

# Al-Qaeda Is Pursuing Worldwide Jihad, Says Expert

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Local terrorist organizations worldwide are cooperating with Al-Qaeda in order to expand a global Jihad, warned Yoram Schweitzer. Schweitzer is the senior researcher of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS).

Taliban forces are looking to take over nuclear-armed Pakistan, and Somali rebels supported by Al-Qaeda are trying to overthrow the regime in Somalia, he said. Schweitzer said the main issue is whether it is possible to stop this worldwide Jihad, and whether a future major terrorist attack is only a matter of time.

"Contrary to various predictions that Al-Qaeda will disappear and will only remain as a kind of icon, the organization itself has never ceased its activities," said Schweitzer.

Schweitzer said, "It [Al-Qaeda] is a highly adaptable organization which enables it to cope with forces pressuring it, and simultaneously it is able to attend to and help other organizations. Thus we find a whole band of organizations which have united and declared loyalty to Al-Qaeda, even though they do not operate in the vicinity of Al-Qaeda's headquarters on the Pakistani-Afghan border, and are not under the command of Bin-Laden. Al-Qaeda fulfills only the role of a guide, like a spiritual leader saying, 'Look on me, and do likewise.'"

Schweitzer said that in addition to Al-Qaeda's central core in the Pakistani-Afghani border, it also operates an "international branch." According to Schweitzer, this branch actually locates independent terrorist elements belonging to different Jihad organizations around the world and motivates them according to their interests, like what happened during the attacks on the World Trade Center,

in London, Tunis and Madrid. **Restoring Islam's Lost Hegemony**

Schweitzer explained that the actual goal of the worldwide Jihad is to "restore Islam's lost hegemony" and return to the age of glory at the time of prophet Muhammad, and elevate Islam to its "rightful status" as ruler of the world. These different organizations strive to impede "heretic" regimes identified with the West; this is the reason why they try to strike the U.S. Without American support to these countries where the terrorist organiza-

**'The danger that nuclear weapon will be captured by Al-Qaeda is real.'**

—Yoram Schweitzer, senior researcher of the Institute for National Security Studies

tions are located, these terrorists think they will win their war.

Despite the mutual agenda of these terrorist organizations of a worldwide Jihad, there is a widening opposition to Jihad activities in the Arab world.

"The supporters who actively assist in this worldwide Jihad are a minority—not more than a few thousands," said Schweitzer. "Naturally there are those who are in favor of strikes against Western countries but they oppose Al-Qaeda's way of action and their reasoning. A growing number of people do not agree with their way of action because they harm Muslims as well, and above all, they kill innocent people."

Lately, Taliban forces who cooperate with Al-Qaeda have begun to take over strategic areas in Pakistan and are now engaged in bloody battles with the Pakistani Armed Forces. Considering that Pakistan has a nuclear arsenal,

there is strong concern in the world that some of these nuclear arms will be captured by a fundamentalist organization like Al-Qaeda.

"The danger that nuclear weapon will be captured by Al-Qaeda is real," says Schweitzer.

"Although the arsenals are safely guarded and the Pakistanis will never let them to take over their state, the Pakistanis do realize the consequences of nuclear weapon being possessed by such radical elements, and so they are ready to exert far reaching efforts along with the Americans and other countries to prevent Al-Qaeda from obtaining nuclear weapons."

## Global Alliance Against Jihad

"Obama and the Americans understand now what the Bush administration have recognized before," said Schweitzer.

"The next war against Al-Qaeda will be fought at the Pakistani-Afghan border—the center of Al-Qaeda. The area is a very complicated geographical and topographical battlefield, but efforts should be made there."

Schweitzer added that in addition to the fighting in Pakistan, there is an international chase after Al-Qaeda and the worldwide Jihad, conducted by the international intelligence community.

Although the struggle against fundamentalist organizations taking place today in Pakistan and Somalia seems far away, Schweitzer said the Israeli intelligence is well aware of possible consequences of the struggle, and Israel shares a part in the international intelligence gathering efforts against this worldwide Jihad.

"Our unique contribution is our quickness and our focus," Schweitzer explained. "Still, even with strong efforts by the international community, there is no guarantee that a dramatic terrorist attack will not happen in the near future."



**MISSING:** Passengers stand in line at Air France counters at Rio de Janeiro's international airport on June 1. Air France flight AF447 bound from Rio de Janeiro to Paris was reported missing over the Atlantic early on June 1. All 228 people on board are feared dead. (DAVID J. PHILLIPS/GETTY IMAGES)

## Air France Jet Missing Over Atlantic

### AIR FRANCE CONTINUED FROM A1

"We need to study the technical results from the black box," she added, referring to the cockpit recorder.

Sources with access to flight data sent to the World Meteorological Organization said two Lufthansa jets passed through the same area of turbulence on Monday without incident. Aviation experts said lightning strikes on planes were common and could not alone explain a disaster.

### Electrical Failure

They said the plane could have suffered an electrical failure, effectively leaving the pilots "blind" and making the plane more vulnerable in an area notorious for harsh weather.

Senior French minister Jean-Louis Borloo ruled out a hijacking.

Tearful relatives were led away by airport staff in Paris to a private area where psychologists assisted them. In Rio, relatives rushed to the international airport early in the morning seeking information about the flight.

Vazti Ester Van Sluijs, 70, said that

at the last minute she had changed plans to see her 40-year-old daughter Adriana at the airport, where the plane's number was displayed for hours as simply "delayed."

"Just before boarding, she called me asking where I was. I only had time to tell her that she was the best daughter in the world," she said, adding she still had hope for her survival.

One of the Brazilians on board was Pedro Luis de Orleans e Braganca, a direct descendant of Dom Pedro II, the last emperor of Brazil, a spokesman for the royal family told Reuters.

Executives from French tire company Michelin, the Brazil unit of German steelmaker ThyssenKrupp, and Brazilian mining giant Vale were also among the passengers, said company officials and family members.

Brazil's air force, which last had contact with the plane at 0133 GMT when it was 565 km (350 miles) from Brazil's coast, sent six jets and two helicopters to look for it and the Brazilian navy dispatched three ships to help in the search.

The navy said the ships would

not arrive at the last known position of the aircraft, 800 km (500 miles) northeast of the city of Natal, until Tuesday night, and aviation experts said it could take a long time to locate the black box.

France sent one of its air force planes from west Africa and several ships. Sarkozy said Spain was helping in the mission and Paris had asked the United States to assist in locating the crash site using U.S. satellite data.

"It seems the zone has been identified down to within 10 nautical miles," Borloo said on France 2 state television.

Air France said the plane, which was powered with General Electric engines, had 18,870 flight hours on the clock and went into service in April 2005. It last underwent maintenance in a hangar in April this year. The pilots were also very experienced, the airline said.

The last incident with major loss of life involving an Air France plane was in July 2000 when one of its Concorde supersonic airliners crashed just after taking off from Paris, bound for New York. At least 113 people died in the disaster.



**NO NUKES:** Missiles are displayed at the war museum in Seoul on June 1. The United States and Japan said on Monday the two countries will not accept North Korea possessing nuclear weapons. (PHILIPPE LOPEZ/AP/GETTY IMAGES)

## U.S., Japan Say Won't Accept Nuclear-Armed North Korea

TOKYO (Reuters)—The United States and Japan agreed on Monday they cannot accept a nuclear-armed North Korea, saying they are deeply concerned about recent "destabilizing" actions by the isolated communist state.

"We absolutely cannot accept that North Korea will have nuclear weapons," Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka said after meeting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Jim Steinberg.

North Korea raised tension in the region after conducting a nuclear test last week, which put it closer to having a working atomic bomb, and test-firing a barrage of short-range missiles.

South Korean media reported on Monday that Pyongyang could test-fire this month a long-range missile designed to strike U.S. territory.

Steinberg said relevant countries have been holding productive discussions on what steps they can take at the United Nations Security Council and elsewhere to make clear to Pyongyang that its recent actions are "a bad path to go down."

"We stand united in making clear our deep concerns about North Korea's highly destabilizing actions," Steinberg told reporters in Tokyo after meeting with Japanese officials.

"We reaffirm our commitment to work together along with South Korea, China and Russia to return North Korea to the path of complete and verifiable denuclearization," Steinberg added.

Steinberg is leading a U.S. delegation to Asia this week to consult on how to respond to North Korea's latest nuclear test.

As six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program have not produced the results that member nations have hoped for, Yabunaka said he saw the need to consider a new approach to make the framework more effective.

"We need to think about how to proceed from now. We should reflect on the current situation and how much our approach so far has succeeded and think about a new approach," Yabunaka told a news conference.

But Yabunaka also stressed that the six-party talks remained an effective framework.

In Manila, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Washington was not in a hurry to look for options other than six-party talks on North Korea.

## Chinese Regime Rushes to Finalize Waitress Rape Case

### RAPE CASE CONTINUED FROM A1

According to some Chinese bloggers, nine days after the attempted rape happened on May 10, the Hebei provincial party committee and party legal and political committee already knew exactly what had happened. The bloggers claim that, in addition to the three low level cadres who have been implicated, a high-level cadre was also involved or present during the incident.

However, according to the bloggers, in order to cover up the involvement of the high-level cadre, the local police have repeatedly changed the investigation report. As part of the cover up, the local authorities accused Deng of having mental problems and locked her into a police-controlled mental hospital where she was tied to a bed for five days.

Deng's situation changed only after a local TV station happened

to broadcast pictures of her tied to the hospital bed.

The regime now claims that Deng has been released from the detention center and was under house arrest. But except for a video released by state-run media showing Deng having a meal with her family, there has been no confirmation of the regime's claim. No other media has had a chance to contact her.



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