

## Creating the Perfect Bogeymen

*The truth is, there is no Islamic army or terrorist group called Al Qaida. And any informed intelligence officer knows this. But there is a propaganda campaign to make the public believe in the presence of an identified entity representing the 'devil' only in order to drive the 'TV watcher' to accept a unified international leadership for a war against terrorism. The country behind this propaganda is the U.S. and the lobbyists for the U.S. war on terrorism are only interested in making money.*

--Pierre-Henry Bunel, former French military intelligence

There are terrorists in foreign nations and within our borders that hate the United States. These terrorists would probably choose to call themselves *freedom fighters*.

But these terrorists had quite a bit of help getting organized, and most of that help came from the United States.

The following is a reprint of an article written by Pierre-Henry Bunel, a former agent for French military intelligence. This article can be accessed in the Apr.-Jun. 2004 issue of *World Affairs*, a journal based in New Delhi. It can also be found on Wayne Madsen's website: <http://www.waynemadsenreport.com/nov10-1805.htm>

"I first heard about Al-Qaida while I was attending the Command and Staff course in Jordan. I was a French officer at that time and the French Armed Forces had close contacts and cooperation with Jordan . . .

"Two of my Jordanian colleagues were experts in computers. They were air defense officers. Using computer science slang, they introduced a series of jokes about students' punishment.

"For example, when one of us was late at the bus stop to leave the Staff College, the two officers used to tell us: 'You'll be noted in *Q eiday il-Maaloomaat*, which meant 'You'll be logged in the information database.' Meaning 'You will receive a warning . . .' If the case was more severe, they would . . . talk about *Q eiday i-Taaleemaat*. Meaning 'the decision database.' It meant 'you will be punished.' For the worst cases they used to speak of logging in *Al Qaida*.

"In the early 1980s the Islamic Bank for Development, which is located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, like the Permanent Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization, bought a new computerized system to cope with its accounting and communication requirements. At the time the system was more sophisticated than necessary for their actual needs.

"It was decided to use a part of the system's memory to host the Islamic Conference's database. It was possible for the countries attending to access the database by telephone: an Intranet, in modern language. The governments of the member-countries as well as some of their embassies in the world were connected to that network.

"[According to a Pakistani major] the database was divided into two parts, the information file where the participants in the meetings could pick up and send information they needed, and the decision file where the decisions made during the previous sessions were recorded and stored. In Arabic, the files were called, *Q eiday il-Maaloomaat* and *Q eiday i-Taaleemaat*. Those two files were kept in one file called in Arabic *Q eiday ilmu'ti'aat*, which is the exact translation of the English word *database*. But the Arabs commonly used the short word *Al Qaida*, which is the Arabic word for *base*. The military airbase of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia is called *q eiday 'riyadh al'askariya*. *Q eida* means "a base" and *Al Qaida* means "the base."

“In the mid-1980s, Al Qaida was a database located in computer and dedicated to the communications of the Islamic Conference's secretariat.

“In the early 1990s, I was a military intelligence officer in the Headquarters of the French Rapid Action Force. Because of my skills in Arabic my job was also to translate a lot of faxes and letters seized or intercepted by our intelligence services . . . We often got intercepted material sent by Islamic networks operating from the UK or from Belgium.

“These documents contained directions sent to Islamic armed groups in Algeria or in France. The messages quoted the sources of statements to be exploited in the redaction of the tracts or leaflets, or to be introduced in video or tapes to be sent to the media. The most commonly quoted sources were the United Nations, the non-aligned countries, the UNHCR and . . . Al Qaida.

“Al Qaida remained the data base of the Islamic Conference. Not all member countries of the Islamic Conference are 'rogue states' and many Islamic groups could pick up information from the databases. It was but natural for Osama Bin Laden to be connected to this network. He is a member of an important family in the banking and business world.

“Because of the presence of 'rogue states,' it became easy for terrorist groups to use the email of the database. Hence, the email of Al Qaida was used, with some interface system, providing secrecy, for the families of the mujaheddin to keep links with their children undergoing training in Afghanistan, or in Libya or in the Beqaa valley, Lebanon. Or in action anywhere in the battlefields where the extremists sponsored by all the rogue states used to fight. And the rogue states included Saudi Arabia. When Osama bin Laden was an American agent in Afghanistan, the Al Qaida Intranet was a good communication system through coded or covert messages.

“Meet Al Qaeda.

“Al Qaida was neither a terrorist group nor Osama bin Laden's personal property. . . . The terrorist actions in Turkey in 2003 were carried out by Turks and the motives were local and not international, unified, or joint. These crimes put the Turkish government in a difficult position vis-a-vis the British and the Israelis. But the attacks certainly intended to ‘punish’ Prime Minister Erdogan for being a *toot tepid* Islamic politician.

“In the Third World the general opinion is that the countries using weapons of mass destruction for economic purposes in the service of imperialism are in fact rogue states, especially the U.S. and other NATO countries.

“Some Islamic economic lobbies are conducting a war against the *liberal* economic lobbies. They use local terrorist groups claiming to act on behalf of Al Qaida. On the other hand, national armies invade independent countries under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council and carry out pre-emptive wars. And the real sponsors of these wars are not governments but the lobbies concealed behind them.

“The truth is, there is no Islamic army or terrorist group called Al Qaida. And any informed intelligence officer knows this. But there is a propaganda campaign to make the public believe in the presence of an identified entity representing the ‘devil’ only in order to drive the ‘TV watcher’ to accept a unified international leadership for a war against terrorism. The country behind this propaganda is the U.S. and the lobbyists for the U.S. war on terrorism are only interested in making money.”