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Analysis of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and
It's Implications on Global Security

Introduction

The operational definition of terrorism that will be the foundation of the analysis of Palestinian Islamic Jihad is its organized utilization and advocacy of chaos particularly as a way of pressuring the people or the government to satisfy their demands. The activities of Palestinian Islamic Jihad that create chaos are meant to induce fear, and this is supported by a thoroughly defined principle, as well as the neglect of the innocent people that can possibly be harmed in the midst of terrorist attacks.

The idea of terrorism that will be focused in this analysis is the inhuman and unethical actions being done by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The common trend in the activities of the group indicates that they frequently resort to terrorist activities to pursue its political objectives. Palestinian Islamic Jihad is typically inspired by its intention to attain independence rather than aspiring for unity of their group, which they actually consider as complicated and risky enough to pursue (Cordesman, 2001).

It is also important to consider the manner in which Palestinian Islamic Jihad implements its assaults and find out the common characteristics. Palestinian Islamic Jihad's assaults are frequently done in an effort to increase the degree of the effects and inflict massive damage and casualties on the innocent people. The group also targets to bring down important infrastructures of states to demonstrate their power and put more pressure on the government and the people. Palestinian Islamic Jihad knows that these forceful moves often catch the targets by surprise, and the more innovative the attack, the more publicity the group gets and the more formidable they become.

Nonetheless, it is clear that the operational definition of terrorism that will be used in this analysis of Palestinian Islamic Jihad will be centered on its political objective. It will be

interesting to find out what forces this terrorist group to resort to killing people just to be able to achieve its political goals. It is believed that Palestinian Islamic Jihad does not accept failure, which is the reason why its members are all ready to die to ensure the effective implementation of the attacks. It will also be interesting to see the impacts of the religious beliefs of Palestinian Islamic Jihad on the way they strategize and plan for their attacks.

Frequently, Palestinian Islamic Jihad perceives their targets not as sources of potential danger, but evil creatures that need to be eliminated to prevent them from continuing to wreak havoc in society. Their death fulfills Palestinian Islamic Jihad's objectives of establishing chaos, obtaining more public attention and recognition and staying true and loyal to their political and religious beliefs

Overview of Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Palestinian Islamic Jihad pertains to a terrorist organization that is situated in Palestine. The primary objective of the group is to annihilate Israel and establish a new state where they could rule. The people behind the establishment of Palestinian Islamic Jihad used to be ordinary Muslim pupils based in Egypt until they decided to make drastic efforts to forcefully destroy Israel through terrorism (Shai, 2005). The organization arose with the dedication to annihilate Israel and eventually establish themselves as rulers of a new Palestinian state. Palestinian Islamic Jihad was reportedly motivated by Islamic principles that approved the use of force and pressure to achieve political aspirations.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad is presently situated in Syria. However, security agencies have confirmed that the group has also established various headquarters in Lebanon and Iran. The

funds of Palestinian Islamic Jihad are presumed to be given by the countries that help them. The organization strikes mainly in the West Bank and other nearby locations where imminent threats are identified. It is believed that Palestinian Islamic Jihad is only a small group but is effective in identifying important members. Its limited strength prevents the group from planning or conducting extensive terrorist attacks, so they usually seek the help of other terrorist organizations.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad does not see any other way to destroy Israel but through terrorist attacks and the use of brutal force. The group has frequently rejected peaceful negotiations being initiated by Israel, believing that the Israeli government is not serious in their efforts to address their demands (Esposito, 2004). The arrests and killings of some of the members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad done by Israeli authorities have only added fuel to the fire, making the group increasingly frustrated and angered by these actions against them. Palestinian Islamic Jihad frequently retaliates by kidnapping members of Israeli media and bombing key business areas and communities within Israel.

One fascinating aspect of Palestinian Islamic Jihad is that they claim to be a group that aims to fulfill the real objectives of Islam. They advocate jihad as an important responsibility of Muslims, and that violence is necessary and has to be aimed towards Israel. They believe that Islam supports the independence of Palestine, even if this would require the sacrifice of the lives of people.

Nature of terrorist actions

Palestinian Islamic Jihad frequently implements suicide attacks that aim to victimize innocent people as well as law enforcement officers. It is to be noted though that the number of assaults within the borders of Israel has significantly declined after the establishment of more effective security measures. Palestinian Islamic Jihad does not also seem to be interested in destroying American facilities and American civilians in Israel, but the group has consistently warned the American government that its people are not exempted from their terrorist attacks in the future.

The involvement of females in the terrorist attacks of Palestinian Islamic Jihad is very much evident. The group has excelled in convincing seemingly innocent women to join them in their efforts to destroy Israel and liberate Palestine. The females that they recruited usually served important roles in the preparation and implementation of assaults, while there have been some that actually participated in the suicide attacks, willing to die for the sake of forwarding the political aspirations of the group.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad has been able to identify the benefits of the utilization of women in their activities, particularly within the borders of Israel (Rubin, 2003). The group is able to take advantage of the fact that in Israel, females are frequently seen as conservative and are not connected to violence. This way, these females are able to disguise themselves as seemingly innocent civilians and are able to freely roam around the cities of Israel, picking up the perfect locations where the suicide attacks can be done. As a result, majority of the suicide bombings of Palestinian Islamic Jihad inflict massive damage.

The women being recruited by Palestinian Islamic Jihad to join them in their terrorist attacks vary, but they usually have specific problems and burdens in life that make them easy

targets for the group. They could be women that have achieved a lot in their respective careers, or young females that have been abused by their parents that have forced them to become rebellious and aggressive. Palestinian Islamic Jihad does not have a hard time convincing them to even sacrifice their own lives for what they believe is a worthy and sensible reason or purpose to die for.

The group's initiatives to convince females to participate in their terrorist activities start with determining prospects in various academic institutions all over Palestine, and also in local communities and neighborhoods. After a significant number of females are effectively convinced, they are taught by the leaders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad that they have important roles to perform toward the liberation of Palestine in accordance to the teachings of Islam.

When things get difficult, Palestinian Islamic Jihad does not hesitate to use the mass media to convince people to join their group. This strategy allows them to reach out to a bigger audience and hopefully recruit a sufficient number of people to enable the effective implementation of their planned terrorist attacks (Mannes, 2004). Over the last couple of years, the group has learned to maximize the benefits of using the availability of the Internet as an effective medium to state their objectives and the reasons why they want to liberate Palestine and destroy Israel. So far, this strategy has generated mixed results for Palestinian Islamic Jihad as they are able to get both sympathy and criticism from the public for their efforts in recruiting potential members of their group.

Government Involvement

Experts believe that Iran is the country that is the primary financial supporter of Palestinian Islamic Jihad. America has also identified Syria in helping some members of the group to hide in their country. Lebanon has also been included in the discussion as another country that has been consistently helping Palestinian Islamic Jihad by supplying weapons and personnel to ensure the success of their terrorist attacks. All countries though have repeatedly denied their involvement with Palestinian Islamic Jihad saying that they do not support terrorist ideologies.

Intelligence reports from reliable sources, however, say otherwise. They all point to Iran as the major ally of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and this relationship has gotten stronger all throughout the years. Detained members of the group that were interrogated by authorities also acknowledged the support being given by the Iranian government, claiming that the country also shares their ideas regarding the complete liberation of Palestine and the necessary destruction of Israel.

The intelligence reports also verify the suspicion of security agencies that Syria is also supporting the cause of Palestinian Islamic Jihad by allowing its members to hide in the country. It is believed that Syria foresees itself as one of the many countries that can experience the advantages of the liberation of Palestine and the destruction of Israel (Palmer, 2008). This strong belief of the Syrian government has convinced them to acknowledge the existence of Palestinian Islamic Jihad as the group that can be able to fulfill this objective. In exchange, the members of the group receive protection once they are within the Syrian borders.

If there is one country that is a staunch critic of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the countries that support them, it is America. Ever since the September 11 bombings, the country

has never stopped in its efforts to bring to justice the people behind the operations of terrorist groups, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad is one on their list. Their troops stationed in Israel have arrested or killed more members of this group than any other terrorist group all over the world. The valuable information that they have gathered from abandoned hideouts of Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Syria and Palestine as well as from the testimonies of imprisoned members of the group have led the American government to believe that the group is indeed a formidable force to reckon with, and they have since increased their efforts to dismantle the group before it is too late.

America has also noticeably begun to distance itself or reduce its involvement with Iran and Syria, the two countries they believe are supporting Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The relations of America to these two countries have considerably disintegrated as America continues to receive more proofs that Iran and Syria have never really stopped supporting Palestinian Islamic Jihad in their terrorist attacks (Milton-Edwards, 1999). The ambassadors of America to these countries have worked tirelessly to convince their leaders to stop their support and allow the American government to dismantle Palestinian Islamic Jihad once and for all. These efforts, however, have not yet gotten any positive results.

America's relations with Israel, though, have gotten stronger as the country has received protection from America with the approval of the United Nations. The American government consistently sends troops to roam around the cities of Israel to ensure that the country can better address the security threats being posed by Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

International attention and policy shifts

There is no doubt that Palestinian Islamic Jihad has been able to get more international attention because of its terrorist attacks pointed towards the liberation of Palestine and the destruction of Israel. Specifically, the United Nations has condemned the group's continued usage of women in their suicide bombings. The UN believes that using women in their terrorist attacks is a cowardly and unethical approach, and has continued to criticize the group in this regard. However, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad has remained unnerved with the criticism from the United Nations and has even stepped up its efforts to recruit more women into their organization.

Concerning policy shifts, Israel and America have become conscious and careful in their dealings with Iran, Syria and Lebanon. America has tightened its surveillance efforts to determine the hideouts of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and get crucial information that could lead to the disruption of the plans of this group in causing chaos and casualties to innocent people. America, however, has been accused for torturing the members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad that they captured to make them reveal the information that they know about the group (Moravitz, 2005). The American government has acknowledged its mistake and has made sure to penalize those guilty parties. Because of this, policy changes in the proper handling of captured terrorists and the closure of hidden prisons where captured terrorists have reportedly been tortured have already been implemented to address these issues. This issue, however, has not prevented America in cooperation with the United Nations to continue its efforts to bring to justice these criminals and provide a safer place to live for the people of Israel, America and all countries concerned with having global peace.

Recommended mitigation efforts

It is impossible to think of recognizing the aims of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and simply giving in to their demands as a mitigation effort. It is natural for the Israel and America to respond negatively to the terrorist acts of the group as they put so many innocent lives in danger. If there was anything that could have been done to prevent the formation of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, it would have been the immediate fixing of the conflicts between Israel and Palestine. Had these countries resolved their issues early on, the emergence of terrorist groups that have become desperate all over the years in trying to bring down Israel would have been stopped effectively. Instead, the conflicts further intensified and the people of Israel are paying the price for the failure of peace to be attained.

At present, what can be done to at least minimize the impacts of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups is the effective cooperation of countries to bring to justice the terrorists and dismantle their groups. An organized set of policies have to be established to be able to know the proper ways to handle the trial and detainment of these terrorist and avoid confusion and criticism. As it stands, America is leading the way towards the drive to capture these terrorists and make them surrender to authorities. The United Nations has also made its stance and has sought the cooperation of member nations to actively participate in the dismantling of terrorist groups and give peace a chance to reign in this world.

Israel has to remain patient and keep their communication lines open for possible negotiations among terrorist groups. Diplomacy can still be used to prevent the unnecessary casualties and losses that could be done by terrorist groups once their demands are not satisfied immediately.

Conclusion

Palestinian Islamic Jihad may be a small terrorist organization, but the way they plan for their attacks and recruit for members is so effective that they almost never fail in their attacks. This is the reason why it is one of the most feared terrorist groups all over the world. Their attacks have resulted to massive damages, casualties and losses that have all the more established their reputation as a merciless organization ready to kill for and die for the destruction of Israel and the liberation of Palestine.

The group has continued its progress because of the massive support that is being given to them by Syria and Iran. While both countries have denied their involvement with Palestinian Islamic Jihad, American intelligence reports have found out the opposite. They unveiled reliable information linking Syria and Iran towards giving financial assistance and weaponry to the group, and this has been supported by testimonies by some of their captured members that have been detained.

America and the United Nations have joined hands in the effort to dismantle Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups that are considered significant threats to peace all over the world. After the horrible terrorist attacks that shocked the entire America, the country has never stopped in their mission to bring to justice all terrorists that have nothing but bad intentions to society. With the way things are going, it would take a long period of time before Palestinian Islamic Jihad would be completely dismantled, given their effective recruitment strategies and the protection they are getting from Syria and Iran. However, there is hope that countries advocating for peace will never stop in their efforts to help end the chaos being done by Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

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