

Xinjiang's Uighur Jihadists and The Wahhabi Empire of al-Qaeda

by an EIR Investigative Team

Turkestan. And what do you know about Turkestan? It is a wounded body with swollen eyes and bitter agony. Although the West commits crimes against the Muslims from time to time, and their crimes become known to media outlets (people hear and see about the crimes), Muslims rise to aid their brothers with every method and trick. However, the crimes committed by the pagan Chinese against the Muslims in Turkestan are carried out in silence and in the most despicable ways.... It is a duty for Muslims today to stand by their oppressed and wounded brothers in East Turkestan, and support and aid them with everything they can.

—*Sheikh Abu-Yahya al-Libi, al-Qaeda No. 2 commander, Oct. 6, 2009 (video entitled, "East Turkestan: The Forgotten Wound.")*

April 14—In the southwestern city of Kunming, China, on March 1, a team of terrorists numbering between 6 and 12 launched a blitz-attack on civilians at the train station in that provincial capital. Wielding knives and machetes, the attackers, including several women, killed 29 people and injured more than 140 others. It was the most effective and sophisticated attack by the Islamic extremist Uighur fighters, and according to high-level military and intelligence officials from the United States, India, and Israel, the attack was reminiscent of the deadly attack in Mumbai, India, in November 2008.

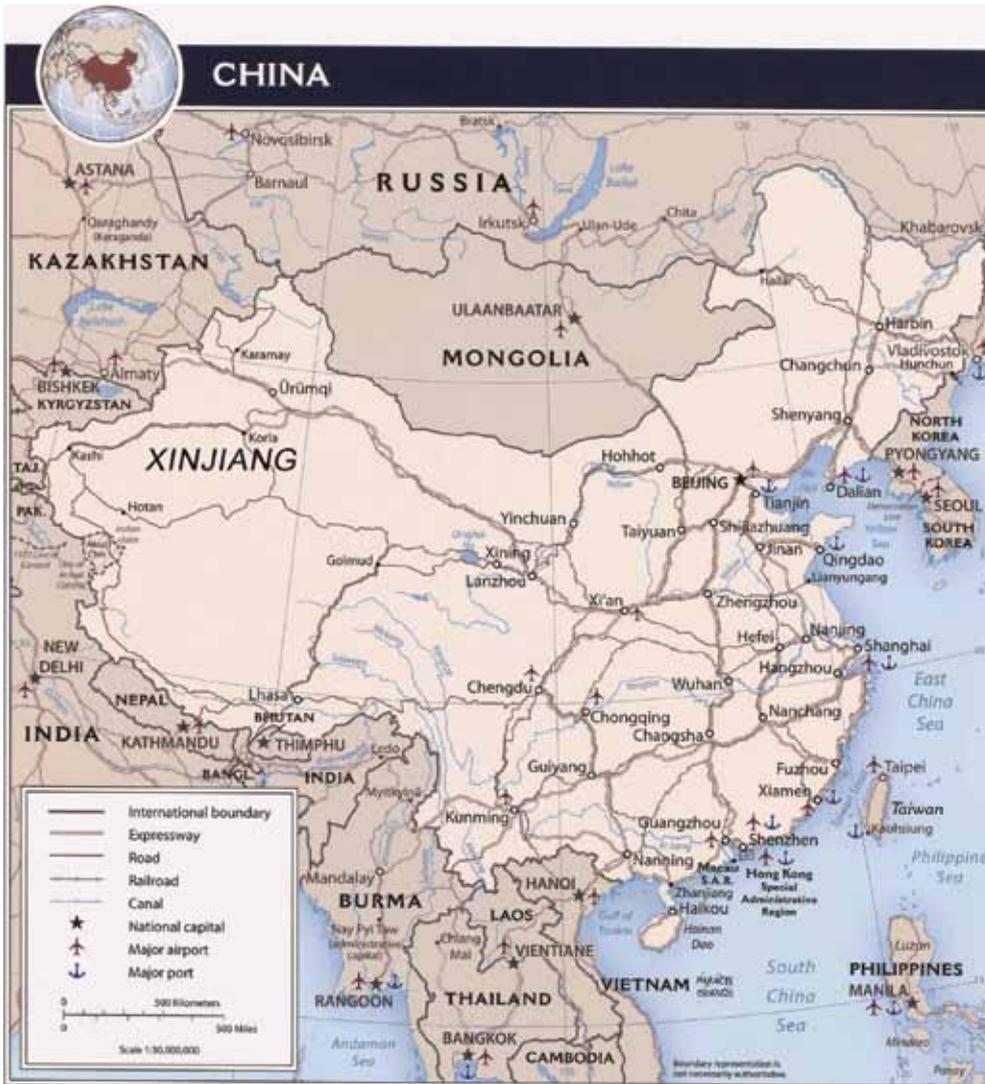
The parallel is not accidental. According to a retired U.S. intelligence executive, the Pakistani-based **Lashkar e-Tahibi (LeT)** trained the Mumbai terror team and has been engaged in training Uighur jihadists in Pakistan as well. The official noted that there were common features to the Mumbai and the Kunming terror attacks, in terms of infiltration of the teams and coordination.

But there is more to the connection than training or similarities in modus operandi. The attacks by Uighur jihadis have been mandated by the same top leadership of the Anglo-Saudi al-Qaeda terrorist network that pulled off the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and the attacks on the U.S. consulate and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012—the anniversary of the original 9/11 attack.

That continuity from the World Trade Center attacks, to Benghazi, to Kunming is the significance of the above quote by **Sheikh Abu-Yahya al-Libi**, the second in command of al-Qaeda, from 2010 to 2012, when he was killed by a U.S. drone attack in western Pakistan. Yahya al-Libi's call for jihad *by all Muslims* against China is not something to be dismissed. The Benghazi attack that killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans was carried out by al-Qaeda networks two days after **Zayman al-Zawahiri**, the successor to Osama bin Laden, called for more 9/11 type attacks in revenge for the murder of al-Libi.

"What do you know about Turkestan?" al-Libi bellows in his 2009 video, never calling the region by its actual name: Xinjiang, China. This province, the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Republic, which sits in the western reaches of China bordering seven countries including Russia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—is rich in raw materials and badly in need of development. Because of its strategic location and riches, Xinjiang has become a playground for the British Empire to play a version of its "Great Game" against China, utilizing ethnic differences to support groups in the province that want to establish "East Turkestan," as it was once called, as an independent country.

Now, because of *EIR's* groundbreaking investigative work on the two 9/11 attacks (2001 and 2012), a detailed examination of the Islamist networks that are growing among the Uighur national movement is possible.



al-Qaeda's No. 2 commander, behind al-Zawahiri.

But by Sept. 12, 2012, the White House's euphoria over the drone killings evaporated when, in revenge for al-Libi's death, al-Qaeda affiliates in Benghazi killed the four Americans in a fiery inferno and pitched battle that the White House tried to palm off as a demonstration gone awry. Two days before the murder of Ambassador Stevens, al-Qaeda's No. 1, Zawahiri, had, for the first time, confirmed al-Libi's martyrdom, saving the announcement for the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and calling on all Muslims, particularly Libyans, to avenge him. In a video that taunted and railed against Barack Obama for hunting down al-Qaeda, Zawahiri told al-Qaeda supporters that al-Libi's blood urged and

The Wahhabi Empire of al-Qaeda

On June 5, 2012, White House spokesman Jay Carney announced that al-Libi, a teacher, trainer, and top officer of the al-Qaeda command, was dead. Another U.S. official anonymously said that he had been killed in a drone strike in Pakistan, and that there is no one who even comes close, in terms of replacing his expertise for al-Qaeda. Al-Libi "played a critical role in the group's planning against the West, providing oversight of the external operations efforts," the official added.

For Obama's White House, it was another triumph, like the killing of Osama bin Laden. Carney gloated that al-Libi's death was "another serious blow to core al-Qaeda. His death is part of the degradation taking place in core al-Qaeda in the last several years." With the elimination of bin Laden, Yahya al-Libi had become

incited them to fight and kill the "Crusaders." The Obama Administration ignored Zawahiri's threat, just as it had ignored threats to the embassy and consulate in Libya since the Spring of 2012.

Two days after Zawahiri's call to take revenge for al-Libi, Stevens was dead, the first American ambassador to be assassinated in more than 30 years.

Obama's narcissistic folly of declaring victory against al-Qaeda carries a gruesome price for the United States. But according to U.S. intelligence sources, Obama, on behalf of his British puppet-masters, is committing an even greater error: believing that the Saudi-created Wahhabi jihadists can be used in a surrogate war against Russia—in the case of the Chechen and Caucasus Islamic extremists; and against China—in the case of the Uighur/East Turkestan Islamic radicals.

For more than a decade, protests from Beijing, that



Sheikh Abu-Yahya al-Libi, who was the second in command of al-Qaeda, called for jihad by all Muslims against China.

within the Uighur dissidents and separatist movement is a hard-core terrorist danger fueled by al-Qaeda and other Saudi-spawned terrorist groups, have been downplayed and ignored by the United States. In the self-proclaimed democracy circles of the United States and the United Kingdom, such as the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Freedom House, Voice of America, and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), Chinese requests for cooperation in cracking down on the Uighur terrorist networks are dismissed as an exaggeration and an excuse to suppress the national identities of the Uighur and other minorities in China.

Over the last two years, as a result of the funding efforts of the British Empire's two leading Wahhabi states, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, joined by Turkey, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, to a more limited extent, the jihadists have become an international army far larger than the Osama bin Laden/mujaheddin/al-Qaeda networks that came out of Afghanistan's war against the Soviets from 1979 to 1989. With the full complicity of the British Empire, the Obama Administration, and British puppet oil-state Saudi Arabia, the new al-Qaeda has been handed a golden opportunity to develop seasoned terrorist fighters in a Jihad Army that includes fighters from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Libya, Algeria, the Caucasus, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, China's Xinjiang province, Ukraine, and Britain.

There are also fighters from various African sub-Saharan countries where al-Qaeda networks are active, and increasingly from Europe. These foreign fighters have been receiving training for the last two years in southern Iraq and Syria. Before that, their bloodlust was fueled by the NATO-backed overthrow and murder of President Muammar Qaddafi in Libya. Once Qaddafi was dead, the weapons from the Libyan war went into Syria, via a Turkey-Saudi Arabia-Qatar network that has been exposed by the United Nations.

In short, the Anglo-Americans, in league with the rich Arab oil countries led by Saudi Arabia, have built an Army of the Caliphate for the jihadis out of the three-year war in Syria—something that the jihadis themselves could never have accomplished. The spiritual leaders of that jihadi army proudly surface on YouTube videos, issuing *fatwas* to trigger mass terrorism.

Declaring China ‘the Enemy of All Muslims’

On March 14, 2014, two weeks after the attacks in Kunming, **Abdullah Monsour**, the elusive Uighur leader who heads the rebel **Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP)**, gave an interview to Reuters. He spoke by satellite phone from an undisclosed location, believed to be in western Pakistan, where intelligence sources have told Reuters that some 400 Uighur fighters have stationed themselves. Monsour claims that Xinjiang province and the fight against China is now a universal jihad obligation.

Referring to the Kunming attack, Monsour is quoted by Reuters saying, “If the fighters of East Turkestan are now fighting with swords, knives, and mallets, our dear Allah will soon give us opportunities to fight the Chinese using automatic guns.”

He also expressed his support for suicide tactics, saying the blood of those who are killing themselves is not being spilled for nothing, for their “blood will bring tens of more to carry out jihad.”

“The fight against China is our Islamic responsibility and we have to fulfill it,” Monsour said. “China is not only our enemy, but it is the enemy of all Muslims. . . . We have plans for many attacks in China. We have a message to China that the East Turkestan people and other Muslims have woken up. They cannot suppress us and Islam any more. Muslims will take revenge.”

The Kunming attack was one of the largest single terrorist actions by Uighur extremists, but 2013 was one of the most active years of Uighur terrorism. On Oct. 28, 2013, five people died and 38 were injured in an apparent suicide terrorist attack in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, when a Jeep drove through a crowd of pedestrians and caught fire after crashing into a bridge.

Monsour's TIP released an audio statement in November 2013, calling the Tiananmen attack a jihadi operation. He declared, "O Chinese unbelievers, know that you have been fooling East Turkistan for the last 60 years, but now they have awakened. . . . The people have learned who is the real enemy and they returned to their religion. They learned the lesson." That statement was posted by the SITE organization, a U.S.-based anti-terrorist institute that specializes in Islamic extremism.

The Chinese government links the escalation of Islamic terrorism in China to the Uighur jihadis fighting in Syria, a charge that Beijing has been making since 2012. News agencies in the U.S., Britain, and the Middle East have been reporting the Uighur involvement with the Syrian rebel jihadis as well.

In one of the most detailed accounts of the Syrian connection, China's *Global Times* published on July 1, 2013 a story by reporter Lin Meilian that detailed the case of one Uighur jihadi recruited in Turkey in 2012:

"**Memeti Aili** was recently caught by the police when returning to Xinjiang to complete his mission to 'carry out violent attack and improve fighting skills' assigned by the **East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM)**. ETIM is a terrorist group that aims to create an Islamist state in Xinjiang, which works alongside the **East Turkistan Education and Solidarity Association (ETESA)**, an Istanbul-based exile group.

"'After hearing their lectures, all I could think about was jihad and I totally abandoned my studies and my family,' he told the police. 'But thinking back, it was



The central Chinese town of Changsha, where six people were stabbed to death by terrorists on March 5.

like a nightmare.'

"An anti-terrorism official told the *Global Times* in an exclusive interview that about 100 people like Memeti Aili had travelled to Syria to join the fighting alongside Syrian rebels since last year. . . .

"In 2011, after graduating from university in Urumqi [Xinjiang], Memeti Aili went to study in Turkey like many other Muslim Uighur students. Soon after settling down in Istanbul, someone from the ETESA approached and offered him 'help.'

"A year later, after studying the lessons they provided, Memeti Aili was informed by ETESA and ETIM that he had been selected to travel to Syria to join the fighting.

"Together with other young people, Memeti Aili travelled to Aleppo, the largest city located in northwestern Syria, and arranged to join the rebels. The percentage of foreign fighters in Syria has reached up to 80 percent from 29 countries such as Libya, Turkey, Lebanon and Yemen, according to Omran Zoubi, Minister of Information in the Assad government.

"Before arriving in Syria, Memeti Aili said he had never touched a gun.

"Together these young people received seven days of training in the suburbs of Aleppo, where there was no water or electricity supply, and food was scarce.

"'We had to change sites four times a day in fear of possible bombings from the Syrian army, therefore we didn't learn that much during that week,' he recalled. . . .

“After this rushed training, Memeti Aili was assigned to join the Free Syrian Army (FSA), an armed opposition structure operating in Syria.

“‘We were running around Aleppo like madmen to avoid possible bombings and air attacks,’ said Memeti Aili, ‘We didn’t see the Syrian army, but we saw the places where our guys got hit by bombs and died.’”

After the *Global Times* article, the ETESA immediately denounced the Chinese government for a fake report about any connection between its Istanbul-based organization and any fighting in Syria.

But for anyone who has studied Anglo-Saudi international recruitment and training—especially in London—what Memeti Aili described is almost identical to the known jihadi method employed by the Saudi-created and -funded operations in London, particularly the **Finsbury Park Mosque** run by Saudi-financed cleric **Abu Hamza**, and other British mosques in and around London frequented by cleric Omar Bakri Mohammed, who were both followers of Osama bin Laden.

So blatant was the recruiting for jihadi terrorists out of the Muslim student population of Britain, that a French judge, while presiding over a terrorism investigation in France, dubbed the British operation “Londonistan.” For over a decade, operatives such as Abu Hamza and **Omar Bakri** did their recruiting in the United Kingdom, apparently immune from prosecution, reported veteran British journalists Sean O’Neill and Daniel McGrory in their book *The Suicide Factory: Abu Hamza and the Finsbury Park Mosque* (2010).

With the documented role of al-Qaeda’s al-Libi in demanding that the entire Muslim *Ummah* (community) rise up against the “pagan” China in defense of East Turkistan, there is no question that the Uighur jihadis and the Anglo-British operation are the same.

Al-Libi is not the only al-Qaeda voice spotlighting Xinjiang. In August 2009, **al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)** posted an Arabic-language video urging jihad in support of Turkestan. The video begins with a computer-generated cartoon showing an oil truck on a highway, which drives head-on into a large wooden crucifix in an urban area, and explodes, destroying the whole town. The video openly supports the Turkistan Islamic Party led by Abdullah Monsour (quoted above).

On July 15, 2013, the Jamestown Foundation’s Jacob Zenn wrote in *Asia Times* that the Chinese reports of Uighur militants returning to Xinjiang from Syria



The Chinese government has linked the escalation of Islamic terrorism in China to the Uighur jihadis fighting in Syria.

came amid a wave of violent incidents in China:

March 7, 2013: Five people were killed in a fight between Uighurs and Han Chinese in the commercial district of Korla (Radio Free Asia, March 7; *South China Morning Post*, March 8).

March 9, 2013: A group of unidentified men attacked a police station with a petrol bomb in Hotan (Radio Free Asia, March 12).

April 23, 2013: 21 people were killed in Kashgar after a community patrol uncovered a group of Uighurs making explosives (*China Daily*, April 30).

June 26, 2013: As many as 47 people were killed in Turpan when a group of about 15 Uighurs attacked a police station and other buildings, with daggers and petrol bombs (*China Daily*, July 8).

June 28, 2013: In Hotan, as many as 15 Uighurs were killed after the police broke up a sermon at a mosque and arrested the imam, which led to large protests (Radio Free Asia, June 30).

Zenn also notes that the late June 2013 attacks in Xinjiang occurred close to the fourth anniversary of the July 5, 2009 ethnic riots in Xinjiang. China’s response to those riots included a communications blackout, reports Zenn; but rather than focusing on the roots of the terrorism, U.S. agencies responded by stepping up the attacks on China for human rights violations and made Uighur separatism a cause célèbre for the “humanitarian” interventionists in the Obama regime.

Waiting for Advanced Weapons

The Turkistan Islamic Party is fully part of the anti-U.S. fighters in Afghanistan, but is based in western

Pakistan, where it works with al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the **Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)**, Zenn reports. He adds that a series of TIP videos released in July 2013, called “Military Quick Guides,” is intended to train viewers in the use of arms, such as Tokarev pistols and AK-47s.

But while pistols and automatic rifles have not been characteristic of Uighur attacks inside China, where more basic irregular warfare by means of vehicle and knife attacks have been used, the seriousness, expert timing, and coordination of the Kunming attacks has been underlined by military and intelligence officials in the U.S. and Israel.

A retired senior U.S. intelligence executive strongly advised Chinese authorities to consult with their Indian counterparts, particularly Indian officials involved in the investigation of the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The official emphasized that investigations should follow the links between the LeT in Pakistan and the Uighur jihadis.

Dr. Ely Karmon, a senior research scholar at the Israeli International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), also underlined the unique importance of the Kunming attack, compared to earlier operations. “While it is true that there were previous terrorist attacks using knives or even syringe stabbings, this [Kunming] attack was a well-organized operation by a relatively important 10-12-member team, on a very high-profile target where it was sure to find numerous civilian victims and also high media coverage,” Karmon wrote. Citing the participation by at least two women, he asked, “Are the Uighurs imitating the Chechen women active in terrorist attacks against Russia? Are these women widows or parents of dead or arrested terrorists?”

Karmon also draws the parallel to Mumbai: “The use of bland weapons can be explained first by the difficulty in smuggling firearms into a secured perimeter, but also by the hint of symbolism in jihadists’ ritual slaughtering of the enemy and the courage of the assailants,” he said. “In a sense, this tactic is an imitation of the November 2008 Mumbai attack in India and the September 2013 Nairobi mall attack in Kenya.”

Obviously, not all Uighurs subscribe to the jihadist beliefs and agenda of the Anglo-Saudi-sponsored terrorist networks that have now been activated in what appears to be the start of a major asymmetric warfare campaign. It is precisely because of the clear al-Qaeda links of the recent terrorist teams that it is essential that

the Chinese authorities work in close collaboration with other nations at the front line of the same battle—including India and Russia.

To effectively combat this growing menace, it is essential that the top-down nature of the controls over these networks be fully fleshed out. Both the al-Qaeda and LeT leads are key in exposing the guiding hand of high-level circles in Britain and Saudi Arabia, in particular. Only concerted international cooperation among leading nation-states can effectively combat this scourge, and that is the first lesson to be learned from the emerging profile of a new jihadist focus on China as a prime target for further attack.

Further Reading

Ramtanu Maitra, “The Uighurs: Britain’s Double-Edged Razor To Cut Up China and Beyond,” [EIR](#), April 11, 2008.

“Put Britain on the List of Terrorist Sponsors,” [EIR](#), May 3, 2013.

Ramtanu Maitra, “The House of Saud: British-Programmed Killer of Muslims,” and “What is Wahhabism,” [EIR](#), Sept. 28, 2012.

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