

Evolution of Terror: Family as a Terror Unit

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Abstract

After failing to propagate ideas publicly even in congregation, it is visible in this current global scenario, terrorists are homegrown utilizing family as a terror unit. To note, the interactions taking place in online communities can be brought under surveillance but the same cannot be done for the conversations taking place at the dinner table during family gatherings. Terrorists make the most of this opportunity and thus opt to use their family as a unit for spreading terrorism.

Terrorism and Family

NATO defines terrorism in the AAP-06 NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions, Edition 2014 as "the unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence against individuals or property in an attempt to coerce or intimidate governments or societies to achieve political, religious or ideological objectives." In this era of digitalization and even before the existence of an internet community, the first institution of a person's life has always been his/her family. The westernized perception of family has been popularized and widely accepted throughout the present world. The western idea of family relates the blood ties to oversimplified ideas of kinship which has ultimately led to a vague understanding regarding the subject matter. As days go by, joint families start breaking down to form nuclear families. Terrorist organizations propagating their ideologies, call for Jihad or even contribution and ask for more members and as we live, laugh and love there are members of the families around us preaching those very ideas of Jihad and calling for a new world order to their family members.

The Provisional Irish Republican Army

Of terrorism, a complex dynamics within the family exists to elaborate a result. Example of such a mechanism is found from Eannon Collin's recruitment of his cousin into his Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) unit due to the close and trusting relationship that existed between them since they were the members of the same family. Taking in family members basing on the strength of the relationship between the recruiter and the recruitment has been visible in this.

Lineage to Parental Ideas

Long since the inception of social media, even before the advent of internet and social inclusivity through the world wide web, terrorism was spread through the first wave in many banners. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Boko Haram and even the Lord's Resistance Army used family first tactics to spread the ideas of terrorism.

Lineage to parental ideas also determines the predisposition or feeling a sense of belongingness into a group, of like-minded people. In his autobiography, American Al-Shabaab fighter, Omar Hammami presents himself as the descent of both the IRS and the Al- Qaeda, by way of his parents who are of Irish and Syrian backgrounds respectively.

Family Taking the Stairs to Leadership

The process of radicalization seemed to be more fast paced and fruitful, creating a deeper impact when an elder member of the family was the one to enforce the idea of radicalization. In the recent family-as-a-terror-unit attack in Surabaya, Indonesia, the father was the initiator where 28 people were killed including the suicide bombers. Around 50 others were injured in which the bombers included children as young as nine years old who participated. Being shown radicalizing movies at a very young age, the two surviving children said that they were as they were homeschooled by the parents and friends of the friends and would meet with a private prayer group with other families every Sunday. A husband and wife were recorded and caught on their way to Syria and later known that the husband initiated the plan

Al Qaeda's Lineage

Three younger Bin Ladens. Khalid, Hamza and Saad have joined the family business. With Khalid being dead with his father in the NAVY SEAL raid in Abbottabad, 2011 Pakistan and Sa'ad got killed in a US drone strike in 2009 (Pakistan), the whereabouts of Hamza Bin Laden, who was reportedly being groomed to be his father's successor after Saad's death are still unknown.

Bangladeshi Context:

Starting from the advent of Hizbut Tahrir, Ansarullah Bangla Team, JMB it has already been established how female members are being asked by the male and head of the families to read, follow and preach the ideas given to them through books. Books received by these members through organizational connections and these females travelled to study circles around the city to around villages where once a week/ month they preach these ideas. Even the companies are self reliant when it comes to marriage as in multiple occasions it has been evident that the wife of a fellow organizational leader has been married to another leader of the organizational after the death her husband. This way the ideologies remained intact within a close knit group. A female

militant of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) arrested from Kachijhuli area in Mymensingh District of Mymensingh Division on May 18, Feroza Rahman worked in the women section of JMB. Other than a large number of militant books and leaflets being recovered from her it was known how she even preached her ideologies to her daughter, Rubaiya while her husband had no ideas regarding the incident. This is to show how Bangladesh stands as a context in this idea.

Bangladeshi Diaspora Abroad

Bangladesh's Akayed Ullah used to live with his elder brother and Momena Shoma in Australia radicalized her younger sister. Multiple arrests showed an O-level Teacher being caught in Bangladesh, as he was radicalized and was also intended to send his kids to Jihad. These phenomenon shed light on the current motivation of the current recruiters to use their family to join them in their war by their side, with or without their ideas being the same and sometimes with or without consent.

Recommendations

Prioritize strengthening of family based social networks and guardianship in schools and institutions. Supporting single parents and having proper planning for these families from the government and NGO's. We should be focusing on relationship exercise in workshops. Family oriented programs between both the parental sides of the family would have to reduce social isolation of the families and encourage strengthening of familial bonds through family activities. Ensure neighborhood practices and inter-faith discussion between the members of different religions and faiths in a society.

Threats for Bangladesh

With a more outward friendly and more internet savvy generation, the idea for IS' s children unit, " Cubs of Caliphate" or even JMB, AQIS's family integration and using Quranic verses without the context might lead to a more threatening approach in Bangladesh. The families in Bangladesh are more closely tied as our culture exhibits this ideology and as mutual beings related to segregation and mutuality of districts and Bangladesh's older generation massively lacking current digital knowledge, we step into the unknown in terms of family relations in the 21st Century.

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