

Summarized English Translation

Safety and Security guidelines  
for Lone Wolf Mujahideen and small cells



للأخ المجاهد  
أبي عبيدة عبدالله العدم  
حفظه الله

الصادرة عن مركز الفجر للإعلام

by the Mujahid brother  
Abu Ubayda Abdullah al-Adm  
May Allah accept him

initially by al-Fajr Media Center

## **Translator's foreword**

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Most Merciful,

We present you this modest work for lone wolf Mujahideen and small cells of brothers who want to bring victory to this religion. This is originally a series of lecture in 30 parts by Aby Abdallah al-Adam (rahimahullah) about safety & security in Jihadi work. It was initially meant for Mujahideen groups (organizations) and not lone wolves, but we have tried to adapt it and pick what's important and leave what's not relevant for an individual Mujahid and small groups. No doubt that today, at the era of the lone wolves, brothers in the West need to know some important things about safety in order to ensure success in their operations.

We have also adapted some parts, taking into account the latest technological advances, for example in the field of encryption and safety of documents.

This series was released by al-Fajr Media Centre a few years ago, in Arabic. We thought a lot of non-Arabic speaking brothers would find it interesting and may apply it in their blessed operations.

We ask Allah to accept our work and we ask you in advance to excuse us for any typo or errors. All good in this work is from Allah, and the mistakes are from us alone.

## **Chapter 1**

Definition of Security, its importance and its obligation to Islam

In the name of Allah, all praises be to Allah, and peace be upon His messenger. There is nothing easy except what You make easy, and You are capable of making anything You want easy.

First of all, we ask Allah to accept from you and myself our Hijra, our ribaat and our Jihad, and we ask Him to use us to give victory to His religion and make ground for Sharia on earth. We thank Him that he has chosen us in this particular time in History where millions are sitting and neglecting Jihad and fighting for this religion. He chose us by His mercy to we follow the right path, and fight the enemies of the religion, and this is, without doubt, an enormous mercy from our Lord to us. We ask Him to honor us with the reward of martyrdom for His sake.

Before we start this session, I would like to congratulate the Ummah of Islam on the heroic operation carried out by our brother, the martyr Abu Dujana al-Khurasani (Hamam bin Khalil Abu Mallal al-Balawi)

It was an extremely complicated operation on the security and intelligence point of view, it has targeted a spying base in Khost (in camp Chapman). It is a base that hosts the operational centers for drone operations. During the operation, 7 CIA officers, from among those responsible for security and intelligence ops in Pakistan and Afghanistan, have been killed, and also a Jordanian officer, "Sharif Ali bin Zayd".

And there is no doubt that this operation will be considered the worst attack ever perpetrated on the CIA during its whole history, even during the war with the Russian KGB and other intelligence agencies. Never, in the history of intelligence agencies, have they seen anything compared to that operation, in which Al-Qaeda used all kinds of ruse, techniques and breaches into the CIA and Jordanian intelligence, until it was able to hit hard.

And there is also no doubt that this work could never have been complete except by the permission of Allah – All praises to be Him – then to the heroic Mujahid "Hamam Khalil al-Balawi" and to the special teams from AQ and the logistical support he got. We ask Allah to accept everyone's work, and to accept our brother Abu Dujana among the martyrs, the sincere and the righteous, and to elevate his rank on the Day of Judgment, and we congratulate his wife and family in Jordan & Palestine, and his tribe "Bir al-Sabea" for this blessed operation, that was a response to the killing of many of our brothers and Mujahideen leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and also a response to the savage Israeli bombing of Gaza a year and a half ago.

One of the messages that the brothers wanted to send to the CIA and the Jordanian intel is to tell them that the Mujahideen's hand is indeed very long, and with Allah's permission can reach them even in their fortified bases, and that this operation isn't the first and won't be the last with the permission of Allah, and what's coming in the future will be worse for them.

And I also want to stress something very important here, which is the objective of Jihad for the sake of Allah. A lot of the brothers come here and their only concern is how they are going to get killed. There is no doubt that martyrdom for the sake of Allah is a great honor, a blessed rank, a noble blessing from Allah, that He gives to those He is pleased with, and no doubt that in regard to Sharia, it is something that is permissible to strive for. But we must not forget also that the religion of Allah needs men who are ready to carry a big responsibility on their shoulders.

The objective of this religion, as al-Baydawi and Ibn Ashour said in their tafseer, is to keep men to preserve the religion. Al-Baydawi said in his tafseer of the verse “And he who fights in the cause of Allah and is killed or achieves victory” (4:74): “This points out the fact that the Mujahid has to be patient during the battle until he is honored in himself with martyrdom or honored in his religion by victory, and that his goal shouldn’t be to be killed only but also to make Allah’s word the highest”.

So the objective of Jihad is to make Allah’s word the highest, and the brother shouldn’t just want to attain martyrdom, even if, as we said, martyrdom is a great honor and a blessing and it’s permissible to strive for it in Sharia. We just want to insist that the global objective should be to make Allah’s word the highest. Our noble shaikh Abdullah Azzam (rh) said: “Finding the funds is easy, but finding the men is difficult”.

Finding the finances and money is easy, but finding the men who are ready to carry this responsibility of this religion, teach it to people and establish the rule of Allah on earth, those are a tiny minority, and especially during these times where abiding to religion makes you a stranger.

For that reason, it is important to preserve the Mujahid brother and the Mujahideen, and we must do all the necessary effort to preserve them and protect them. For that reason, you will notice that some modern scholars like Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi or Abu Qatada and others have given a lot of pre-conditions for the permissibility of martyrdom operations. The reason is to make the brother try to explore all the other possibilities, because of the rarity of the righteous religious Mujahid in our times.

So the Mujahid brother has always to put in front of him the objective, which is how to give victory to Allah and His religion, and how to raise high the banner of Islam, and not make his first preoccupation how he is going to get killed. On the contrary, he must preserve himself as much as he can.

With this series of lectures, by the permission of Allah, will teach the brothers how to preserve themselves and stay alive, far from imprisonment by the Tawaghit, and help him to attain his objective of raising Allah’s word the highest.

Also, it will help the brothers to reach and reach their targets. Mainly, this is for the brothers who want to work in secret. No doubt that they need information and training on safety and security. We ask Allah to accept everyone’s work.

This series of lecture will give the ability to the brothers to firstly, protect themselves – because for me, individual safety is more important than the operation– and secondly, help them define and reach their targets.

When we talk about safety and security, remember Sh. Abu Zubayda’s words: Any operation that doesn’t have a strong security and precaution base is deemed to fail, just like a big building needs strong foundations. Security precautions are the foundations of any operation.

Let us talk about the advantages of safety and security:

**Firstly:** They ensure the element of surprise for the enemy, and this is a well-known concept in war in order to achieve victory. Surprise is half of victory, and to surprise the enemy in both the time and location where you will hit maximizes your chances of success.

**Secondly:** Security is a pillar among the pillars of war, you can't plan any kind of operation if you don't know his military capabilities, his human resources, the kind of material he will be using, the weapons he has. All this falls into the information-gathering part, and it is of great importance. And of course, if you don't want what the enemy has, you won't be able to succeed in your operation.

**Thirdly:** it makes you – and your group – more aware of what the enemy can do, thus you prepare yourself accordingly to deal with the enemy.

**Fourthly:** It decreases – with the permission of Allah – the losses in your ranks and capabilities. We have heard a lot of about individuals or small groups that fail their operations because of mistakes. But if precautions and safety is taken seriously, these errors can be reduced significantly, thus increasing the chances the operation will be successful.

When I talk about the element of surprise, think a little bit about what happened during 9/11 events. The US never thought we would hit them at home. They were expecting an attack outside their territory – that's why they were fortifying their embassies, hiring guards, security and putting cameras. They were defending their military boats all around shores in the Islamic world, until the hard hit came to them in the heart of their lands, with their own planes.

Even the brothers that did the operation didn't think it will be something of that magnitude. In reality, all those who were sent to the US didn't know the nature of the operation. Of course, they knew it would be a martyrdom operation, because they didn't know the details of where/how/when. The only one that knew were the pilots. Why? To secure the operation. If one of the brothers gets caught and interrogated, he can't say anything that will endanger the operation.

Now let's talk about safety & security from a Sharia point of view.

As you know, Allah created the universe and he created the "asbab" (reasons) and causality. If the human being takes the right causality reasons he will attain his objective by Allah's will, but if he does not, he will fail for sure.

And these asbab (causality reasons) don't care if you're Muslim or a Kafir, because they were created for the entire Universe. Allah says in the Quran:

وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ رِبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ  
 تُرْهِبُونَ بِهِ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ وَعَدُوَّكُمْ وَءَاخِرِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ لَا  
 نَعْلَمُونَهُمْ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُهُمْ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ شَيْءٍ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ يُوَفَّ  
 إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تُظْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾

“And prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war by which you may terrify the enemy of Allah and your enemy” (8:60)

And there is no doubt that taking the right precautions and ensuring the safety and security of the operation is part of the preparation. No doubt also that today’s war with America is a war of information,

a covert war. The US today use technology to fight us, they use drones, spies among the Mujahideen. It’s a new form of asymmetric warfare. They don’t know us, they don’t see us, until they get enough info to reach us.

So our war today is a covert war, and to ensure victory, you have to be cautious.

And Allah says also:

وَإِذَا جَاءَهُمْ أَمْرٌ مِنَ الْأَمْنِ أَوِ الْخَوْفِ أَذَاعُوا بِهِ ۖ وَلَوْ رَدُّوهُ إِلَى  
 الرَّسُولِ وَإِلَىٰ أُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْهُمْ لَعَلِمَهُ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَنْبِطُونَهُ مِنْهُمْ  
 وَلَوْ لَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ لَاتَّبَعْتُمُ الشَّيْطَانَ إِلَّا  
 قَلِيلًا ﴿٨٣﴾

“And when there comes to them information about [public] security or fear, they spread it around. But if they had referred it back to the Messenger or to those of authority among them, then the ones who [can] draw correct conclusions from it would have known about it.” (4:83)

So we are ordered to 1- take information about security and 2- draw the correct conclusions and act upon them.

And there are also other verses with the same meaning: “O you who have believed, take your precautions” and in surat al-Kahf: “They said, “Your Lord is most knowing of how long you remained. So send one of you with this silver coin of yours to the city and let him look to which is the best of food and bring you provision from it and let him be cautious. And let no one be aware of you.” And the meaning here is very clear.

In the Sira (biography) of the Prophet peace be upon him, there are plenty of these examples. You know, for example, that the prophet made Hijra from Mecca to Medina, and if you look into what happened in details, you will see he took a lot of precautions.

For example, take Ali ibn abi Talib (ra). He slept in the bed of the Prophet peace be upon him as a cover for him, until the disbelievers of Quraysh saw him and thought that was the Prophet in his place, while at that moment he was in Abu Bakr’s house (ra). And they only moved when people were heavily asleep. They didn’t wait until people slept because they were afraid, but because they took precautions. Same thing, when they went out, Abu Bakr and the Prophet peace be upon him went out from 2 different doors – in case one of them would be under surveillance.

There are other examples: Asmaa daughter of Abu Bakr used to come to the Prophet and Abu Bakr in secret with food, and Abdullah ibn Abu Bakr used to come to them with information from Mecca to Medine, which shows that the Prophet used to take his precautions and gave security & safety a lot of importance. And there are many other examples in his Sira.

And if we look at the biography of the Companions we find a lot of similar examples. We all know the story of how Omar ibn al-Khattab (ra) entered Islam and how his sister used to hide her Islam. The biographies of the Companions has plenty of similar examples where security is important.

And remember that our war today with the United States is entirely based on security. America today is almost done on the economic level, and on the military level it has lost a lot of its old prestige – after being expelled in humiliation from Afghanistan. Intelligence and information war will determine who will stay at the end, and with the permission of Allah, his truthful soldiers will be victorious.

## **Security & Safety, between negligence and paranoia**

The title here is quite clear, one has to stand at the middle ground between these two extremes. If you don't have anything too important to hide, there is no need to act extremely cautious, because that can lead to suspicions towards you and get you caught for nothing.

On the other side, if you have a brother who's working on secret operations, and moves without taking the right security measures, he will harm himself and also harm the other brothers working with him.

There also brothers who want to work in secret operations, and in the same time make Dawa to people. This is not right, because those who want to do Dawa should be clear of any suspicions and not have any links with the covert operations.

## **Security isn't static**

And this is especially true in our time. Creativity and staying updated on the latest encryption issues and security holes online (for example) is crucial. Of course, you also have to learn from the mistakes of the others and make sure you don't fall in the same errors.

Security isn't static. There are, of course, some general rules that don't change, but there is also a great deal of freedom, where one can use his own creativity.

Some things change year after year. The way we used to communicate 10 years ago isn't the same as today, for example we know that satellite phones have some known issues, and today there are effective ways to communicate in an encrypted way. Nothing is 100% safe of course, but at least you put many layers of anonymity and security one over the other which makes it difficult for the enemy to reach you. The bottom line is that you should stay updated on the latest advanced in the field of anonymity, encryption and secure communications, so that you ensure the safety of yourself, your group and the safety of the operation.

## Chapter 2

### General security guidelines

We are now going to talk about the general rules in safety and security, our objective here is to make the brothers fully aware. These general rules don't change with location or time. As we said last time, security isn't static, and there are things that change with the improvement of technology. For example, we don't communicate today the way we used to 10 years ago.

But for now, we will concentrate on guidelines and rules that are permanent and always true. And the brothers involved in any kind of operation against the enemies of Allah should take them into account.

Allah says: "O you who have believed, take your precaution" (4:71) and this is our foundation. Our security foundation is : "O you who have believed, take your precaution". And this is one of the most important rules in Islam, and directed to all Muslims. It is a religious legal obligation, just like prayer is. And taking precautions is obligatory both in time of war and peace. At time of war, it sounds logical, but in time of peace, the enemy is always busy sending spies and gathering informations about the Islamic state, the groups, the individuals, the locations, etc. And as we said before, the enemy can't succeed in his war if he doesn't have information on the enemy he's fighting.

Now, you should know that the United States study the Mujahideen very carefully, then they draw strategies to neutralize them. They are actually studying them all the time, they even imagine fictional operations then establish strategies on how to counter them. For example you can see in the United States they do simulations of attacks, then mobilize the police, the army, the healthcare, and everything. They simulate "regular" attacks, chemical attacks, etc. And they draw strategies and learn from their experience on how to lessen the damage.

Sh. Abu Zubayda used to say that the enemy himself will show you how to attack him, he gives you ideas and guides you. From the very words of the enemy, you can understand his fears, you can identify his weak points, his troubles, and take advantage of all that in all the different steps on the preparation of your operation.

A few days ago I was reading a report written by intelligence officers from many countries where they analyze over 10 simulated attacks. Subhan'Allah, as I was reading, I was getting more imaginative and creative ideas. They are actually thinking about things we didn't think about, and since we got insight about what they expect, we can use that to our benefit and circumvent their plans, and this, for sure, is part of Allah's plans.

As we were saying, spies are also sent during times of peace. There isn't a single intelligence agency in the world except it has a special branch or department specialized in recruiting and training spies.

The American CIA is specialized in this kind of things. You should know that the CIA, at the origin, is for external operations, not for internal ones. Their goal is to protect the country's security and integrity, but by acting on foreign scenes. They can even go to the extent of organizing putsches and overthrowing governments in order to protect their country's interest, and that happened a lot, especially in Latin America. There was a time, not so long ago, where some Latin America's governments started policies

that go contrary to US interest, so they provided help and support to opponents to those governments and helped them overthrow them, so as to guarantee that their interests are protected and preserved.

And even in our Arab countries, 30 or 40 years ago, we had leaders that were openly pro-British, and the Americans, through various means, ensured that they were replaced by leaders that are more inclined

to protecting American interest. And that's one of the major difference between those Western countries' intelligence agencies and our Arab Tawaghit ones. In our Arab countries, the whole intelligence agency only works to protect the established leadership, not the country's interest. And this kind of problem you will find in every country led by ex-intelligence officer. If you look at Russia with Putin (who's an ex-KGB officer) and Bush who used to work with the CIA, the country automatically becomes more authoritarian. And that's a characteristic of the mindset of the intelligence agencies: they see the whole population as a potential threat to homeland security.

And to confirm the importance to take your precautions at time, look at how Allah legislated a whole way to perform prayer in group when in times of war and difficulty:

*“And when you are among them and lead them in prayer, let a group of them stand [in prayer] with you and let them carry their arms. And when they have prostrated, let them be [in position] behind you and have the other group come forward which has not [yet] prayed and let them pray with you, taking precaution and carrying their arms. Those who disbelieve wish that you would neglect your weapons and your baggage so they could come down upon you in one [single] attack. But there is no blame upon you, if you are troubled by rain or are ill, for putting down your arms, but take precaution. Indeed, Allah has prepared for the disbelievers a humiliating punishment.” (4:102)*

And this divine security guideline *“Take your precaution”* must be the first rule the Muslim applies today, especially at these times where the disbelieving forces of the whole world and the seculars have united against the Islamic youth with the excuse of *“fighting terrorism”*.

There is something fundamental that needs to be understood here: the world today is unipolar, led by the United States. About 30 years ago, the world was bipolar, the Western Pole (led by the US) and the Eastern Bloc (led by the Soviet Union). This cold war between the two poles gave a large freedom of movement for the Mujahideen, as they could use this rivalry in their advantage. Even at the time of the Syrian Jihad, the Mujahideen could train for asymmetric warfare, like our Shaykh Abu Mus'ab al-Suri did in Iraq, Jordan and Egypt. Why? Because at the time, when the interest of the Mujahideen and that of one of the two poles were the same, work was possible, training and movement was facilitated.

But today, the world is unipolar, and you won't be able to find a single piece of land where you will be 100% safe. You can't plot in a place, attack, then go back to that land and enjoy safety. That is why we see Jihad today in secret cells, not in organized groups, especially in the West and Tawaghit countries.

What would be the main difference between the group and the cell? The group has a pyramidal chain of command: the Emir, the Shura Council, the fighters organized in units, and an emir over each unit. That's the basic scheme for the group. But the problem here is that if the Tawaghit get one of the members of the group, this member will ultimately give out his emir, which puts the whole group to an end.

That is why we see the safest way in establishing cells. Every 4 or 5 people will work with each other, and only know each other, without the cells having a link with each other, and even with any group. Why is that? Because even if all those 5 members get caught, they will not put the other cells in danger, unlike the group. If one of the group gets caught, he can be pressured into giving out their superiors, etc.. until the whole group is dismantled. But with the cell, the worst case is 4-5 members being neutralized, no more.

So it is better to work in cells. If you decide to send a group of brothers, for example 4 or 5 brothers and give them a responsibility in country X, don't put them in contact with the other brothers you know working there. Let them be entirely independent from each other. Sh. Abu Musab al-Suri even went further, and said: "If you are the one who established many independent cells or independent small groups, if you get caught, you could be the reason all those groups and cells get dismantled. So your responsibility at that time would be to put yourself in security, by going to the frontlines of the open battlefields in Afghanistan or Iraq, or to enlist for a martyrdom operation, so that your secret goes with you. That's because your mere presence is a danger to all these established cells and groups. So if you are away, these cells/groups can work independently and nobody could ever make a link between them, and work can go on."

We shall now start talking about the general security guidelines that don't change whatever the time or location.

### **Principle n°1: Vigilance is the core of safety**

Vigilance is the centerpoint of security. The brother has to be vigilant at all times. The Muslim should be vigilant and never give the opportunity for the enemy to surprise him, and he should always have the upper-hand. When the Pakistani intelligence attacked us when we were organizing retreat from Afghanistan to Pakistan, they only came to us at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. I remember I was with Sh. Abu Zubayda in Pakistan when we got encircled by ISI and CIA officers at around 3 AM, then they launched a general assault on our safehouse. Abu Zubayda was captured with his group, and he was injured with 3 shots. Some other brothers got killed, and I was the only one who managed to escape by the grace of Allah. We ask Allah to liberate those imprisoned. The lesson here is that the enemy always tries to surprise you. 3 AM is the moment in the night where your sleep is the deepest, so they always choose that moment to assault, in order to have the element of surprise by their side. Just as the element of surprise was key in the 9/11 attacks, as the enemy wasn't expecting us to hit them on their own soil.

So vigilance is of major importance here. The brother should make himself safe by never keeping any important document with him before sleeping for example, and must always be vigilant when he leaves/enters his house, so as not to put himself in a bad situation. Same thing with weapons, important documents, material, or anything: you shouldn't keep these important resources with you at home, so that the Taghut will not find anything rock-solid against you.

Another example for constant vigilance are mobile checkpoints, especially in police states. You could be going with your car, thinking nothing will happen, until you find yourself in front of 10 police car doing a

checkpoint on the road. This doesn't happen in all countries of course, so you have to know if this is something that happens often or not around where you are located. In this kind of situation for example, it's better to have a car or two in front of you of people you know, in contact with you, so tell you if the road is safe or not. This is especially important in case you're transporting something sensitive, for example weapons.

Here is another part of vigilance: to always be informed and aware of events happening around you. Always keep updated on the most recent news through radio, TV, newspapers, Internet everyday, both home events and those happening abroad. Always stay informed. Also, if you have contact with brothers

abroad, keep informed on how X or Y were caught? Was mistakes they made? What safehouses did the enemy search? What information they have about the enemy? Etc

You should know that just by reading newspapers and watching the news you can know the movements of a president, a minister, or a deputy. These people often go on official visits, inaugurations on special occasions, etc. And all those things are usually announced in advance in the news. So for example your operation is the assassination of a president or a minister, or a party leader, but you don't know anyone close to him who can inform you, you are able to define his movements then plan accordingly. For example, there were some brothers in the Islamic Jamaa in Ethiopia, in Addis Ababa, who tried to assassinate Husni Mubarak, who was at the time the president of Egypt. He was to land at the airport at 2 o'clock, and as you know usually the airport is a bit far from the city and there is usually a single road leading to the airport from that city. Knowing these informations, these brothers organized an ambush on the road. Unfortunately the operation failed because of various reasons: the depot where they had secretly stored their weapons was closed on that day, and they also had some problems with their car. But they still managed to set up something but some brothers got killed and others managed to escape, and Husni Mubarak escaped back to Egypt. Even if the assassination failed, it still had immense media attention, and it also created a diplomatic crisis between Egypt and Sudan, as Sudan was accused of supporting these brothers.

And I also recommend reading books about security and safety and intelligence, and some movies also have interesting things that could help. You should also know that the nature and personality of someone working with intelligence is something very special. Of course there are things you can acquire, but also a lot of it is innate, inborn. As you know, the tests and exams to become an intelligence officer are very hard, and only few people pass them, as they often rely on intelligence, attention to details, and discretion.

I also want to stress the fact that you should always keep informed on what happened to those before you, those who got arrested: analyze their mistakes, read everything you can find about them, so that you don't make the same mistakes. Also read about interrogation techniques and what happens to those who get caught so you always know what to expect.

## **Principle n°2: Prevention is better than cure**

What we mean by prevention is all you plan, all your strategies to protect yourself from being seen, heard and caught by the enemy, by the permission of Allah. And what we mean by the cure is the steps you need to take when you realize that you have a mistake that could put your security and safety at risk.

The brother – if he is planning an operation in a city – should always have a cover. You should know that an intelligence officer never goes out of his house if he doesn't have a "story", a "scenario" about why he's out, what he's doing, or where he's going. We will have a special chapter later about covers.

To have a prevention plan minimizes mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes. You should know that you will make mistakes, no matter what. The only one who doesn't make any mistake is the one staying at home watching TV on his couch. But the Mujahid fighting for his religion, always on the move, always interacting with different kind of people, for sure he will make mistakes. In this work, we always put our trust on Allah. But for every step you make, you should already know what step you will making next. Always plan: if I do this, I will do that next. If this happens, this is what I will do. If I get caught, this is what I will tell, etc.

What do the Crusaders do? As we said, they imagine fictive scenarios of attacks, then they plan and put prevention strategies on how they will react, so that they minimize their losses. Similarly, this is something that you need to put in place.

As for the cure of a mistake, there are some things that you can do to solve the mistake but that could lead to something worse. So the best thing is to think in advance of the mistakes that could happen.

For example, let's say you are working with some brothers, then you give to some of them a precise task to do. You should remind them of every step, big and small. Prevention is better than cure, remember.

Keep in mind also that in some cases, you can't make any mistake. Imagine you're preparing explosives for an operation, well you can't make any mistake there. Because if anything blows up while you're preparing them, first you can get yourself killed or injured, then the operation is done, and most probably, the group will also be done as you would have drawn the worst kind of attention to yourself.

And here you should know that some brothers are better fit for a job instead of another. There are many cases where we sent brothers on missions, and we told them "Don't visit your family", then they couldn't resist and visited them, which lead to their arrest. "Don't contact your family", they phoned them and got caught. Obeying the emir is crucial, because he has more experience and knows what he's saying.

I remember there was a time where Abu Zubayda – may Allah free him – asked me about a brother and he told me: "I want to send this brother for a task, is he reliable?" I told him: "This brother is good for everything related to financial operations, and he travels very safely. But if you want him to be an emir over other brothers, he's probably not reliable. He was with us in Afghanistan, and during times of

hardships I saw how he was losing his nerves and getting angry.” So being emir over a small group needs some skills, among which are calmness, the ability to stay cool in times of danger and to be able to make quick decisions in a small amount of time. Getting angry easily will without any doubt endanger everything you do.

So brothers, in order to do a good prevention plan, also study the personality of those who work with you (in case you are in a group) to know what brother is best fit for which task.

### **Principle n°3: Between negligence and paranoia**

We have spoken about this before, no negligence, and no paranoia. And this is the divine aqeeda that our Lord put in us, which is the one of the middle path and moderation in everything.

So the fact that we’re stressing the importance of precaution and prevention must not lead us to abandoning the work or minimizing its magnitude under pretext of “being cautious” as well as loving

the cause it shouldn’t lead us to being hot-headed. We are at the service of the religion of Allah, but this doesn’t mean that we should be negligent.

There is a major rule that I abide by: Individual safety is more important than the operation. And this was also Abu Zubayda’s rule. If there is a step that could jeopardize your security, you should take your time. Remember that this war is a war on the long-term, and our enemy knows that we are very patient people. Waiting in our houses for the right time is worship, and taking our precaution is worship.

Once again, I want to point out the fact that if you work in groups, you should only give the necessary information to the brothers around you. To each of them, give only what he needs, nothing more, nothing less. During 9/11 attacks as we said before, only 4 of the 19 knew about the nature of the operation (they were the pilots) and they only gave them the details at the very end of the preparation. This is part of precaution, as if one of them is caught, he doesn’t have anything to give out. And we will hold a chapter about this specific subject of information-sharing among the individuals in the lone wolf cell another time.

### **Principle n°4: Information is to be given to those who need it**

This is also one of the major rules, which can prevent a lot of problems: information is only to be given to those who will need it.

Information is to be given only to the one who will use it, learn from it, or transmit it, or use it in his work.

For example, if one of the brothers work in the media branch of your group, he shouldn't be giving information about his work to those working in external operations. Because you should know that a man is only as valuable in the eyes of the intelligence agencies as informed he is. The more information he has, the more valuable a target he is. So having less information makes you less vulnerable, and makes the whole cell/group more protected.

There was a group of almost 70 brothers who got caught because of one brother, he was working on the media department of that group. He was very curious and kept on asking everyone about what they do. So at the end, he got caught, and he was forced to give up everything he had, so he ended up being the reason 70 others got also caught. If the brother only had information about what's in the media department, this tragedy could have been avoided.

Rule here is, information is only for those who will need it (either to use it themselves or to transmit it to specific people)

Another known kind of error is the fact that some brothers give out informations to those they are working with, for the sake of motivating them or making them more "responsible", and this is a major mistake.

For example, you may think that in order to keep a person's morale high, or to make him more motivated, or to make him more confident, you could tell him about something related to the operation, as some kind of "glad tidings" of something to come. This is a no-no, and it is from the "common

mistakes" that some brothers fall in. Of course, it's good to keep the morale high and make the brothers confident about their work, but this shouldn't come close to threatening the operation's security.

Remember, one should always TIGHTEN the circle around him. Sheikh Abu Zubayda – may Allah free him – when he used to send people for external operations – when I say external operations, I mean operations outside Pakistan/Afghanistan – he would send them and tell them to tighten the circle around them. This means that the number of people who know you and your operation should be reduced to the strict minimum. The larger your circle – be it from people you interact with for a reason or for no reason – the higher the chances of endangering the operation. And here, it's always good to read about those before you who got caught and learn from the mistakes they made in this regard.

There is something important also: one might be thinking: "This is a brother I work with, if I don't give him some information about the operation he might think I don't trust him, or he might think I think he's a spy" This is completely wrong reasoning. Only give the info to those who need it, if the brother with you doesn't need this info, if it's just extra, then keep it for yourself, as it may endanger the operation or worse, endanger the brother himself.

You should also know that if a brother falls into custody, he might not resist to the psychological pressure or to torture, and he might give away everything he knows. Some brothers stay strong for an hour, 2 hours, a day, 2 or 3 days. But the enemy has torture techniques, we ask Allah to protect you from it. For example, al-Qassam Brigade – the military wing of Hamas, we ask Allah to guide them – have a rule: when one of the Mujahideen falls into the Zionist's hands, they have a 3-day rule: the Mujahid should be patient for 3 days, after that he can say everything he knows. Why? Because the Qassam Brigade, if one of them

gets captured, the info of his capture is quickly spread, and they know that they have 3 days to change their locations and take all the necessary measures, so after 3 days they don't have anything to fear as to their safety.

Another example is Hamza al-Rabee, he was one of the commanders of external operations, and he was working with some Pakistani brothers. The Pakistani brother was captured and they started torturing him right away, in the car. They forced him to call Hamza al-Rabee and set up a meeting so they could also capture him. But Allah protect him, Hamza al-Rabee went to the meeting a bit earlier and stood a bit afar from the meeting point to observe the scene, and he saw the car arriving and he understood that his contact was under control of the Pakistani intelligence, so he managed to flee. Later, Hamza was one of the brothers who performed the London metro attacks, which was a hard blow to Britain.

In another chapter, we will see insha'Allah the safety measures related to meetings.

So the lesson here is that information can be the reason one gets imprisoned, so it's a potential danger for the operation and the whole cell. Only give information to those who need it.

#### **Principle n°5: Only the amount of information needed**

And this is also one of the important guidelines: information should come with the right measure. I shouldn't give you more info than you need, and I shouldn't give you info before its due time.

When you are at the initial stage of planning the operation, information is the most precious thing you have, and you should protect it from the enemy. Know that the enemy is doing everything he can to get

information about Muslims, their capabilities, their resources. And most of the time, they manage to do it easily because of Muslims' lack of precaution regarding safety measures. So don't give information before it's due time, don't tell the brothers you're working with: "After you do this, I will tell you to do that and that" keep the information until the right time comes and never be hasty.

Remember that even the Prophet peace be upon him, in all the battles he lead, he never told his companions or his men where exactly they are going, until the very last moment. It's not because he didn't trust the Companions, but the reason for that is to prevent the enemy's spies from knowing anything. The one exception is Ghazwat Tabuk, but there is a reason for that, it's because Tabuk is at the extreme north of the Arabian Peninsula, at the gates of Sham, and he needed his troops to be fully ready for that very long journey.

And this is something we find a lot among people with origins linked to tribal communities of countries, these people often talk a lot and information spreads very quickly – for example the Afghan tribes, information is quickly known to all.

Here is a recent example: during the 1973 war between Egypt and Israel, the Egyptians used a smart strategy. For many years before, they used to organize large-scale military operations as part of training near their border. And they always did it at the same time of the year, every year. So there came a time where Israel became almost accustomed to that, until in 1973 Egypt launched their attack on Israel during the period in which they usually do the training. So the enemy was surprised, and had heavy losses (until the US intervened and saved the Israelis)

The reason it worked was because the information was kept secret until the very last moment. Not even the commander of the Egyptian Air Force, until he was summoned and told that the operations will target the Israelis.

So a golden rule about information is: it should be in due time, and its lifetime is also temporary. There are also some informations that you shouldn't be talking about in specific times:

#### **Before the operation and right after it**

A lot of operations failed because of this parameter, which is talking about the operation right before it, and right after it.

There was an operation in Jordan, called the "Millenium operation" targeting Crusaders in Jordan in the year 2000. The error here was that there was a communication between Abu Zubayda in Pakistan and the brothers in Jordan, and the message was: "start the job". The communication got intercepted and the brothers were imprisoned. That's the official version from the Jordanians, but personally I don't think Abu Zubayda would have talked to them before the operation and told them so clearly "start the job", so in my opinion, and Allah knows best, those brothers made some mistakes that led to their arrest. Those brothers were probably under surveillance because they were in Afghanistan before, so they went from Afghanistan to Pakistan to Jordan, so I'm sure the Jordanian intelligence put them under surveillance.

Same for a failed operation in Riyadh (KSA), some brothers communicated with others in Peshawar and they got intercepted, which led to their arrest and they got executed – may Allah accept them.

So the rule here is: no communication before the operation. All communication should be CUT OFF between the individual cell members, and even after the operation, no communication. Why? Because that's exactly the moment where the intelligence agency of the country you're working in will be most active. They will be looking for EVERYTHING that could lead them to arresting you, they will start following all the people they have in their surveillance list, etc.

So to make a quick summary of the advantages of giving information at the right time:

- It safeguards the safety of the operation
- It safeguards the continuity of the work
- It protects the brothers from having information before its due time – protecting him from getting caught, and protecting him from thinking too much about something that doesn't concern him.
- It gives you the element of surprise, and this is of major importance. In our days today, the element of surprise is 50% of victory.

### **Principle n°6: One mistake draws you to another**

The principle here is that one mistake will lead you to making another. There are cases where the one mistake is the first and the last – for example when you're working with explosives. If you make a mistake, you could lose your hand, or even your life. So keep cautious: one mistake will lead you to another, which puts in danger yourself, your brothers, your cell and the whole operation.

For example, if you know someone has a dodgy past, has worked with the enemy before but he says he repented and wants to work with you, there is no doubt that if you trust him, you can only blame yourself. Why? Because the one who fell into apostasy once, could fall into it twice.

If he says he repented, we say fine, you can go to the mosque and spend time with your Lord in worship until you feel good with yourself, but it is out of the question to integrate him into the work.

There is an example that happened in Palestine, there was a military commander named Hafiz Mustafa or Mustafa Hafiz or something like that, he was responsible for martyrdom operations against Israel during

the 70s in Gaza. He had the idea to recruit Palestinian criminals in prison, telling them they could get out of prison in exchange of performing martyrdom operations or getting involved in Jihad work. It worked well for him, as many of them were truthful, but also, when one of them got into Israel custody, they studied his past, and they saw that these kind of people are capable of anything to get out of prison, so they gave him a proposal: freedom in exchange of planting an IED in Hafiz Mustafa's office. He did it, and Mustafa Hafiz got killed that way, and the prisoner also got severely injured. So there is no doubt that there are some people who have a black spot in their hearts that will keep forever.

Keep in mind that this kind of spy is worse than the enemy itself, because one single individual could jeopardize the whole operation and the whole cell, we ask Allah to protect you from that.

## **Principle n°7: Don't be a prisoner of your own routine**

The majority of people have a routine in their lives, some things they always do, in their clothing, their eating, their drinking, the way they travel, the way they move from one place to another, and even in their sleep, as well as in their way of talking and speaking.

For most people, that's fine, but for a Mujahid for the sake of Allah, this is something that you need to get rid of. For example, some people always go to the same café, always walk the same road, go to the same restaurant, always use the same transport, etc.

Sheikh Abdallah Azzam rahimahullah, how was he assassinated? The enemies of Allah studied his movements, and they understood that he always uses the same road when he goes from place A to place B. That's how they planted an IED and they managed to kill him. So the Mujahid has to always change his routine to ensure his safety.

There was a brother from Saudi Arabia who used to love a special meat dish with rice, and the intelligence agency, you should know that, they always have a special file on all their suspects, where they put information about him. If the brother loves some special dish, they will know it. So this brother was on the run, and they knew he liked that dish. They also knew that in the whole city, there are only 3 or 4 restaurants who serve that special dish, so they had surveillance teams there. They didn't even have a picture of the brother, but only a description, and that's how they managed to get him in one of those restaurants.

One of the Mujahideen in Afghanistan used to love tea, he couldn't stop drinking tea. So when he got arrested, they only needed to deprive him from tea and they started getting information from him.

The Israeli Mossad have special files on all Arab rulers: their diseases, their routine, their movements, everything. Why is that? To have leverage, to have something on them that they could use later if need be.

One of the brothers was arrested in Europe, and we were in Afghanistan at the time, and they started asking him weird questions about Sh. Abu Khabab al-Misri (may Allah accept him) – he was our explosives teacher at the time – for example, what kind of food does he like? And some specific personal questions. Why? In order to get details that they could use later. They want to find the weak spot.

Some of the spies that Al Qaeda captured explained that the CIA recruited them in exchange for example of worldly pleasure – many of them had a weakness for women. Israeli Mossad also use that leverage of women, alcohol and also money. Poverty is also one of the reasons some people fall into working for the Mossad among Palestinians.

So the brothers working for the sake of Allah should understand that their routine is an enemy. For example wearing the same cloths, or taking the same road, or always going out at the same time, taking the same mean of transport, etc. One should change, take taxi sometimes, sometimes the bus, sometimes the metro, etc.

Another important thing: One should live as the locals live. No need to make yourself special. You should know that the Pakistani ISI for example, in Peshawar, they used to look at suspected houses' garbage to see if there was Arab food in there, to know if there were Arabs in the house, and that's how they

captured some of them. Same for the American CIA, they used to look for rare Pashtun food in garbage in Khost, and that's why they captured them.

Here is something that happened to me, I was at the time in areas controlled by the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, and I really couldn't drink green tea. I was on a special mission and I was in a house, and one of the guys there suspected me of being Arab – I was disguising myself as a Kashmiri. He saw that I couldn't drink green tea, so he suspected me. He started saying some sentences in Arabic to see if my eyes will move in his direction, but I didn't. Later, I started talking in Kashmiri to another brother, until he was almost sure I wasn't Arab. As I didn't know enough Kashmiri, I even started random sentences from my imagination. When I think about it, I should have drank that green tea and force myself to do as the locals do. [Of course, this kind of situation is unlikely for the case of lone wolves, who are already in their natural environment and know the customs around them very well]

So we have finished with the general security guidelines, these are some basic rules that don't change whatever your location or time, any brother working in covert operations or preparing a lone wolf attack should respect.

## **Chapter 3**

Homeland security – Cell security

What is meant by homeland security is the security of the country's interests, both at home and abroad. In reality, that meaning changes from country to country. Some countries, like the United States, have a global vision of what constitutes its homeland security. That's because the US have interests all around the globe, and when its security is at stake, what does it do? It goes to war.

You should understand that all America's wars have the unique goal of protecting its homeland security. That's why it's spending billions on its army and nuclear weapons, and its whole military doctrine (being able to wage 2 wars at the time time, in Iraq and Afghanistan) is also based on that.

That is why we say: terrorism can only be defeated by terrorism. [Imagine the enemy's grievance when they see that even by spending billions they are still being targeted on their soil and can't have total security at home]. The Tawaghit and their supporters want us to be led like sheep and slaughtered without any resistance! They even want us to smile during that whole process. These Tawaghit ignore all the Quranic verses and ahadith of the prophet peace be upon him. Will they at least listen to Hitler who said that terrorism can only be defeated by terrorism? And who said that "ideology alone can't defeat terrorism"? Ideas don't defeat terrorism, only counter-terrorism does.

Homeland security of a country is often decided by specific ministries: the presidency, the interior, defense and financial ministries. Also, media plays a huge role, and they all decide on the foreign policy of the country.

Let us talk about the security services of a country quickly.

The army: This is the main security service of the country. Its role is to defend the country from foreign aggressions, but that's in developed countries. In our Arab Tawaghit lands, the army is there to protect the regime against its own people.

The police: The same rule applies here, in developed countries it serves the purpose of protecting society from any harm, in Arab countries, it serves the regime interests.

Intelligence agencies: There is military intelligence, specialized in protecting the military's secrets, and they collect information on the enemy. And there's the national intelligence agency, linked to the interior ministry, working on interior threats.

How do intelligence agencies collect informations abroad?

You have to understand that intelligence agencies always need a center, a centered location that they can use as a base. In most cases, an embassy makes a perfect base, as the home country isn't going to search inside the embassy and diplomats make perfect intelligence officers.

Another good base are media foundations and corporations. One thing you should know, is that the BBC is the British intelligence antenna worldwide. They said by themselves: "We were the one who brought Afghanistan down". How is that? When we were in Kandahar during the American invasion, we were listening to the BBC, and they were saying "Coalition forces have entered and controlled Kandahar" they were saying that while we were inside Kandahar and still under our control?

Imagine the impact that has on Taliban fighters and commanders in Mazar-e-Sharif or Balkh or Zakhart, in the northern front-lines? If he hears that on the radio, he will tell himself: "The capital of Ameer al-Mumineen, Kandahar, has fallen, what can I do?" And that demotivated them. It was one of the reasons Taliban fell. So know that BBC is an enemy to Islam and Muslims.

And they would always use the cover of journalism. The journalist captured by AQ in Waziristan was saying he wanted to do a report on Quranic schools in the tribal areas, until they discovered he was a Jewish spy looking for Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, then they executed him.

Third, they also use economic projects as a cover for intelligence activities. They would say they will go to a poor Islamic country and work on hospitals, schools, but in reality their whole purpose is information-gathering. Perhaps the head of the foundation would be a decent man with a real desire to do good, but you can be sure some people with him are working with the intelligence.

Now, how do these agencies recruit their spies? From our experience, here is what we can say:

Some political prisoners get offers to get liberated, in exchange they would join their party or group and keep feeding the agency information about them. That's what the CIA tried to do to Sami Haj Mansur. He was an Al Jazeera journalist in Guantanamo, and the CIA gave him the offer to be liberated under condition to go back to Al Jazeera and give them information. However, Sami Haj Mansur, who was a pious man, understood that if he did that, it would be a treason towards Allah and His messenger, so he refused, and later, he said everything on Al Jazeera. They told him they would make him a star in the field of journalism, and that's the reality of media, brothers. They make a star whoever they want, you see those Arab leaders? If it were not for the media giving them out-of-proportion power and might, they would be nothing. Same for those palace scholars, if it was not for the media nobody would turn their head to them.

Among those who can be spies there are also taxi drivers (in Muslim countries). I was once in Pakistan, on the run, and I asked to go to a hotel on taxi. The taxidriver asked me: "Do you want a hotel which needs passport or not?" Look at that ! He wanted to trick me. If I told him "no passport hotel, please" he would understand that I am a Mujahid, or an Arab, or someone illegally in Pakistan. So even if I wanted a non-passport hotel (since I didn't have any passport) I still asked him for a passport hotel, to make sure he believes I have nothing to hide.

Anyone could be a spy, even your professor. In Syria, at the times of the Syrian Jihad, the professor would ask his students about their opinion on Hafez al-Assad, and the students would say what they hear at home, and that's how their parents got caught.

## Recruiting someone & individual precautions

In case you are not working as a lone wolf (individual Jihad) then you might be in the position where you and the brothers you trust have to recruit a new member, or you might be in front of someone you know who wants to join your cell and work with you. These are some general points:

- The brother(s) who want to join you, you must know them very well. You should know their history, their childhood, their past, their past experiences in university, their job, ex-jobs, their political affiliation, virtually everything. You don't necessarily need to go into the details, but you should know who you have in front of you, and you should be able to see any contradiction in the story he's telling you about himself.
- Any brother (including yourself) who want to work as a lone wolf or as a cell of multiple wolves should have a certain number of characteristics:
  - You should make sure to not look particularly attached to religion. A man who works on a secret operation should meddle in the general population. If you can avoid having a beard, wearing qamis, using miswak and having a booklet of dhikr with you, it's better. Also, you shouldn't be going too often to places like mosques, Islamic institutes or Islamic libraries. You should also wear western-style cloths as to appear neutral and not draw attention to yourself. For example, when Abu Zubayda was working in Pakistan, he had his beard shaved off, and he never showed any sign of religiosity, to the extent that some of his Pakistani neighbors (who knew he was Arab) would make daawa to him and ask him to come with them at least to the weekly Friday prayer.
  - No need to be using too much of the usual sentences that religious brothers use, like "salam alaykum", "barakallah feek" or "jazakallah khayr" and so on. Those are a few examples of things that could draw attention to you unnecessarily. You should especially avoid them if you are wearing western-style cloths and have a fancy haircut, since it doesn't really match up.
  - Of course, if everybody around the brother knows he has a beard, it may be actually drawing attention to suddenly shave it off and start wearing western style cloths. Every situation is different, so be sure to not make any too radical change that might get attention.
  - The brother working in secret operations should always have a cover story for anywhere he goes – and we will have a special chapter on cover stories later on.
- If the brother is using fake documents (passport for example) he should know everything on there, from the father/mother name, date and place it was issued, all the visas, the dates, etc. There was a brother who was traveling on a fake passport and he forgot the fake name he had on it. The policeman suspected him, so he asked him: "What's your name?" The brother was very creative, and he answered: "What do you mean what's my name? You have my passport in front of you and you're asking me for my name? Is this a joke? Give me back that passport!" So

the policeman's doubts disappeared when he saw how resolute the brother was and he managed to travel safely by the permission of Allah.

- You should also make sure that any brother you choose to work with has the correct 'aqeeda and minhaj, and that he knows why he's fighting and what is at stake. The difference between a Mujahid and a bandit is knowledge. With religious knowledge, you will know your limits.

So we talked about the characteristics you should find in yourself and that you should find in those you want to work with. Why is this important? Because you should know, and this is experience speaking, that most operations that failed in the West did because of brothers who were insufficiently prepared. That is why we privilege people who are already from the West (instead of sending someone from here). Because in the West, you already know the environment, how people talk, behave, and you can be like a fish in the ocean if you respect some basic rules.

### **Additional points**

To conclude this chapter, we will add some additional points that are of major importance, as well as remind some of those precedently mentioned.

- Do not talk about yourself or about the operation to anyone – except those you're directly involved with in the operation.
- Tighten the circle around you as much as you can – the less people you know, the better. But don't fall into extremes. Find the middle path.
- Protect sensitive documents extremely well, be them paper or virtual through encryption.
- Keep your political and religious point of views to yourself, and don't get yourself involved in any kind of debates with anyone. When asked, tell what people want to hear.
- Be cautious when using communication means like the mobilephone or instant messaging, and keep updated on the latest encrypted apps and how safe they are.
- Don't get too excited as to become negligent towards safety guidelines, but don't be paranoiac also. Find the middle path and put your trust in Allah.
- Beware of who you become friends with, beware of alcohol, drugs, clubbing, etc. All praise be to Allah, this is something that you won't find among the Mujahideen. But you should know that when someone is drunk, he starts telling things he wouldn't tell in normal times, including his political beliefs for example.
- Do not create any kind of problem with your neighbors or colleagues. People who like confrontation often get more attention that what we want here, so in all cases, try to be as courteous as possible and avoid all conflict.

# Chapter 4

## Online security - Encryption

One of the biggest danger in front of you during your operation is the danger online. This danger is in front of you during all the different steps of your preparation. We don't want to make this small booklet too technical, so we are going to talk about some very general guidelines.

- Never use your personal information online, nor should you disclose them to anyone online.
- Always browse the web anonymously. You can use tools like the TOR Browser, and if you need to spend more time on the internet, we HIGHLY suggest you use Tails OS on your computer for your Jihad-related work.
- Encrypt your sensitive storage devices. Excellent tools exist online, like TrueCrypt and VeraCrypt.
- Avoid services like Gmail, Facebook, iOS. Find Open Source, privacy-friendly applications if you can.
- Encrypted apps for Instant Messaging are extremely important, especially when you talk to those participating in the work with you. Some apps have been compromised like Kik or Surespot, but if you look online correctly, you can find the latest secure apps (ChatSecure as for now is considered anonymous enough)
- Take some time to read about PGP protocol. There are ways to use you internet connection on your phone to call other people using very good encryption techniques.
- Your mobile phone is a government spy with you on your pocket. Make sure to read enough about Android ways to protect your privacy. Never use iOS, as it's compromised.
- Android can be a powerful tool if you use it well. There are ways to use TOR on Android (it's called Orbot).
- We suggest you take a look at "Jolly Roger's Security Guide for Beginners" available on the internet. The site DeepToWeb contains some excellent tutorials that can help you set up the secure online environment you need for your work. Priorities for you should be tutorials on VeraCrypt, on PGP protocol, on TOR and Tails OS.
- Keep in mind that many brothers were arrested because they are using their "real" IP address when doing sensitive researches and Jihad related work online. Never fall in such a situation, always use TOR or Tails. You can also consider using a VPN, but we still prefer Tails OS.

## Chapter 5

### The safehouse

[In most cases, a lone wolf operation probably won't need to be complex to the point that you need a separate safehouse to prepare the operation. But for the sake of precaution, we will expose a few guidelines about the safehouse. This list is not exhaustive]

- The apartment you choose as a safehouse should be in accordance to the nature of the activity you are going to perform in the safehouse: if it's for storing weapons, holding meetings, preparing explosives or a car bomb, it should serve the purpose well, and of course it shouldn't be drawing attention.
- It is better if the safehouse is surrounded by many other similar building.
- Prepare secret storage caches in the safehouse for weapons, explosive materials, documents
- Nobody should know about the safehouse except the small cell of brothers you are working with. Except those people, nobody else should enter it, be them friends, family, or anyone you know except the cell members. Nobody from people you know should be able to link you to that apartment you use as a safehouse.
- You should absolutely have a cover story for that safehouse. In case you told the landlord you are a doctor, then act like one, don't wear dirty cloths, if you're a university student, act like one, and when your cell members come to the safe house, you should all be acting like a group of students, etc..
- Stay in good terms with the neighbors of that safehouse. Don't open up too much to them, but don't be introverted with them. Keep on the middle path.
- If you can make that apartment look un-Islamic, then do it. If can be hard sometimes, but if you can rent that apartment with fake documents, then do it – Of course this all depends on the nature of the work and the importance of having a safehouse for the operation you're preparing.
- Always have enough food, drink, and communication means in the safehouse.
- In case you know you're under surveillance or being followed, take the necessary precaution. If you know you're followed and you're on your way to the safehouse to meet other cell members, you should have a code with them: for example, knock on the door twice or thrice if you know you're followed, in that case nobody will open the door and you can move on. At the same time, the brothers inside can take the necessary measures – destroying important documents, or fleeing, or anything else.
- Use the safehouse as rarely as possible.
- If you need to be using a landline phone in the safehouse, always have the same person answer the phone. Having different people responding to calls can lead to being suspected of hiding something.
- Same thing with interacting with the neighbors, with the deliveryman, etc. It should always be the same person.

# Chapter 6

## Conferences & Meetings

In this lesson we are going to talk about security issues related to conferences and meetings and how to prevent them from being assaulted and attacked.

And here, I want to point out a fundamental point in the methodology we are using. We inspire ourselves from the Taghut itself, how the enemy himself protects his own conferences and meetings, how he plans, how he prepares, so we can draw the right strategy to protect our own meetings on the one hand, and on the second hand find the weak points in the enemy's plans so we can target their own conferences and meetings.

## **The Conference**

A conference is a meeting in a specified time, which has been prepared, planned, with the goal to talk about certain subjects publicly, and with the goal to achieve some results or advance in the ideas.

So it gathers a lot of people, some times it's even open to the public, contrary to the meeting.

The meeting is a small group of people reuniting to talk about specific subjects in secret. The conference, on the other hand, it's often public, like we hear the 'Arab Union Conference', or many other conferences, the conference for fighting terrorism (or fighting Jihad as we might call it).

### The difference between the conference and the meeting

- The conference is open to the media, and is well-covered from a media point of view, while the meeting or reunion is almost always secret with no media presence.
- The conference is attended by a lot of people, the meeting has a very small number of members.
- Conferences are held in wide open spaces or vast conference rooms, meetings and reunions are held in closed locations.
- Conferences need a lot of efforts to organize because of the large number of people, and the need to secure everything.

So that's the difference between the meeting and the conference.

As for us of course, conferences are out of the question, and Mujahideen groups or cells rely on secret meetings.

### Dangers facing conferences

There is no doubt that a conference faces a certain number of threats and dangers.

- The first one is the material damage that could be done to the conference room or the installation, for example it could be damaged by an explosive device.  
Actually most threats facing conferences are related to explosives. Also, the assassination of guest lecturers is also a possible danger. For example, that happened to Anwar Sadat who was president of Egypt, during a military parade. You could say it's a bit similar to a conference, they were all sitting on a side and one of the brothers in the army managed to get near him and shoot him. Mohamed Boudief the Algerian president was also assassinated that way: he was

speaking with people in a conference and one of his bodyguards, who was an infiltrated brother, shot him from behind.

### Securing conferences

As we said before, in our current state our Mujahideen groups aren't able to maintain conferences because the whole planet is at war with them. But studying the way conferences are secured is still interesting as it may give you an idea of the weaknesses and enable you to target one of them efficiently or assassinate a specified target participating in the conference.

#### **Before the conference:**

First – The location of the conference

Security forces would always secure the location of the conference, the building for example, and even set up a whole perimeter around that location and they would secure it entirely. In some cases, it would almost look like a military zone, nobody's allowed in, except if you live there, and even in that case you need to prove it and obtain a special permission. Other than that, it's just security forces and authorized personnel.

They would also study every single person working in the organization of that conference – the secretaries, the people who bring food and drinks to the guests – only people they authorize would be able to approach them, because they fear assassination operations.

Know that even when the US president visits of the Arab countries, the secret service sends men a few days before the president to set up the security. No Egyptian or Palestinian or any Arab bodyguard is allowed to stand near the US president, only American personnel are allowed. When the US president visited Ramallah 2 years ago he had sent 2 planes full of secret service officers who made all the necessary arrangements, Ramallah city almost was a military zone. They fear that a righteous man among the bodyguards would assassinate him or participate in an attack. See how the Americans don't even trust their own apostate dogs.

The proof is that the one who killed Boudief was his own bodyguard, and the man who killed Sadat was Muhammad al-Islambuli, he was in the Egyptian army. With Allah's permission, he managed to let some brothers enter with him the parade. What was planned is that he was going to pass by Sadat on a vehicle as part of the parade and with him some other soldiers. So what he did was he prepared fake documents for those with him and gave them uniforms and they entered as Egyptian soldiers as well. He even prepared the weapons and the ammunition. As you know during parades, the weapons on display are locked and without ammunition, but Islambuli prepared everything and he managed to kill Sadat. Even Sadat bodyguards at the time didn't even have weapons, Islambuli and his brothers were killed after an exchange of gunfire with the bodyguards of the American ambassador who was there as well.

Another thing: Secret services would prepare special cards for all those attending the conference, be them guests, workers, security members, etc everyone working for the conference has a special access card, and if you have even the smell of anything Islamic you won't be allowed to hold any sensitive position in the conference.

Another thing: Before the conference they will carefully secure the room and look everywhere for explosives, bombs, or weapons. Sh. Abdallah Azzam before he was assassinated he went through an

assassination attempt. Some Jordanian intelligence agents put anti-tank explosives under his chair near the minbar in the mosque he usually gave speeches in (you can imagine it's some kind of conference too), and they even put TNT on top of that – to make sure nobody survives the attack. But one of the men cleaning the mosque found the explosives. Only 3 weeks later was Sh. Abdullah Azzam killed when they planted an IED on the road he always takes to go to the mosque. So Azzam's mistake was routine as he would always take the same road every time. We ask Allah to grant him the highest rank and accept him among the righteous martyrs.

Also, they would give special places for everyone: the general public has seats, journalists, workers, everyone has a special place that he should respect otherwise he won't be allowed. All those are some of the security measures that the Tawaghit take to avoid attacks and assassinations, and they also use much more than what we mentioned.

### **During the conference**

- 1- External security of the location  
Every entry/exit is secured, with ID card verification and they would check if the picture on the card is the same as the one in front of them.
- 2- If you don't have the necessary credentials they won't let you enter any sensitive area, and if you manage to enter you will be followed.
- 3- If anyone is suspected of anything, he will get systematically searched, his cloths, bag if he has a bag will be searched, nothing will be left.  
And this is where one should be creative and have imagination. The brothers when they planned killing Ahmad Shah Massoud, they studied him very carefully and they understood he was a man who loved media attention. So they chose brothers who spoke French and Italian and disguised themselves as journalists for a European TV. Massoud was France's man, he was a true Frenchman, he was trained in France and everything, that's why they chose French-speaking brothers. So they figured the best way to avoid security is to put an explosive device inside the camera they were using, and they put enough explosive in there to be sure nobody gets out of that room alive, to be sure 100% that they kill him. So when they told him "we want to take a few pictures of you" they activated the IED and killed Ahmad Shah Massoud, the brother behind the camera also died, and two other brothers Abu Sahl and Abu Ubayda may Allah have mercy on them, and that's how they managed to ease Afghanistan from that evil Frenchman.
- 4- Security service officers will be wearing civilian cloths and sitting with the public. This is an important point. Perhaps you have all seen the video of the Iraqi journalist who wanted to throw his shoe on G.W. Bush. If you look carefully, the first people to jump on him and put him to the ground were those sitting near him wearing civilian cloths, as to appear like normal journalists. In reality those were security officers wearing civilian cloths. Something similar happened when one of the brothers tried to assassinate Prince William of Britain, the attack was foiled by an officer appearing as a civilian. So don't make any difference between those with uniforms or not, and act as if they were all security officers with civilian cloths.

- 5- Surveillance of the parking lot and the cars parking near the conference as to avoid any VBIED or anything similar.

### **After the conference**

Now that the conference is over, main security precaution would be to organize a safe exit for the important guests and lecturers and get back all the special access cards and ID cards from the participants.

### **The meeting**

Let's talk now about the meeting. The main danger here is for your meeting to be targeted by the police of secret services and everyone gets imprisoned or killed.

We can say there are 2 kinds of meetings: the fixed meeting: where 3+ members meet to discuss an operation or prepare for an operation, and the mobile meeting: where no more than 3 members meet to discuss a precise point, but while on the move.

#### How to secure a meeting

- The topic of the meeting should be known as to not waste too much time.
- Defining the moment the meeting ends, no matter how important what you are discussing is. If you say we will finish at 2 o'clock, you should respect that timing. Plan the timing accordingly.
- Meeting members security:
  - It is vital that, if you work as a cell, you put in place a security plan on what-to-do in some precise scenarios: for example what to do if X or Y gets caught, or what to do if the meeting is raided by CT forces. No doubt that if you get caught you will get asked: who was at that meeting, what were you going to discuss, etc.. and you should know in advance what you are going to say.
- There shouldn't be too much time between the moment you set up the meeting and the moment of the meeting itself. If you plan a meeting too early on, you are increasing the chances the information may be known to the enemy.
- If you are able to get brothers to keep an eye from the outside on the meeting point, try to do so. If you are enough members in the cell, keeping an eye on the main roads leading to it to see if there are any security forces on the way for a raid is even better.
- To increase your safety, and only if possible, try to set up your meeting at a moment where security forces will be busy in the city – for example if there is a huge protest in the streets, a manifestation, or something similar. Of course this can also lead to being questioned on the road or asked for identification papers, so try to adapt these advices to the reality around you.
- Always have a worst-case-scenario plan. If the meeting gets raided, what are you going to do? Will you choose to clash with the security forces and fight, surrender or try an escape plan? This should be something planned. [In Pakistan, some brothers were once raided, and their plan was

that some brothers would keep the security forces busy by exchanging gunfire with them and resisting them by force, and some others would destroy all important documents they had with them. At the end, they all got imprisoned, but at least the document destruction process probably saved the safety of many other brothers and saved operations.] Also about the surrendering, this should also be a scenario you plan for, by planning what every one of you will say and imagining a whole scenario to mislead the enemy.

- If you know you are followed or under surveillance, you should plan accordingly and not carelessly join a meeting.
- Another thing, not all the cell members should enter the meeting location at once, but they should enter individually.
- Don't go directly to the meeting location, but take the longer road. If you are going by bus for example, don't go off the bus at the nearest stop from the meeting location. Same if you're going by car, don't park your car in front of the meeting location, park it far from it and walk.
- Again, I stress the importance of the cover story as to where you are going and what are you doing, and insha'Allah we will have a whole chapter about cover stories.
- The meeting location shouldn't be standing alone in the wild, it should meddle and be surrounded by many other similar building as to avoid being besieged by the enemy and increase ways of escape.
- The meeting location should be far from suspicions, suspicious locations include nightclubs and places with drugs/alcohol/etc because these places are often subject to police raids [*Translator's note: I don't necessarily agree with this remark, a nightclub, because of the loud music, the drunk people and the crowd, could actually be a good location to secretly discuss the details of an operation - If the brothers are dressed accordingly and not acting too weird.*]

# Chapter 7

## Travel & Transport Security

Dear brothers, as you know the Mujahideen today are a target of a vicious war from intelligence agencies and secret services from all around the world, and especially during their travels. A lot of operations were foiled and brothers imprisoned during their travel, that's why the Mujahid brother has to be very cautious regarding his movements to avoid being held captive by the enemies of Allah.

We will talk during this lesson about the right precaution that one has to take to ensure a safe travel by the permission of Allah.

First, let's begin with the personal preparation.

The brother, before he begins his travel, should prepare himself well, and the first of that is his clothing.

- Avoid wearing the kind of cloths that religious people wear. Always look like any random tourist or normal traveler.
- Make the colors go with each other. Wearing a red or yellow shirt with black pants will get you noticed as someone who is not used to this kind of clothing. [Once again, this is the kind of things that's easy for brothers who grew up in the West as they know everything on how people dress up]
- Also, no need to put on new cloths, as that can be suspicious. Some brothers like to buy entirely new cloths, from top to bottom including shoes, but that will get too much attention. Also, if they see that you have new cloths on you but on your backpack you have a qamis or two and traditional cloths, you're almost sure to get attention.
- The prostration mark on your forehead (if you have one) can also lead you to being suspected.
- Your cloths should match with your age. If you are in your 20s, where what people in their 20s wear.
- Your beard should be shaved off at least 2 weeks before your travel so the skin under your beard can be exposed to the sun. If you don't do that the fact that you removed your beard would be too easy to notice. If you can get a haircut in a professional hairdresser, try to do so.
- If you are wearing a watch, don't wear it on your right hand, as this is a sign that you are religious.
- If you have an engagement ring or something like that, it's better to wear one in gold or better yet, don't wear any ring at all. A silver ring could tell you are religious, as Islam forbids wearing gold rings for men.
- It is permissible in such cases for you to wear a necklace showing a Christian cross. As you know, Christians (or even atheist Westerners with Christian background) wear crosses on their necklaces. But don't wear a cross necklace if you have a Muslim name on your passport, as that may look strange.
- If you want to use perfume during your travel, don't use the oily, non-alcoholic perfume that Muslims use. Use generic alcoholic perfume as everyone does, and if you are a man, use perfume for men.

We will talk now about travel documents.

The passport.

First thing you should know, if you have to travel and you have been given a fake passport, first take a look at the fake passport the moment it was given to you. If you feel at ease with it, then put your trust in Allah and travel with it. If you don't feel at ease with it, don't travel with it. This is a simple rule.

Also, don't travel with more than one passport. Keep only one passport with you (hand luggage), if you have another passport, have it deeply hidden in the checked luggage. If you absolutely need to keep 2 passports with you, then have one of them well concealed. This is still a dangerous situation, because if you go through secondary screening (when the border police take you in the side to ask you a few questions) and they find two passports with you, you will have to explain it (for example by being binational). If those two passports are fake (or if one of them is) and have 2 different names, then you're done. A lot of brothers have been caught because of that.

So try as much as you can to have all your documents bearing the same name: ID card, passport, drivers license.

Also, you should know everything about the country's passport. The president, some ministers, stars, sports teams and players, etc.

One of the brothers was once asked: "Where are you from" he answered "Qatar". He was asked: "Who's the emir of Qatar?" And he didn't know. So in the case you're traveling with a fake passport, you should always know these kind of things about the country, the singers, the famous people, etc.

[Of course, in the case of a lone wolf who's planning on a single operation, they can probably use their own passport and documents without needing counterfeit documents, especially today when these are harder to find/make]

How to prepare the luggage?

When we are traveling, we must appear like students or tourists. So the content of your luggage should be in accordance to that.

Also, be sure to have cloths in your luggage that match with the country's weather, and the length of your stay. If you tell them you're going there for 3 months, you should have cloths in your luggage for 3 months, not for a few days.

As for the tourist stuff, you probably know already what to take: bathsuits (if it matches the country you're going to!) jeans, shirts, pyjamas, toothpaste, camera, novels, ..

There are also things you shouldn't bring: oily perfumes, books about religion, traditional cloths, mecca compass, prayer mat, siwak, .. those are the things that will draw attention. In your hand luggage, have things that are absolutely neutral: a novel, a magazine, some money, your travel documents, .. just things that usual tourists take with them.

[If you have a smartphone or an mp3/mp4 player with you, be sure to not have any image, audio or video related to anything close to religion, let alone Jihad. Have songs, music clips, funny videos, etc. No Quran app, no hadith app, make it an entirely un-Islamic device. Also, if you use any encrypted instant messaging app on it, have it uninstalled before the travel, as it shows that you have something to hide. Same goes with the laptop if you're carrying one]

Also, something that you should understand, is that you should always prepare yourself to be questioned by the police – it's better to plan it beforehand. One of the brothers was traveling on a fake Portuguese passport from the UK to Canada, and at the time the Portuguese passport was

easy to counterfeit so pretty much everyone was using that one. Of course the police knew after some time.

So the brother with his fake Portuguese passport arrived at the border control, he saw 3 available police officers, an old man, a woman and a young man. He said: "The old man probably has a lot of experience, so I'll avoid him. The woman could not be confident enough and she might create problems so I will go with the young one."

When he went to the young police officer, after showing him the passport, the man said: "How much did you pay for this passport?"

The brother didn't expect that question at all. Even when he denied, the policeman didn't believe him and warned his superiors. That brother had a political refugee status in Britain so nothing serious happened to him.

So the lesson here is that the brother should always expect this kind of strange questions and prepare himself for answers.

Another thing: you should know that some passports are naturally suspicious (for example, the Saudi passport) In case the police officer tells you he has doubts about the authenticity of the passport, there are many things you can do, from laughing to threatening to call your country's embassy.

It happened to a brother in Austria who was traveling to another European country with a fake passport, when the policeman told him "I think this passport is fake", the brother just kept laughing and the policeman gave him back his passport and let him go. So the brother has to be firm and confident, courageous in case he has a fake passport with him.

Now, the questions that you may be asked are typically on this type for example:

- What are the reasons of your travel?
- Where did you get the money for this trip?
- Duration of the trip, how long are you going for?
- Who's welcoming we/Who's waiting for you at your arrival location?
- What are you going to do there in that country/Why are you going to that country?

I remember there was a time, before I come to Afghanistan, where I wanted to go to Kosovo, at the time the battle between Muslims and Serbs was at the highest peak. So I went to the Foreign Affairs ministry in Jordan to ask about the Albanian consulate – since Albania was the crossing point to Kosovo. And the guy there asked me: "Why are going to Albania? You want to fight and be killed there?" So I answered: "I want to pursue my studies" he then told me the consulate of Albania is in Syria, so I went to Syria, and they told me to go to Turkey, and I let it down altogether. The thing is, I would never have expected the man in the Foreign Affairs ministry to be so direct and tell me: "You want to go there to get killed?" So you always have to be prepared for surprising questions and keep your cool.

Know also that they might ask you the same question many times in different intervals to make sure you're not lying, so you have to know your story very well (in case there's one)

## **Hotels**

As a traveler, you will have to land in a hotel after your trip. So how to choose the hotel?

- 1- In some countries like Ethiopia it's better to choose a hotel owned by the state, because they are safer. In general, it's better to choose a hotel used by western tourists a lot. The more expensive, the less suspected.
- 2- If you receive a visit, do not talk except with TV on with relatively high sound volume.
- 3- Do not spend too much time inside the hotel, especially if your cover is that you are a tourist.

### **Who's the terrorist in the eyes of the secret services?**

- The one who has a passport from a suspected country (Arab countries: Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Syria, etc). In the case of lone wolves, you are protected because you have a western passport.
- The one who has resources (audio, video, CD, usb) with military content or anything related to war, explosives, religion.
- Those who have different ID documents with different names.
- The one who seem to have an abnormally high amount of money with him. If you have too much money but you don't really look rich, you are a suspect.
- The one who has a small bag without enough cloths or without cloths at all – and he still says he's a tourist. This one is automatically a suspect.

## **Transport security**

As for transport (in general, not just during travel) there are some general guidelines:

- 1) For motorcycles, you should ensure it is kept at a safe location, not looking suspicious.
- 2) Also, when using a motorcycle, or a car or anything, respect the law. A speed excess could get you in serious trouble, because if the policeman asks the right questions, he could know you have something to hide.
- 3) Match your look to the one of your vehicle. If you're getting an expensive car for the needs of your operation, dress up accordingly.
- 4) Match the car with its environment. An expensive car in a poor neighborhood or in the mountains countryside will get unwanted attention.
- 5) Your vehicle should be bought/rented under fake documents if possible. If you survive your operation, the authorities are going to go after your mean of transport to try to get your identity.
- 6) It is better to change the car's color and number before the operation, and then you do the same after the operation to make everything back to normal. When Hassan al-Banna was assassinated, a man on the street saw the car the attackers used and he memorized the number on the plate. They didn't change it, and that's how they ultimately got caught.
- 7) If you are buying a vehicle/motor for the operation, it's better, as we said, to do it under fake identity and papers, and also don't buy it from someone/somewhere near your home or base location.

### Public transport:

- 1) Try using the crowded means to disappear in the crowd (for example, better to use the crowded metro than the bus)
- 2) Avoid stopping at your desired stop, but stop before or after and go on foot.
- 3) Avoid “important”/”central” stops as they might be under more strict surveillance.
- 4) Again, your cloths should match. If you’re using a tourist bus, dress like a tourist, and if you’re dressed like someone from the upper-class, don’t use the means used by people not from your category [(this is especially true for developing countries, as in the West you can find all kind of people in the underground)]
- 5) If you’re taking a coach for a long ride, put your luggage with the other people, don’t keep it with you. And try to put in between other people’s bags. In the worst case, try to have another separate handbag or backpack with your personal stuff, and the sensitive material in the luggage compartment. Of course, it shouldn’t contain anything that could be linked to you in person, as you can always say you only have that backpack with you, and nothing else.
- 6) If you need to interact with people to keep suspicion away, you can do so but without anything linked to religion/politics. Also, don’t get into troubles. A simple fight can get the police to come and get you exposed.
- 7) Beware of taxis, and don’t talk too much to them. In the worst case, keep the discussion very general.

## Chapter 8

### Money & Weapons Security

## **Money safety**

So we have finished with the topic of travel and taking transports, we will talk now about money. What do we mean by “safety of money” ?

It is all the steps you take to hide, protect and preserve money during transport with the objective to use it for the operation.

Our objective isn't only to protect the money itself, but also to protect the brothers who get that money. As you know brothers, money is key to winning any war. You know that America got into a war in Afghansitan and Iraq at the same time, and part of the economic crisis in America is because of these two wars and the enormous amount of money and effort that they need – and they are still loosing them.

So here are a few guidelines on money:

- Do not put all your money in the same location. Especially when this money is for the operation, you should dispatch it at various places so as to not loose everything once and for all in case of a theft or anything.
- Don't go out with too much money on you, only take the amount you will need and in moderation. (Except of course in major cases when you don't have a choice)
- Also when you go out with a big amount of money, you should have a cover story to explain what are you doing, where are you going, etc.
- In case there's any danger, you should be prepared to bury the cash money (not always applicable)

## **Weapons and ammunitions**

Here brothers I want you to concentrate with me. The most important rule in this chapter, you should keep this in mind, is to understand that you can't buy weapons from anyone. Brothers, understand very well and put in your mind that the guy selling you the weapon is with the secret services. The vast majority of weapon dealers have links with the intelligence.

It's not possible for a country to have weapon dealers roaming freely in the country without them being under very strict surveillance, or even working with the intelligence agency of the country. That way, they can give information about who buys from them.

We have heard not so long ago in the United States that some brothers wanted to make an operation in America so they bought weapons, and who sold weapons to them? It was an undercover FBI officer. So what was the result? When they wanted to launch the attack they got arrested.

So you should be extremely careful here, and not trust anyone. Even the imam at your local mosque, you see in Canada there is a guy named 'Mubin Sheikh' he was an imam and a preacher, and this guy fooled many brothers and they trusted him, so he “trained” them in some way with the Canadian intelligence informed, and then these brothers got caught. He was working with the Canadian intelligence all along.

That event was featured on a Western TV station, but they do that to try to demotivate the Mujahideen, by making them believe that “we are everywhere, we know what you're doing, we see you” while in reality it's not the case. The enemy always counts on this kind of undercover people and spies, so we should be aware and learn from mistakes of those before us.

So this matter of buying a weapon should be studied very carefully, and if you can use someone or an intermediary it's better.

You should also buy the different equipment you need from different stores (for the case of countries who permit that, like in the US)

For example let's say you need weapons, you buy them from different stores. For example you need Nitrate Ammonium to make explosives, you should buy it in quantities that will not raise suspicion. You buy 5 kg from here, 10kg from there, or even in lot smaller quantities if possible to make it even less suspicious. Some brothers in Germany bought 50kg of Nitrate Ammonium at once. They didn't respect the orders we gave them, so guess what happened to them?

Originally, those stores who sell nitrate, and other chemicals that could be used in making explosives, they always have links with the secret services. Every time someone suspicious passes by their store, they alarm the authorities. If you buy anything in suspicious quantities, they will immediately notice. That's why you should be buying these chemicals in the strict minimum quantity from many different stores (with a good cover story also)

Always keep in mind that the weapon dealer is an intelligence officer. Plan everything around this rule.

Some guidelines may include:

- When you want to buy the weapon, test the dealer to make sure he's not an undercover spy.
- Make sure the weapon is working before taking it with you. Most of the time, the FBI undercover dealers provide weapons that aren't working to begin with.
- Never buy large quantities of chemicals at once.  
The transport of the weapon should be done very carefully. If you have someone with you, make him go in front of you with his car in case there's a police checkpoint so he can make sure the road is safe ahead of you.
- Make sure to take good care of the weapon and protect it from water, etc and hide it very carefully.

# Chapter 9

## Surveillance

We will talk now about surveillance and the guidelines related to following a target for the purpose of getting information for a possible operation, for example someone we plan to assassinate.

This kind of surveillance is something widely used by government agencies for anyone suspected of terrorism-related activities. Those who come back from Jihad fronts to their home country are always put under surveillance, for minimum 6-12 months. Even if they have nothing to do with any kind of terrorism, once there is an attack or something, they will get everyone, all those under surveillance are interrogated and questioned.

Also, many brothers who prepare for operations in the West get busted ultimately because of surveillance. Today, this kind of surveillance is also done online – and we refer you back to the chapter on online safety and encryption for more details.

Here are a few guidelines that deserve to be studied in order to maximize the efficiency of the surveillance process of your target.

- It's good to plan your surveillance process. You can get a lot of info online (ensuring you take the right steps to stay safe online) for example the address, hobbies, appearance, etc.. of your target.
- Define your cover story before you go out for surveillance.
- If you are many brothers doing this, each one of you should have a precise task.
- Depending on the case, you can use hidden cameras. Some hidden cameras today can fit in a watch or a pen.
- Surveillance should be planned for a limited time.
- Define the starting location of the surveillance process.
- If you are working within a cell, the cell members should agree with each other on a certain number of signs/symbols to communicate with each other in total discretion. Among these signs, putting or pulling hand from pockets, putting on glasses, etc.. to say for example, that the target has turned right, or to say that we end the surveillance process here and we should retreat, etc.. These signs should be clear and not leave any doubt in the mind of the brothers with you. Also, they should be in accordance to the environment around you. You shouldn't be putting sunglasses if there's no sun, or open your umbrella if there's no rain, ...
- You should be wearing something looking absolutely normal, and those with you (if any) shouldn't be wearing the same cloths as you.
- If you work in group, all of you should have your watches timing up perfectly (to the second)
- Have money with you in case you need to take public transport/taxi or buy anything during the surveillance process.
- In case you're following someone, always leave a good distance between you and him, but you should still be able to see him from afar if he turns right or left. Never be directly behind him when doing surveillance, but leave some people between you and him.
- If the target takes public transport, you should take the same vehicle as him and act accordingly.
  
- Never look at the target in the eyes
- Always leave a few people between you and him
- Act normally, but don't exaggerate in looking innocent, but that itself is suspicious.

- If your target enters a building (mall for example) you should have a cover story on what are you doing in that mall
- Try to observe your target's movements, there are signs that could tell that he feels that he is being followed/watched.
- It's better not to carry weapons on you if you're just doing surveillance.
- Have your real ID documents on you (not fake ones)
- Keep in mind your targets choice the road he takes (if he always takes the same road, if he always stops by the same shop every time, etc)

Surveillance isn't easy, the Tawaghit put a lot of effort in that.

Now, what can you do if you feel you're being followed or if you want to check if you're being followed?

- During your movement from A to B, take a look and try to remember the faces behind you from time to time. Any face that comes many times could be someone following you.
- Turn the other way around, or get on a bus, then wait until the door will nearly close and get off. If someone does the same as you (get on and off again) it's likely to be someone following you.
- Change speed of your walking from time to time and notice if someone does the same as you behind you.
- Drop something on the ground to look behind you in discretion.
- If you know a dead-end road, take it and see who follows you there.
- You can enter a cinema or a mall and get out from another door so the spy following you loses sight.

If you are following someone while driving (following his car with your own car) a few guidelines:

- If you are 2: the driver's only job is to keep the distance between your car and the target constant (with keeping some car between the two, minimum 2 cars in crowded areas, and a larger distance in open, wide roads), the second one observes and notes down any remarks.
- Always respect the law. If the targeted car drives through the green light then it turns red before you can cross, then you stop.
- Keep aware that the target car could have access to restricted areas that you can't access (with guards, etc) so don't put yourself in a situation where you expose yourself.
- Memorize the target car characteristics: plate number, color, car brand, special edition, year, etc
- Keep radio off to help your concentration.
- Stay ready if the target of your surveillance plans on parking the car and continuing on foot.

## **Surveillance of a building**

Before targeting any building, we must of course what exactly is the activity held there, to not make stupid mistakes and target the wrong people.

So how do we perform the surveillance of a building? [You can start by an online search and look up Google Maps]

Some brothers in Sudan wanted to make surveillance on the US Embassy so they made the decision to rent an apartment nearby with a view on the embassy.

So what we can do here all depends on what's around your targeted building. Is there a shop, a restaurant you use as a cover to keep an eye on the building at certain times?

The most important rule here is to use your creativity and to be smart during the whole process. As you probably noticed, these "guidelines" are, for this chapter, pretty broad and general, because there are actually a thousand parameters we could take into account to adapt what we say. So don't be static and don't hesitate to adapt accordingly.

# Chapter 10

## The Cover

There is no successful undercover or secret operation or attack that didn't have this very important aspect, which is the cover.

Just as the secret service officer doesn't take a single step except with a cover, it's the same thing for the Mujahid for the sake of Allah, especially in our times where the Mujahideen, all around the world, are the targets of a fierce war by the Crusaders.

So what exactly do we mean by 'cover'? It's the *external appearance* behind which you operate and do your work. It *justifies* convincingly your actions and your presence in a specific time and a specific location.

So the cover is the "excuse" behind which you prepare or launch your operation. There are many guidelines and rules that will make it easier for you to choose what kind of cover you could use.

There was a golden rule in the CIA at a time which was: "the agent is responsible for ensuring his own security". So how do you ensure your own security? For example, if you are under surveillance and not supposed to be in a certain locality/country, contacting your family there might expose you. Appearing with an "Islamic look" might endanger you. Talking too much will endanger you. Buying weapons without the proper guidelines will endanger you, etc.

What are the guidelines for the cover?

- The best cover is the natural cover. If you are a doctor, a student, a professor, an engineer: use your own job, your own reality, your own life, as a cover. So if you are an engineer, you use your own job as a cover, because you know your job, you understand it, so you can't make any mistake on that field. That's almost a permanent cover because you can't be exposed as a fake engineer or a fake doctor if that's your main job. [So try to fit as many steps of the preparation of your operation as you can under your *natural cover*]
- The temporary cover: It's the cover you use for a limited amount of time with a precise objective. A typical example is acting like a tourist for the sake of taking pictures for example. You can act like a tourist who doesn't understand the language and take pictures of sensitive areas, which are normally forbidden from being taken in photos. Generally, sensitive military targets are far from touristic areas, but those areas can still be interesting.
- The group cover: you and the brothers with you in the cell need to meet to discuss something, you can for example adopt a group cover. You can be a group of students, or a group of hikers going to the mountains. If you get stopped and asked "Where are you going?" then you answer that you are a group of friends going for a mountain trail or for camping in the wild. Or a group of students meeting in a house to study their lessons, etc
- The "imaginary" cover: That's the cover that you're using for yourself, but for which you have zero material/document proof to make your point if you get stopped/arrested. You should never

fall in that kind of situation, and you should always PREPARE your cover for every step you take. The KGB, when they sent once a Russian agent in France, he had the mission to act like he's lived in Italy for many years before coming to France. So they prepared fake old cinema tickets, and many other papers and documents to "prove" he used to live in Italy, in case if the police comes, he could easily prove with dozens of documents that he lived in Italy (even though all these documents were forged by the KGB)

- The organizational cover: It's when you set up an organization or you join a known organization with the purpose of collecting info and working for your operation under it as a cover. For example, you know how evangelists come to our Islamic countries under the cover of humanitarian groups and they spread Kufr among our children, and there have been a lot of examples. Same with CIA spies who always used that kind of cover, infiltrating medical or humanitarian groups and NGOs for the purpose of gathering intelligence.
- The "lightning" cover: It's a kind of temporary cover but for an extremely short amount of time, and here there is a lot of room for creativity and smartness. In the Israeli intelligence they used to have tests to for intelligence officers. One of these tests was to go out with the candidate in the street and they told him: "You see the building there? I want to see you, 10 minutes from now, at the window of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor with a glass of water in your hand and you wave at me." So the candidate had to use his imagination to find the necessary cover. The story says that the man went up and found a lady living there, and he told her that he was a movie producer and they wanted to shoot a scene from her window because the view was perfect, but he needed to make sure the view is good. The lady was glad and let him enter. He then asked her for a glass of water, which she gave him, and there he was at the window of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor with a glass of water, waving at his examiner.

Another example is an Algerian brother who was working in a French restaurant but he told them that he was Italian, not Algerian. Of course he only spoke French and not a single word of Italian. For a long time, that worked well for him. One day, some Italian customers entered, and the owner of the restaurant talked to them then he said: "Oh! I have one of your comrades working here, he's Italian too!" So what was the brother's reaction? He was in front of Italians and didn't talk a single word of Italian. Look at the creativity and calmness of that brother, he turned to his boss and said: "No! These guys are lying, they aren't Italians" and laughing at the same time. He turned it to a joke, so even if the Italian guys say "He's not Italian, he's lying" the French owner of the restaurant (who didn't understand Italian either) would only think that these group of Italians and the Algerian brother were giving a hard time to each other, laughing and joking. He managed to get out of a difficult situation by using correctly his cover to the end.

### **The cover's story**

It is the story you use for your cover, it must explain the past-present-future of your cover and it should not create any doubts of the person interrogating you. When you tell this cover story to yourself, it must be absolutely logical, it must be coherent and not have any contradiction.

A few guidelines for the cover story:

- The cover story must not create any doubt: If you find yourself in a neighborhood where people are generally poor, you must act accordingly, your state must not differ from the one of the people around you (for example)  
How did KGB agents get exposed during the Cold War? Many of them used to have the cover of being Russian refugees in the West, but western agencies surveillance showed that they actually had much more money than “regular” refugees and they were spending a lot, so that created a doubt and they ended up being exposed.
- It's better if your cover story matches up with your own personal history, and your own past-present-future.
- Your cover story must be “proved” with documents and evidence, even if you need to forge them for that purpose.
- Your cover story must give you enough freedom of action to do what you need to do. Generally, the “student cover story” gives you enough freedom for most things related to preparing your operation.

Here is an important rule: Your cover and cover story must be as important to you as a weapon is important for Afghan tribal people or Yemeni tribal people. You know in these tribal areas a person's weapon is very dear to him, and he can't live without it. It's part of their personality, culture and life, as well as for the Mujahid in these areas. As for you, Mujahid in the West as a lone wolf or as a small cell, your cover is as important to you as your weapon, so prepare it well and take your time to make it as perfect as possible.

Keep in mind that any successful operation needs time. Let's imagine you or a group of brothers decide to go the United States with the objective, with the permission of Allah, to strike them a severe blow. Imagine your cover is that you want to go there to work in import/export business or create your own small business. You must do that for at least one year, maybe two years, before you start working on your operation. It's important to take your time and not rush. The successful intelligence officer always sees things in the long-run, not 2 days, 3 days, not even 2-3 months. If you arrive in America then you decide to start working on an operation immediately after your arrival, there are chances you will fail. Of course, this is for people who go there for the purpose of the operation. The advantage of the lone wolf here is that he is already established in the West, his entire life is a cover story – and a very strong one at that. So use that to your advantage. Be patient, don't rush anything, put your trust in Allah.  
May Allah reward you.

# Chapter 11

## Social Engineering

We will talk in this chapter about something we could call 'social engineering'. It's the art to get information from people while having a casual conversation with them, without them realizing they are giving information, or making them feel like those informations aren't relevant or aren't important.

For example let's say we want to assassinate a known personality, we will need to gather informations and intel about him, so we might have to talk with people close to him, his family, co-workers, neighbors, people who know him. This is something that's also used by the Tawaghit intelligence agencies, they send people (with a cover) to talk to a Mujahid casually while in reality it's a trap to get sensible information.

This social engineering work has some characteristics:

- The person you're asking for information doesn't know that you need those information for the purpose of using them for the operation. The whole conversation sounds innocent from the beginning to the end.
- The person giving the information is doing it from their own, there is no pressure, no threat. It all comes naturally as the conversation flows.
- You don't necessarily need to gather all the information/intel you need in one single conversation (of course this depends, once again, on your real life situation). But the best thing, if possible, is only to get tiny bits by tiny bits, to not rush. You can get small pieces of information from here and there, then you put all the pieces together to get the full picture.

What's the difference with an interrogation (for example in poilice custody) ?

- During an interrogation, the person isn't necessarily cooperating with you. In the social engineering approach, the person is unknowingly cooperating with you.
- The relationship during the interrogation is unequal, one is necessarily above the other in terms of the balance of power. During the social engineering conversation, the power relationship is balanced.
- During the interrogation, the detainee knows the importance of the information he's giving out, which is not the case during the SE (Social Engineering) approach.

## How do you use the SE approach on someone?

- You have to find the right way to start the conversation with the person. For example, let's say your operation's goal is to assassinate a precise army general. You could start with someone who lives near him or someone he knows. If your target is launch an assault on a government building, people who live near it or shopkeepers around it could be a start.
- During the conversation, you should be able to identify the points of interest for you, even if it's tiny small pieces of information.
- Make sure you keep the subject of your conversation in check, and you keep your interest in whatever subject you're discussing. Be a good listener. Do not interrupt.
- You should keep the person you're talking to lead the conversation. This has many benefits, among which:
  - 1) Makes you able to understand the personality of the person in front of you, for example, is he smart? Is he talkative? Is he shy or is he suspicious? Is he the kind that you ask and he gives you more than what you asked?
  - 2) Hides your intention
  - 3) Prepares the person you're talking to to give you the lead in the conversation. If he feels he talked enough or lead enough, it will be your turn.
  - 4) Smartly lead the conversation towards what interests you. You have to do that with discretion and not in a sudden way.
- Always ask indirect question, for example there's a high-value target who lives near the café for example, if you're talking to the guy working there, you shouldn't ask "When does X goes out for work in the morning?" That would be stupid. Instead, go for, "You know X, he lives not far from here (acting like you also live in the area) but I haven't seen him going to work these days, do you think he's sick or something?" That way, maybe he'll answer you: "Sick? Don't think so, he's always out with his car by 9 in the morning! So I don't think he's sick" (We hope you understood the example) So always ask indirect questions.
- Always be polite and respectful to the person you're talking to. The nicer the atmosphere, the easier your job will be.
- You should pay attention to the person, if he's feeling uneasy talking to you or he's hesitant, because that might mean that he's suspecting you of something.
- Don't try to get all your info at once, this work can take weeks or even months. The Mujahid must be ready for a long-term work, and his main characteristic is PATIENCE.
- When you get the information you need, keep the conversation flowing to another subject to make it easy to pick up the conversation another time.

- Make some intentional mistakes about the reality around you during the conversation to see if the person corrects you and gives you additional details. You can also act like you don't believe what he's saying so he will confirm it and perhaps give you more details to convince you he's telling the truth.
- Golden rule: Be patient and stay discreet, don't talk too much.

## Chapter 12

### Special Operations & Inspection

We are going now to talk about the operation itself, how to ensure it goes well and how to plan it and implement the plan safely.

Any operation should have a good plan which should be safe. Of course, our objective is to make sure the operation is a success, so every little detail should be taken care of.

First, the essential informations:

- Specifying the target correctly: This means that the target of your operation should be clear. What's our objective? Blowing up a particular building? Assassinating a known personality? You should be precise here.
- Make sure that the information you have are correct: you should ensure that the info you have about the target are correct, whether it's its location, the number of people there, the presence of security forces, etc. You should know everything – or as much as you can at least.
- The operational plan should include a “plan B” – you should always have a plan B in case things don't go according to plan A. So you define some key points in your plan A and if you can't perform them during the operation, you switch to plan B.  
You should always have the same mentality as the enemy. Never leave anything to the unknown, or to chance. Everything should be planned.

The plan A, and the plan B.

- The plan A is the main plan. It should contain all the details of the operation, from the beginning to the end.
- Plan B: You use it in case plan A fails. So if you think during your operation that plan A is compromised, you switch to plan B.
- Emergency plan (EP): When both plan A and plan B are compromised. You should know one thing: a lot of brothers were caught because they didn't have an EP, and in general, because of a lack in the planning. Once again, I insist on the importance to think about all possible outcomes. Your operation could be a success and you embrace martyrdom, but it could happen that you actually have the possibility to escape after your operation (for example).
- If you are working in a small group or a cell, it's important that the chain of command is respected and each one's role is precisely detailed beforehand.

## Planning the operation

It's the plan you need to set up before the operation. You have to know, dear brothers, that not every target is suitable. You have to think about the best way to reach your target. For example we want to assassinate someone, what's the best way to do it? Shoot him from distance, or shoot him from near? Stab him? Put poison on his car's door? Send him a poisoned letter? So you should explore all possibilities [Inspire Magazine could be helpful here]

- A good plan should be *realistic* and within reach. No need to make it over-complicated. It should be simple but complete. Of course, there are some parameters that can change during the operation so you can give yourself some freedom also.
- It is NECESSARY that you READ everything you can find on previous operations – those who failed included. You have to learn from the mistakes made by those before you so you don't fall in the same trap.
- Ideally, there should be a main target and secondary targets in the same location. If the main target is successfully hit you can try for the secondary, but the most important stays the main target.
- Use online resources – softwares for making maps, Google maps, etc. To help in your planning.
- Once your plan is done, you should imagine yourself doing the whole scenario in your head (like a movie) from the beginning to the end, with every detail included. Do that many times, as many times as you need it to make you feel confident the day of the operation.
- Imagine all the possible bad things that could happen and plan what to do in each case. The Emergency Plan should be a worst case scenario plan.
- Implement the element of surprise in your operation, with speed and creativity. [Once again, we point out the importance of Inspire Magazine as it may help you a lot at this point]

## Inspection

With the presence today of social media, Google, and so on, collecting intel on a target has become significantly easier than 10 years ago. There is today a part you can do online from your home, and some other specific info that you can complete with an inspection on the target's location site.

There are some things that you can't know if you don't do an inspection – for example how tiny or large the road is near the target building for example, what are the moments of the day where there's most people/where's there's less people, the moment where there's more or less security, etc.

It's important that you know the surroundings of the target (in case it's a fixed target) the streets around it, their names, the nature of the neighborhood (industrial? Touristic? Residential? Etc) Every little detail has its importance.

One might think "These details are nothing, we don't care about the street name". Let me remind you of something that happened in Khost a while back, the brothers wanted to perform a double martyrdom operation to open the road to an American base, but they didn't check the nature of the ground there (is it moist, is it hard, etc) so when the first martyrdom operation was launched, it left a giant hole in the

ground, which didn't let the second martyrdom operation pass. So when you prepare your operation, do it well and don't neglect anything.

So what are the elements that you need to pay attention to when inspecting an area for an operation?

- The location
- The kind of neighborhood (is it the neighborhood where you find a lot of medical doctors and drug stores? It can be interesting to use a cover that suits well with the location for example)
- Language spoken/ethnicity of people living there.
- The streets around the target, their names, length, width, where they begin, where they end, are they crowded, etc
- The positions of police officers (if any) and security forces in the streets surrounding the target's location.
- The difference of atmosphere in the area in the morning and the evening – when is it most crowded, are there many people out, etc.. this can help you determine the ideal time to launch your operation.
- You can do an inspection INSIDE the building you're targeting if you use the correct cover (for example, a student visa for the US can get you the opportunity to enter the embassy maybe 2-3 times)
- Inspection covers also the individual aspect: for example, embassy workers don't necessarily live in the embassy, and you can inspect and see where they live, where they go out, where they eat, etc. This can prove useful for assassination operations.

And all praise be to Allah, and peace be upon His messenger.