hezbollah's unswerving allegiance to Tehran's mullahs³²⁹ and the group's alliance with al Qaeda, justify serious concern about the circumstances under which Hezbollah operatives around the world – and especially those in the United States – might be ordered to attack.

Hezbollah has the capability, means, and motive to strike whenever Tehran might command retaliation against Western interests in response to events in Afghanistan, Iraq, or Iran itself. That being the case, any proposals to treat Islamic terrorist groups such as Hezbollah as potentially legitimate political players³³⁰ would be folly on our part and viewed by our foes as further signs of weakness, irresolution and submission. Such perceptions invite not only stepped up *dawa*, but violent jihad, as well.

HAMAS

“Israel will arise and continue to exist until Islam abolishes it, as it abolished what went before.” (The words of) the shahed, Imam Hassan al-Bana, may Allah have mercy upon him.”

These words, from the opening of the Hamas Covenant, provide the *raison d'être* of this violent Palestinian offshoot of the