

Monthly Informatics Report

Developments in Arabic and Bahasa Indonesian Online Sites

March 2010

Introduction

This report provides an analysis of significant developments and trends of the online extremist websites and communities during the month of February. For the purpose of this report, extremist or jihadi websites refer to those propagating violence, or have members affiliated to terrorist organizations linked to Al Qaeda, such as Taliban and Al-Shabaab.

Summary of Significant Developments

Arabic Online Sites

- Spanish woman Alicia Gamez held hostage by AQIM was released due to health problems and her alleged conversion to Islam.
- Hizbul Islam Turkestani (HIT) denies any affiliations and similarities with the democratic parties of Turkestan.
- A manual instructing readers on how to produce rocket fuel was posted in English in the continuous effort to attract a wider audience.
- Islamic State of Iraq responded to its leader's speech concerning the crimes of democratic elections by launching the 'Fa'sul Khalil' campaign.

Bahasa Indonesia and Malay Language Online Sites

- Reiteration of the perceived victimization of Muslims is observed through the choice of articles which portray the European Islam situation in a simplistic way void of the historical, cultural, economical and political issues dynamics behind it.
- There is a clear absence of support for Obama's plans to visit Indonesia in the Bahasa Indonesia and Malay language online extremist community which had online forums churning their hatred and usual rhetoric on him.
- The act of spurring on the spirit of jihad continues this time instigated by the use of children as the inspiration for an individual to pursue their perceived jihad that would eventually lead an individual and his whole family to paradise.

Explanation of Sources

Arabic Sites

In the Arabic-language online Jihadist presence, a handful of forums make up the most important hubs for information exchange, propaganda distribution, strategic discussion, and theological and practical debate. Important materials and ideas appear on these websites first, before they are reposted on other virtual spaces of secondary and tertiary importance.

Most of these websites are password restricted, and all have the forum format. This means that content is posted by a wide member base, not by one website administrator. Terrorist and Islamist organizations maintain within these forums to post their material for them. In addition, any member can post materials, observations, comments, and questions.

While forums have demonstrated some mechanisms for policing content and evaluating the veracity of statements, this cannot be guaranteed. Further, the authenticity of statements, documents, or remarks from terrorist and Islamist organizations which appear on these websites cannot be verified to complete certainty.

Jihadist forum members are identified in this document by their self-selected user names, which are usually not their real names. Not all Jihadist forum members are active terrorists or members of terrorist or Islamist groups. The remarks of forum members are their own and are not necessarily representative of the views of any particular radical group. The value of these remarks is that, in many cases, they are one source to aid the counterterrorism community in better understanding the opinions, ideas, and worldview of individual extremists. Comments selected for translation and use in this document are typically chosen because they are representative of common views posts appearing on these forums.

Participants refer to the body of activities conducted by terrorists, radical Muslims, and their supporters on the Internet as “the online Jihad.” The Arabic language is the common language of the online Jihad internationally. Members and participants in these forums do not necessarily reside in Arab countries. Further, they concern themselves with matters pertaining to the entire Muslim world. Materials and discussion on these sites therefore do not only pertain to the Middle East/Arab countries. *Due to various security reasons, full URL of sources gathered is not disclosed.*

Bahasa Indonesia and Malay Language Sites

The Bahasa Indonesia sites which have been selected for monitoring have been evaluated and determined to represent important nodes of discussion and information exchange for Islamists in Indonesia and the neighboring region. This web presence is considerably smaller as compared to the Arabic websites, and has a local focus on Indonesia or nearby countries. Some of these sites have an element of interactivity, whereby members may contribute to content. Unlike the Arabic sites where there is more user input, content on most regional sites is controlled by an administrator or administrators.

This report will cover three major extremist and radical websites – arrahmah.com, muslimdaily.net and al-tawbah.com. Arrahmah.com and muslimdaily.net are run by and associated with high-profile Islamic extremist figures of the region. The former is owned and managed by Mohamed Jibril, son of Abu Jibriel - one of the key founders of Jemaah Islamiyah and current emir of Majlis Mujahidin Indonesia. Mohamed Jibril was also recently arrested for allegedly funding the July 2009 twin hotel bombings in Jakarta through links with Al-Qaeda. The latter is managed by the son of Abu Bakar Basyir, the former spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, former emir of Majlis Mujahidin Indonesia as well as current head of Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid. Al-tawbah.com or Forum Islam Al Tawbah is a password protected website that is among the most active in the region. This website is regularly updated with potentially dangerous materials such as motivation on jihad, videos of operations and bomb making manuals, cyber warfare manuals, combat training manuals and others. As part of a more holistic approach in analyzing online extremist activity, the report will also include extremist blogs and personal/group websites that do not have the same high traffic volume as the main sites listed above but contain useful information nonetheless.

Due to various security reasons, full URL of sources gathered is not disclosed.

User Statistics

Featured below is the percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country. The main objective of featuring this information on a monthly basis is to capture the country distribution of the visitors for each website.

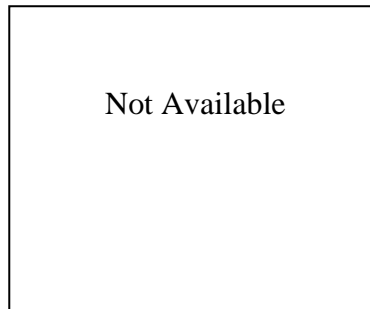
The data presented is for the top countries from which visits originate. They are gathered from alexa.com.¹ Data is available only for select websites and is extrapolated from a sample of traffic captured from the website. The true geographical locations of users employing proxy servers may not be represented accurately. Data represents traffic to the site for one random day (31 March 2010). The following websites have been chosen because of the bulk of articles selected from them for this month's report.

Al-faloja1.com²

*Al-Fallujah Islamic Forums

*This site has more than one URL – This is the only URL with traffic statistics.

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:



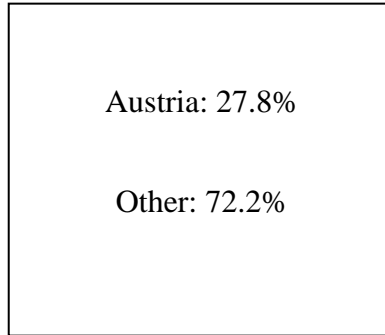
¹ www.alexa.com is a comprehensive web information company that provides traffic data and rankings for websites

² This site is currently down.

m3-f.com

Ma'arik Islamic Network

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:



as-ansar.com

Ansar Al-Mujahideen Network

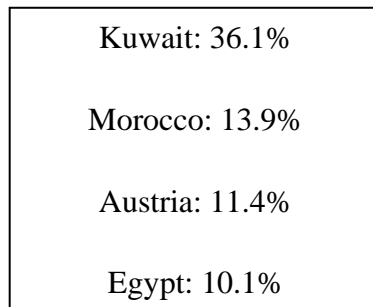
Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:



atahadi.com

Al-Tahaddi Islamic Network

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:



arrahmah.com

Arrahmah media

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:

Indonesia: 76.3%
India: 6.4%
Pakistan: 4.9%
Other: 12.4%

muslimdaily.net

Muslim Daily

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:

Indonesia: 84.9%
Saudi Arabia: 8.6%
Malaysia: 1.0%
Other: 5.5%

Al-tawbah.com

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:

Information Unavailable

Arabic Online Sites

Alicia Gamez Released After Conversion

Spanish national Alicia Gamez who was held hostage by AQIM was released after three months of captivity due to her health issues and after her alleged conversion to Islam. The statement claimed that Miss Gamez converted to Islam voluntarily and changed her name to 'Aishah'. On the contrary, reports showed that after her release, Miss Gamez did not make any comments regarding her alleged conversion to Islam, indicating that this propaganda was merely pretexts to her release. As this is a positive step initiated by the group, the Spanish government is expected to respond positively to this action and meet AQIM's demands as soon as possible. Alicia Gamez and two Spanish male aid workers were kidnapped in Mauritania on 29 November last year. AQIM demanded a five million dollar ransom for the hostages and the release of several Islamist prisoners held in Nouakchott's central prison, Mauritania³. Below is a photo taken with a woman allegedly to be Alicia Gamez who is seated in the middle wearing a headscarf, and two other Spanish hostages by her sides.



Hizbul Islam Turkestani Denies Affiliation with Democratic Parties⁴

³ Ennahar Online, 'Spanish Hostages: AQIM Wants 5 Million Dollars and the Release of Islamists'. <http://www.ennaharonline.com/en/sports/3373.html>. Ennahar Online. 12 March 2010.

Late March, Hizbul Islam Turkestani (HIT) – a radical Uyghur religious-nationalist group purportedly linked to Al-Qaeda – has issued a statement denying any ties with democratic parties and affirming that the group itself is not in any way a democratic party. It described how East Turkestan was once a peaceful Islamic country until communist China took over the country hence compelling mujahideen to fight against the communist forces. HIT acknowledged the establishments of democratic and secular parties of Turkestan but reject any relations with them and stressing that they are not responsible for the military operations - rightfully conducted by HIT - in the country as accused by the Chinese government. It explained that the group is not similar to the parties as the differences between them in terms of methodologies and ideologies are striking, emphasizing that the only way HIT operates is with armed jihad and strict adherence to Islamic teachings. HIT's denial of having any ties with democratic parties clearly points that like any other salafi-jihadi groups, democracy is absolutely rejected. This is the second written statement released by HIT this year, marking its mounting effort in online jihad.

Rocket Fuel English Manual Released

Mid March 2010, a manual instructing readers on how to make rocket fuel or propellant was released in English. The manual contributed by a member called Ra'dul Imlaak (giant's thunder) was a copy of an article posted in an amateur rocketry website⁵. In this article, the kind of rocket fuel discussed is a solid rocket propellant better known as 'rocket candy' or 'Rcandy'⁶. The author said that Rcandy was usually made in the oven, but recommended a better method using the skillet which he then provided with instructions on how to make the said propellant. Basically, Rcandy is relatively easy to make and the ingredients – sucrose (white sugar, cane sugar), potassium nitrate (salt peter), corn syrup and water – are available at any convenient stores and pharmacies. As Rcandy is used to propel rockets, terrorists have used it to make lob bombs or improvised rocket-assisted mortar/munition (IRAM)⁷, and were first widely employed by insurgents in Iraq in 2007 and Palestinian terrorists.

English articles (aside from translations and random articles posted on the other languages section in the forum) are rarely posted on the forums. This further emphasizes the extremist online community's attempt to reach out and attract non-Arabic English-speaking audience.

⁵ Recrystallized Rocketry, <http://www.jamesyawn.net/>.

⁶ "Rcandy" is a technique for making a rocket propellant from potassium nitrate and sugar without the necessity of melting either of these components. Instead, they are dissolved and re-crystallized, yielding a stable-burning propellant with interesting molding properties - it can be formed by hand into almost any shape.

⁷ A lob bomb is a type of improvised explosive made by packing a large metal canister with explosives and shrapnel, and then propelling it with the assistance of a rocket. Lob bombs are highly effective, extremely efficient, easy to make and hard to track down.

اضافة رد
 عرض آراء متشاركه غير عكس
 AM 07:04 , 15-03-2010

توابع عرض الموضوع أدوات الموضوع #1

هدية ساعة وكود لصايرة السعة الانجليزية

رد العناني
 عضو متشارك

تاريخ التسجيل: Cct 2009
 رقم العضوية: 6413
 المشاركات: 36
 الجنس: ذكر

Skillet Rcandy
 Large Batch made in Small Skillet
 Click Here for a video of this process.
 Large File Warning! 70 megs, .wmv format
 9 minutes of video.

After years of making propellant in the oven, and hearing from so many folks who wanted to try my method but couldn't do it in the kitchen, I was finally convinced to try some alternatives. The Sugar Syrup method worked, but required milling the KNO3 and yielded an inferior propellant. The toaster oven method worked for tiny batches, if done very carefully. The skillet method made somewhat larger batches, with considerably less trouble. At first, I was careful to make a very small amount so that only a thin layer of propellant solution was forming, thin enough that it could form flaky bubbles characteristic of the oven method and dry out undisturbed.

On a whim, I tried stirring the propellant just at the point the bubbles were forming, and found that the propellant "made" in just a few minutes rather than the customary hour.

Intrigued, I tried it with a somewhat larger batch, and found that it worked well.

To date, the largest batch I have made in this 10 inch skillet was 900 grams. This was a lot of work, so I have backed off to a still-substantial 650 gram batch.

Islamic State of Iraq Launches 'Fa'sul Khalil' Campaign

Following Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi's speech delivered last month on the crimes of elections, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) officially launched a military campaign called 'Fa'sul Khalil' in an effort to crush 'democracy idol' i.e. in this context, the Iraqi elections. The name 'Fa'sul Khalil' was named after Khalilullah (the friend of Allah; prophet Ibrahim's nickname) Ibrahim's axe which he used to crush the idols of the polytheists during his time. Success of bringing down the much-boasted security measures of the government and also the Green Zone was mentioned as an operation of the campaign. Headquarters of democratic and communist parties deemed as polytheistic were the targets of the campaign and a list of political parties taking part in the elections was also provided. As bombing attacks continues to ravage the country following the Iraqi elections, this campaign which targets offices of political parties that take part in the election are further deterring the electoral process.

Bahasa Indonesian and Malay Language Online Sites

European Liberalism = Muslim Woes

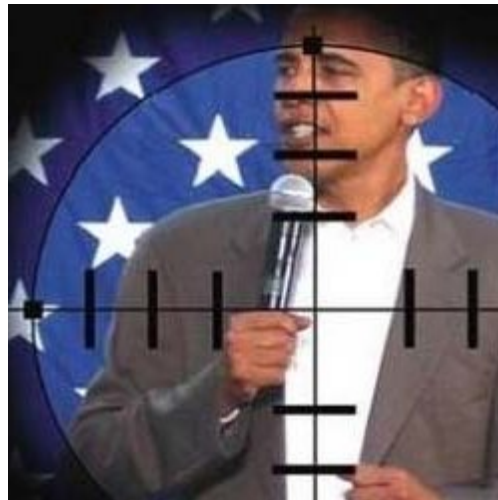


It is not surprising to have the Bahasa Indonesian and Malay language extremist cyber community believe that Europe is against Islam especially with the end of last year's France ban on the headscarves in public institutions, Switzerland's move to ban the minarets and Geert Wilders' continuous controversial proposed policies on Muslims. These sites have always shown themselves to be quick in reacting to global current issues and just like their counterparts in the virtual world, from the English to the Arabic online sites, they would inevitably process and interpret information through tinted lenses that lead them to derive conclusions which are essentially anti-Western and especially against the Jews and Christian communities. They vehemently believe that Europeans are against Islam, a belief that is not unusual among Islamist extremists especially since 9/11. This perception is reflected via the internet through the reiteration of a long list of what are deemed by the Islamist extremists as deeds of the slandering and hatred of Islam by the Europeans. This commentary was featured in an article posted on muslimdaily.net, and contained a listing of what the Europeans defended as acts of freedom of speech and the uphold of liberalism. These deeds such as Theo Van Gogh's 'Submission' film, Salman Rushdie's 'Satanic verses', Geert Wilders's 'Fitna' film and proposal to ban Muslim headscarves, Lars Viks prophet Muhammad's cartoons, and Switzerland's ban on minarets on the other hand, are interpreted by the online extremist community as clear acts against Islam. This reiteration of their standing on this issue is a constant product on the online sites and was reported by ICPVTR in the November Informatics report. Also, it is essential to notethat this article was originally taken from the *Washington Post*. Often times, we see contents from the mainstream media and opinions from the mainstream public reflected in the extremist sites. This signifies the existence of common grounds between the extremists and mainstream public. This in turn emphasises on the importance of such events to be reported more objectively and with sensitivity by the media. Such issues need to be explained its social, cultural, historical and

political dynamics so that the public would not be entrenched into understanding such issues through interpretation at face value⁸, one that would further give legitimacy and support to the terrorists' message - Islam is repressed and under attack, hence the need to fight back.

Clear Absence of Support for Obama

A country rich in cultural, religious and political diversity, Indonesia has always observed different opinions and reactions on the several issues it faces. The same occurred when the news on Obama's schedule to Indonesia hit the nation. In March, the month the US President had initially planned to visit Indonesia, the nation saw mixed reactions from its citizens. The reactions were varied, ranging from a demonstration in Papua by undergraduates blaming the US for the Freeport violence⁹, Nahdatul Ulama (NU) urging Indonesians to welcome Obama the peaceful Islamic way¹⁰ and students from Besuki Primary School preparing a performance to welcome the US president¹¹. Participants of the Bahasa Indonesian and Malay language extremist websites and forums displayed the usual rhetoric of hatred of the US and its President alongside random news updates on the President's changing schedule. The visit was eventually cancelled due to Obama's the priority placed on the President's push for US health system reform in his schedule.



⁸ Tuty Raihanah and Eric Frecon, "Islamophobia or Europhobia: Deconstructing the contemporary debates", RSIS commentaries. 23 February 2010

⁹ Demonstrasi Mahasiswa 'Sambut' Obama, http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xcmd85_demonstrasi-mahasiswa-ysambut-obam_shortfilms. *Dailymotion International*. 18 March 2010.

¹⁰ Edy Supriatna Sjafei, 'Sambut Obama Secara Islami', <http://www.antaraneews.com/berita/1268724706/sambut-obama-secara-islami>. *Antara News*. 16 March 2010.

¹¹ Hery Winarno, Lagu 'Barack Obama' Sambut Kedatangan Obama di SD Besuki' <http://us.detiknews.com/read/2010/03/15/232334/1318849/10/lagu-barack-obama-sambut-kedatangan-obama-di-sd-besuki>. *Detik News*. 15 March 2010.

The negative comments on the US, its president and its allies on this issue include the portrayal of a malevolent US as the root cause of the sufferings of Muslims globally, condemnation of the US perceived as terrorists who are forever against Islam and an Indonesian government which should be fought against due to being constantly in favor of the interests of the US. Some examples of these are: “Your nation is great. You infiltrate into our bureaucracy and make those foolish steps to deteriorate our financial state that would eventually have us beg to you”, “It is forbidden to cooperate with the enemy of Allah...” and “Here come the real terrorist, obama. May Allah the Almighty inflict all bads over u & those who welcome u for things u been done over global Moslems [*sic*]”.

‘Jihad’ and Children

Articles on the involvement of children in the world of terrorism are posted in the new and revamped **Almuhajirun.net**. The topic of the use of children in militant operations is not new in Islamist terrorism. In early 2008, news of children trained to assassinate and kill, and the carrying out of suicide bombings by youths were widely circulated in the mainstream media. News of such nature revolve around two incidents: The release of a video allegedly believed to be from Al Qaeda, showing children in balaclavas and AK47 training to kill and assassinate in an Al Qaeda camp in Iraq¹²; and suicide bombings in Iraq conducted by teenagers.



Compared to the Al Qaeda activities described above, the portrayal of the roles of children in what the extremist community regards as ‘jihad’ and understood by their adversary as terrorism, is more subtle in the articles found in **Almuhajirun.net**. Although the pictures featured a dangerous front of militant children with weapons and determination to wage ‘jihad’, the content of the articles coax for children’s rights to be protected, and act as motivation for their fathers to

¹² Martin Fletcher, ‘Children taught to kidnap and kill at ‘Al-Qaeda camp’ in Iraq’ <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/iraq/article3320938.ece>. TimesOnline. 7 February 2008.

wage the 'jihad'. It is also noteworthy that the pictures are not of Indonesian children, and most probably taken from another internet source. The article '*Bi, aku Teroris, aku balas mereka nanti* (Dad, I am a terrorist, I will take revenge upon them soon)' for instance, highlights the negative effects inflicted on a child when the 'terrorist' label is placed upon their fathers and when their identities are exposed alongside news that their fathers are involved in terrorist activities. The children of Fauzi Syarif, one of those killed on 9 March 2010 in an anti-terror operation conducted by Detachment 88 were reported to have had missed their semester exams. Their whereabouts too were not known.

Another article, '*Mengapa ayah tidak berjihad* (Why is it Father, that you do not wage jihad)'" emphasises the importance of the education of 'jihad' to the young generation, "...it is important for us to prepare them mentally and physically; to train them to carry weapons, to teach them to be brave, to have the spirit to go through jihad in the path of Allah, and to hope to die as a martyr. This is because to die as a martyr is the best path to be close to Allah'. It also relates a story of a model child who encourages her dad to wage 'jihad' because she believed that it would bring her family true blessings from Allah.