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Director and Editor: Reuven Paz.

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Abstract: This is a series of papers that translate and analyze articles, reports, religious decrees, and other documents, written in Arabic by Islamist scholars, clerics, operatives, or intellectuals.

Who Wants to Email Al-Qaeda?

By Reuven Paz

(PRISM Series of Global Jihad, No. 2/2 – July 2004)

Introduction

On 18 July 2004 a post in one of the main Islamist forums of supporters of Global Jihad on the Internet—Ansarnet.ws—supplied an email address to contact the Saudi branch of the organization.¹ The address--sout@mail4all.us--was meant to use as “the Mujahidin’s mail of *Tanzim* al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.” It was posted by an Algerian using the nickname of “Sulayman ibn Al-Qa`qaa,” 24 years old, email address--elrahmane_34@yahoo.fr

The guy wrote that they would change the email from time to time. He warned the members of this forum to take the necessary precautions, and not to use the email through “a known Saudi phone” since it might be easy to trace the sender. Another member recommended not corresponding this address from home or work, and “if you do – leave the place within 15 minutes.”

¹ <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=11748>



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Find your host in the United States

The above said is just another example for the use of the Internet by Islamists, which is no longer surprising. Yet, on the margins of this phenomenon we find the enormous use of Western, primarily American, hosting companies, which rarely seem to care about it. This is just to show how easy it is for terrorists or Islamists to communicate through the Internet, using these companies.

Checking the Whois for mail4all.us says the website was newly created on June 16, 2004. The address <http://www.mail4all.us> actually redirects to <http://www.mail.com>. Mail.com is an emailing service company, which seems to be part of Easylink Services, a US based company. According to a link on their front page entitled "Protect yourself from fraudulent emails and websites," it appears they might have already been "bothered" by bogus stuff happening to them.

The Whois of mail4all.us shows that in addition to "Sout" there exists one other email address in this domain--maill4all. The address data on the Whois is Easylink's. The site was registered through:

GoDaddy.com (<http://www.godaddy.com>)

Domain Name: **MAIL4ALL.US**

Created on: 16-Jun-04

Expires on: 15-Jun-05

Last Updated on: 16-Jun-04

The administrative and technical contacts are:

Lo, Tony maill4all@mail4all.us

33 Knightsbridge Road

Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

United States

(732) 652-3352

Conclusion

The use of the Internet by the supporters of Global Jihad as part of an Open Global University of Jihad is no news anymore. Their main audience is the Muslim youngsters. The use of hosting companies and servers in the West is not new either. This report is just a reminder of the importance of this phenomenon, which is



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already recognized recently by the Saudi authorities as well. But, we should pay attention to several new developments in recent months in this field:

- There is a significant rise of participants in the Islamist forums that writes in English or in Arabic but in Latin letters. That means a rise in the interest of Muslim youngsters in Muslim communities in the West, in these forums and in supporting for Global Jihad.
- In the past two weeks, direct threats by Al-Qaeda translated into Italian appeared for the first time in these forums.
- There is a significant increase of placing military material by supporters of Al-Qaeda and Global Jihad, and better organized. It seems that there is a systematic collection of this kind of material, translation into Arabic of Western material, and organizing such manuals on the net.
- The two virtual magazines, which are published by Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia—Sawt al-Jihad and Al-Battar—are distributed on a well-organized basis, and became the main organs of the organization in Arabia and all over the Muslim world.

As mentioned above, this is a reminder of the efficient use of the Internet by these groups. One element is still dominant in this field, as in the ideological and doctrinal field of the culture of Global Jihad – the use of Arabic and the Arab world as the greenhouse of all its developments.

***** The archival research for this article was provided by TPCK"**