Effects of the Australian Jihadists Training on Conducting Successful Terrorists Offensive

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Abstract
The Australian jihadist is becoming obvious among the western terrorists in conflict zones. Training of terrorist is considered as the most important phase in the radicalizing process and in preparing to future operations. In pursuing this mission, most of terrorists have been caught or arrested as it needs more than idea and thoughts to conduct terror offensive. This study examines the training process of the Australian jihadists through distinguishing between two generations. The first generation is the terrorists who train with foreign organization (FTO) and acquire skills and knowledge. The second is the so called home-grown terrorists who never travel to terrorists camps or trained with (FTO). The latter is mostly radicalized and trained through internet and social media. The importance of studying such topic is came from the need to determine the lethality of any terrorists attack depending on the training of its perpetrators. It argues that terrorists who trained with FTO have the capability to stage a big scale attack than self-trained terrorists. The findings of this study suggests that law enforcements should track the training of terrorists and build database of trained terrorists as possible future attacks perpetrators.

Keywords: training, terrorists, Australian, camps, generation

Introduction
Since its participation in the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq with the coalition troops, Australia has been considered as possible target for the Islamist jihadist organizations. The past years showed new trend in terrorism development, it is increasingly shifted from international terrorist to so-called homegrown terrorist or lone wolf (the terrorist who works alone). The home grown terrorists are born from migrate Muslims or from those who converted to Islam. This shifting has followed by changing the way the terrorist training and obtaining the necessary knowledge to carry out attacks. However, training with terrorist foreign organization is offence on act 102.5(1) of the Criminal Code Act 1995, recent statics shows increasing numbers of terrorists who has travelled to conflict zones. This article examines the Australian jihadist training process in which way they acquire the training knowledge as it is one of the most important phases in the life of any jihadist. In addition, it will compare and contrast between two generations of jihadist;

• The generation who has trained with a structural terrorist organization such as Al-Qaida, Jema'ahls lamia (JI), Lesker Teiba (LET) and recently with Islamic state in Iraq and Levant (ISIS). However, most of terrorist training camp was destroyed; the terrorist groups remain capable to train in real camps.
• The second generation is the terrorists who has trained and tried to attacks targets in Australia without leaving the country. They were self-based training and guidance, depends on the internet training material sand terrorist websites. Although, the two kinds of training are different, to draw an accurate line between the two modus operandi training is not an easy task as it appears.

The importance of distinguishing between the two types of training comes from the need to understand, what is the effectiveness of their training on staging up a lethal attack on Australia? And does the success of any attack have a correlation with the kind and place of training obtained by terrorists? The first part of this study shed light on the Muslim community in the country, as 2% of the Australian populations are Muslims descended from different countries. The second part of this study exhibits the training process of the first jihadist who travelled to obtain basic training skills. The last part examines the new jihadist training trends and how they relied on internet as main source for training.
Overview on Jihadist in Australia

Not all the Muslims are terrorists but most of terrorists are Muslims. This say could be applied to some extent on Australia’s jihadist that all of them are come from Muslims community. The 2007 census indicates that the Muslims population in Australia is 2% of all population in Australia. Those tiny percentages of terrorists amongst Muslims in Australia have their own interpretation to Islam. However, the percentage in Muslim community is insignificant; the Islam phobia in Australia becomes increasingly alarming.1 Muslim Australians are not a homogenous group as some media reports might lead us to believe, but make up a small, culturally diverse section of Australian society2. What makes Australian Muslim jihadist? Sam Mullins claims that the “domestic situation in the Muslims countries has the potential to fuel the grievances of jihadist in Australia”. This might be true partially but one could argue that terrorists have their own global objects indeed, and they kill Muslims as well.3 Another assumption indicates that the economic conditions are the main causes for terrorism among the Muslims communities. On contrary, many empirical researchers have found a negative relation between poverty and terrorism.4 Thus, it is important to differentiate between the small percentage of jihadist and the whole Muslims community as it is a way to separate the jihadist and countering them. So what are the others reasons that lead young Australian to join terrorists group?

In general, there are many reasons which could fuel the desire to join the jihadist group against Australia; the most important one is the war on Iraq and Afghanistan. The Australian troops have supported the coalition on its war to topple Saddam Hussein, and now it supports another coalition against (ISIS). In the context of war on terror, Australia has become increasingly the spearheaded of this war in Southeast Asia. In addition, the Australian intervention in east Timor was explained as an attack on Islam.5 The prominent leaders of Al-Qaida, Bin laden and Ayman Alzawahri and now ISIS leaders have announced many times that Australia is a legitimate target for Mujahedeen.6 Therefore, about 102 Australian have died in different terrorist incidents, 100 of them were died outside the country. For instance, members of "both the Pendenn and the Neathcells discussed attacking” Australian targets because of the war in Iraq and its troops in Afghanistan.7 Similarly in 2005 an Australian man appeared in video released by Al-Qaida (he is believed to be Mathew Stewart) citing the involvement in Jihad against the west stated” It is time for us to be equals...As you kill us, you will be killed. As you bomb us, you will be bombed...The honorable sons of Islam will not just let you kill our families in Palestine, Afghanistan and Balkans, Indonesia, the Caucasus and elsewhere.8 Many researchers cite the death of Australian in terrorist acts as collateral damage. For instance, the terrorist attack on Bali Island in Indonesia was against the tourist in Indonesian rather than on Australian citizen.9 Although most of the victims were died outside the country, Australia is not an immune against a wide scale terrorism offensive. Every year the security forces thwart many plots.10 The characteristics of Australian Jihadist broadly have similar to their counterparts of Europe but relatively different from the North America in some features. They are male between 20 and 30s of their age.11 Though, half of the sample of research conducted by Mullien indicates that they born in Australia, most of them have dual citizenship.

6Bin Laden in 2003
Their education level is also low comparing to terrorists from North America and similar to their counterparts from Europe.12 The most striking point is that, 60% of the jihadists of Australia are from the Lebanese background. However, Mullien failed to explain why most of the Islamic jihadists are from the Lebanese heritage. Bakker reveals that, they are semi-skilled or none skilled with low profile job such as taxi drivers or butchers.13 Unlike Sageman research, he asserts that about 172 jihadist around the world had strong occupational14. The Australian jihadist also have high percentage of married status mostly with children, 70% of the sample were married. There are many cases of Australian Jihadist involving in terrorist act domestically and internationally. The most important is; Noor Abdullah from Uighur ethnicity, he was a first Australian convicted on terror charge after 9/11.David Hicks was the first Australian Jihadist who captured in Afghanistan in late 2001 then he was taken to Guantanamo bay.15 In 2003, Joseph or Jack Thomas from Melbourne who trained with foreign organization was arrested in Pakistan16. In 2004, Sydney medical student Izhar Ul-Haque was arrested after he came back from Pakistan, then later he was released because evidence insufficient on his training with LshkerT eiba(LeT)17. In 2003 Zeky Mallah from Sydney was charged of planning to commit suicide act against member of Australian department of foreign affairs and ASIAO.18Willie Brigitte convicted in France after arrested in Australia conspiring with Fahem Lodhi to commit terrorism act.19

The country has neither experienced a sustainable terrorist movement nor has its national security come under threat, such as the Irish republican Army in England or the Baader-Meinhof in Germany. May be the most dangerous plot which has been thwarted is the Sydney cell. It was considered as more advance in planning and encompasses different kind of weapons, ammunitions and materials on bomb making.20 The number of discovered plots seems low, yet when it compares to the population of Australia it considered relatively high.21 The reasons behind the safety of Australian territory until now are varied and diverse. Rahimullah and colleges relate this safety to the rigid measures of borders security, which help in mitigating the risk of transitional terrorist.22 They also cite that to geographical situation of Australian content as it is far away from any conflict or borders with conflicted countries. On contrast, the defence white paper 2013 asserted that the borders are no longer the first defence line against terrorism.23It is more likely that Australia is less involving in Middle East struggle and playing lesser role than the western countries do. The latter reason possibly makes Australia “low priority for the terrorist groups”.24 The involvement of Australian troops in the conflict zones in Muslim countries may make this assumption less attractive. Consequently, the reasons for the immunity of Australia soil against large-scale terrorism to date is vary and debatable among researchers. Nevertheless, the most important is to keep it safes as much as possible. Notable, most of Australian terrorist cases were took place aftermath of September 11 in USA. This wave of terrorism attempts is not limited to Australia that most western countries have experienced heat in terrorism for the same period.

12Ibid
14Marc Sageman, Understanding Terror Networks (Univ of Pennsylvania Press, 2004).
21Ibid, page, 27.
24Rahimullah, Larmar, and Abdalla, 'Radicalization and Terrorism: Research within the Australian Context', (2013).
While Rapport ranked this wave as the fourth in this century after the anarchist, cold war wave, and nationalist wave respectively,\(^25\) Marc segment has divided the terrorist waves also to three waves started around 1980s against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan\(^26\). The second wave was around 1990 mainly al-Qaida maintain its presence in Europe and attacked France and USA. The third wave in segment categories is post September 11.\(^27\)

**Training with Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)**

The first generation of Australian jihadist identified as the terrorist who have been trained internationally by a foreign terrorist organization (FTO). They traveled to terrorist camps in different parts of the world and have gained basic and advance training skills. "NATO defines military training as the permanent process of preserving and improving the skills (capabilities) of military individuals, staffs and forces to sound military operations".\(^28\)

Before the invasion of Afghanistan, the global terrorist groups such Al-Qaida has its own paramilitary training camps and that camps were crowded with Islamic jihadist from different parts of the world. The Punjab camps in Pakistan belong to LET which it is located in Faisalabad, its capacity reached to 3000 fighter.\(^29\) These terrorist were trained on weapons, launching rockets, bomb making and even on how to manufactured chemical weapons. Training with FTO in special design camps for guerrilla’s warfare is a great opportunity for the new jihadist to learn and adopt new methods of training to include them in future terrorist operations. Nasser points out that the western fighters are most welcomed in these camps, they can easily fit in the western countries and carry out attacks.\(^30\) The trained terrorists are more likely to carry out successful attacks than self-trained terrorist. He add that they are more valuable to terrorist organization than none trained fighters. However, the death of well-trained member considers as big lose from the terrorists side, it is deemed as victory from law enforcement side. For example, Hamas operations were greatly affected by the death of its explosive mastermind Yihye Ayyash.\(^31\)

In addition, training with FTO is of great important to the terrorists and their organizations alike. They could easily manage to build a strong connection with their like-minded terrorist which could lead to covertly coordinate a big scale terrorist attack.\(^32\) On the other hand, involving many terrorists in any attack could have them exposed and finally arrested or killed. Koschade asserts that to conduct attacks, it might need to incorporate many elements in order to be successful.\(^33\) In contrast, Hogan emphasizes the “wolf lone “operations are more likely to be carried out successfully.\(^34\) The connection and tied with the original home or descendent place makes it easier for the terrorist to travel and conduct the training in the absent of Australian radar. It is interesting to know that the terrorist travel to Lebanon, Somalia and Syria to train in their original country.\(^35\) In Australia, the security agency has stated that there are 100 terrorist in the country with terrorist training skills, 42% of them have advance training courses.


\(^{26}\) Karen Rasler and William R Thompson, 'Looking for Waves of Terrorism 1', *Terrorism and political violence*, 21/1 (2009), 28-41.


\(^{28}\) “The definition distinguishes between basic training which is Training to achieve and maintain a fundamental level of knowledge and skills needed to fulfill a limited spectrum of assigned tasks=misions, and advanced training which is Training to achieve and maintain a higher level of knowledge needed to the same end”. consult NATO, Nato Training Policy – Mc 458=1 and Nato Training Doctrine Bi-Sc 75-2.

\(^{29}\) Koschade, 'The Internal Dynamics of Terrorist Cells: A Social Network Analysis of Terrorist Cells in an Australian Context', (.


\(^{33}\) Koschade, 'The Internal Dynamics of Terrorist Cells: A Social Network Analysis of Terrorist Cells in an Australian Context', (.


The terrorist camps were resided in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, and now in Syria.\textsuperscript{36} Furthermore, trained with FTO are not only limited to physical and military skills but encompasses the Islamic doctrine and Islamic teaching as well.\textsuperscript{37} On contrast to other kind of training, the FTO trainee combined the intellectual and military skills together. This comprehensive training gives the terrorists the skills and determination they need for future attacks. Unlike self-trained terrorist who lack this combination training. The terrorist incidents could give significant indication about the level of terrorist training. Porter & Keckell state in their research on a sample of 21 Australian jihadist that\textsuperscript{12} of them attended overseas training trip. In fact Jack Roche maintained a good relation with Jemaah Islamiah (JI) in Indonesia and trained in Farouq camp in Afghanistan.\textsuperscript{38} His plan to attack the Israeli embassy, American targets in Australia and the Olympic games proved the capability to implement the skills he gained - such as reconnaissance and intelligence gathering - on real targets. Similarly, the most important plot was thwarted is the Sydney cell, two of its member were trained with Leshker Teiba (LeT), Elomar and Cheiks their influence on the cell were undeniable.\textsuperscript{39} On the other hand, Penneth cell was relatively advance in its nature especially the weapons, ammunition and the chemical material found by the security enforcement, though it was described as basic. Thus, the training with foreign organization has marked the Australian jihadist before the 9/11 attack on USA.

**Second Generation of Australian Terrorist**

The second generation is the jihadist who borned converted and radicalised in Australia through the internet or the social media. These jihadists neither they have practical knowledge in carrying out attacks, nor they have been radicalized through contact experience terrorists. Indeed, it is not easy task to distinguish between the two generations by time only. While the counter-terrorism white paper 2010 states that, the 2004 year was the turning point between the two generations,\textsuperscript{40} many other researchers such as Zammit asserts that the changing happened in 2003.\textsuperscript{41} The latter also added that the turning point occurred after 2003, because only the self-starting plots have experienced in Australia after that time. This changing was started with operation Pendennis.\textsuperscript{42} The leader of this cell was Abdul Nacer Benbrika, a supporter of Osama Bin Laden and had praised him on the TV (great man).\textsuperscript{43} The focal point in this cell is that the leader is from the second generation who has never travelled to train overseas or met Osama Bin Laden. It seems that, to be a leader in a terrorist cell it is not relate to someone training, there is many other requirements need to be met. Although, the training was unable to conduct after 2001 through traveling to Afghanistan, Australian jihadist has searched for new training spots in new countries. For examples, it believed that 40 Australian jihadist of Somalia heritage have travelled to fight and trained with al-Shabab al-Islami in Somali, and other to Lebanon or Syria to train and fight. The new sanctuaries and training camps are reunable to match the old camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan for many reasons. First of all, the new training camps is not easy to be hidden from the security agencies around the world, they are monitored from the machines in the sky and from the human being on ground. Accordingly, the American Drones attacks on suspect camps in Yemen resulted in killing Anwar Al Awlaki, "he is their spiritual guiding father; he is second only to Osama bin Laden"\textsuperscript{44}. Second reason is, the new training camps have mostly lacked to support from sponsored state, and if there is any state who sponsors the terrorism it will likely to be encountered by the international community. Third reasons is the terrorist organization network of recruiter, who recruit and facilitate traveling process to camps sites. They are no longer found or hardly to find one not being caught or jailed.

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\textsuperscript{36} Harris-Hogan and Harris-Hogan, 'Australian Neo-Terrorism: Mapping the Network and Cell Analysis Using Wiretap Evidence', (p.6).
\textsuperscript{37} "Members of a terrorist cell that planned a bomb attack in Strasbourg in December 2000 claimed that they were instructed on how to make remote control bomb devices out of pressure cookers and radios ". See Nesser, 'How Did Europe's Global Jihadis Obtain Training for Their Militant Causes? ', (p.7).
\textsuperscript{38}
\textsuperscript{40} Andrew Zammit, 'Explaining a Turning Point in Australian', *Studies in conflict and terrorism*, 36/9 (09 2013), 739-27.
\textsuperscript{41} It had resulted in arresting 13 jihadists in Melbourne. The men were charged of waging jihad against Australia.
\textsuperscript{42} Christopher Michaelsen, 'Terrorism in Australia: An Inflated Threat', (2010).
Hence, Bin Laden Is no longer exist to offer financial and spiritual support, the new leaders of terrorist unmatched Bin Laden's charisma. The local training camps were created as a reaction to the destruction of the camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The absent in training camps around the world force the new generation of terrorists to make up their own training facility in the home country. The Australian jihadist have tried to use the remote area in the country to train on weapons, shooting and other needed skills. However, Insignificant number of them has succeeded in conducting some primary training, most of them have been caught before that phase had took place. In fact, even the training sites have to have a cover story since the Australian laws have banned the weapons possession. Some jihadist has used the hunting trips as a cover story, yet this have it is own risk either. For example. Porter indicates that new terrorist could train through separate themselves to groups and practicing “pseudo-military” exercise. On other hand, one could argue that the new jihadist need the old generation of jihadist, who has the experience, to help them in training and to pass the knowledge as well. Thus, the new jihadists lack to training arena, so they look for other choices to satisfy their needs. The internet is become increasingly the new arena for the terrorist to recruit, indoctrinate, radicalize and train. The new generation of Jihadist generally, have more experience in using the internet and browsing information technology than the old generation. It does not mean that the first generation has not use the web at all, but the rapidly growth in internet technology of speed and connection were not available before. Accordingly, almost all the terrorist groups have its own websites and accounts on social media to disseminate its propaganda and recruit more followers. For example, al-Shabab in Somalia has its own twitter account it was twitter all the time about the terrorist attack on the Westgate mall in Kenya it was. Isis, as well has a powerful media hubs.

Europe has experienced the terrorism from both generation but in wider scale. Nesser finds in his research that the terrorist acts in Europe increased after the invasion of Iraq in 2003. In Australia most of terrorist plots were thwarted, but in Europe it caused many casualties and kill. The western countries have faced devastating attack for the same period. Between 2003&2004 Europa was an arena to a global jihad mainly the new jihadist -home grown terrorist. The Madrid and London bombs were carry out by al-Qaida's inspired terrorist. Overall, Nasser stated, "the latest current of terrorism by globally oriented mujahidin has caused 244 deaths and more than 2700 injuries in Europe". Although, Australian jihadists, from the two generations have come in different times, both of them have the same goals. Even Australia have the extremist laws among the western countries against terrorism, it has experience increasing number of terrorist joining ISIS. The new terrorism from ISIS in Iraq and Syria have been attractive the terrorist from different parts of the world. This kind of bloody terrorism has forced the decision makers in Australia to think and act differently. The kind of training and radicalizing the new terrorists have been gaining from ISIS scared not Australia but the world as well. ISIS has its own training camps in different locations and highly skilled trainers. Those terrorist could eventually land in Australia with their highly class training and brain wash.

Conclusion

To sum up, training jihadist is very important phase in any terrorists life. Australian jihadist were not different from the others jihadist. Most of them have travelled to train in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria to gain the necessary skills to fight the western troops in Muslims land. However, the training in these camps in great important to successful attacks; most of it was destroyed and attacked by coalition forces. The Australian jihadists have developed new methods of training through the internet and terrorists websites. Using local camps and remote sites to train on weapons and guns. Nearly after 2003 the home- grown terrorist, who have never travelled to terrorist camps were became phenomena. So they look for a place to practice what they have learned through the internet and terrorist websites. Having the experience in training, the old terrorists become a trainers for the new terrorists and mentors as well. Australia now is experiencing new trend of lethal terrorists through the comeback terrorists from Iraq and Syria who trained with ISIS or who looks to travel and join the Islamic state.

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50Ibid.
Studying the terrorist training around the world is significant indication for law enforcement. It tells a lot about the new methods of conducting terrorism offensive, recruiting, and radicalising process.

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