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# The Jihadists of Pakistan

Jaish-e-Muhammad (JEM), Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HUM), and Anjuman Sipah-e-Sahaba (SSP)

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### I. Introduction to the Jihad Movement in Pakistan

To fully understand the current “holy war” of Pakistani terrorist groups such as Jaish-e-Muhammad (JEM), Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HUM), and Anjuman Sipah-e-Sahaba (SSP), one must first appreciate the significance of the Soviet-Afghan war of the 1980s through the eyes of Sunni Muslim extremists from around the world—including in Pakistan. At first glance, no one could have imagined the lasting significance of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. Afghanistan was not an American Cold War ally; in fact, the United States had more or less ignored opportunities during the 1960s and 70s to draw Afghanistan into the Western fold. With most attention focused on the importance of neighboring Pakistan, Afghanistan was largely left to its own devices.

However, internal power struggles and public discontent with the communist regime threatened to topple the political status quo that the Soviets had carefully constructed. Fearing the collapse of Marxism in Afghanistan, the Soviets invaded under the pretext of restoring order and replaced the ruling government with one more beholden to the interests of Moscow. The sporadic rebellion in the tribal hinterlands against the reformed Afghan communist regime in early 1979 was not predicted to have much of a future. In the face of thousands of arriving Soviet troops, one former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan even estimated that “the Russians would wipe out the resistance in months.”<sup>1</sup>

But rather than achieving a quick victory, the Soviets found themselves surrounded by a relentless guerilla adversary. Countless numbers of Afghans joined the Islamic resistance, which was organized into several native mujahideen organizations with headquarters in Peshawar, Pakistan. Though these Afghan parties were theoretically structured along Islamic ideological lines, there is good reason to believe that many local guerillas that fought in the war against the Soviets had motivations outside of religion, including jealousy and greed. Mujahideen units in Afghanistan often switched party allegiances, and even entered into alliances with the supposedly “infidel” Soviets against their own indigenous Afghan Muslim rivals.

Nevertheless, the flurry of activity in Peshawar caught the imagination of the entire Islamic world, far beyond the borders of battered Afghanistan. In certain fanatic circles, the indignity and injustice of the Soviet invasion had aroused a much more enraged response. According to these Islamic extremists, the jihad in Afghanistan should be treated as a critical turning point in modern world history and is a basic military blueprint for the larger struggle to ultimately “re-create” an omnipotent Muslim theocratic empire stretching from Morocco to the Philippines. The young foreign fighters who came from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria,

<sup>1</sup> Eliot, Theodore L., Jr. Gorbachev’s Afghan Gambit. Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis; Cambridge, MA. ©1988. Page 1.





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“Afghans” would turn their attention to a conflict much closer to home: the fight to control the contested Kashmir region straddling Muslim Pakistan and neighboring Hindu-dominated India.

Since their independence in August 1947, Pakistan and India have fought at least two major wars over the disputed Kashmir zone; the United Nations has drawn a temporary dividing line of control in an attempt to reduce regional tensions. Both nations are armed with nuclear weapons and have indicated a willingness to use them if necessary. Hundreds of thousands of Pakistani and Indian troops face off along the line of control and regularly trade rifle and artillery fire during small skirmishes. In approximately 1989, a major insurgent rebellion began in the Kashmir region led primarily by Muslim militants opposed to Hindu rule. Within a brief period of time, virtually every Pakistani mujahideen faction that had fought during the Soviet-Afghan jihad mobilized for a new holy war against India. An English-language mujahideen guidebook to the Pakistani militant organizations active in Kashmir published in 1999 explained, “There are various groups fighting in the cause of Allah under a variety of slogans and titles at least numbering in excess of ten at the time of writing.” Despite occasional episodes of antagonism and internecine conflict among the Pakistani jihadis, the guidebook assured readers that “co-operation is widespread, this being the best and obvious way to function.”<sup>6</sup>

Several loosely-allied Afghan-trained Pakistani mujahideen groups, in particular, gained notoriety for their ruthless tactics and fanatic ideologies—to the point of being named by the U.S. State Department as Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs).

- **Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HUM)**

On October 8, 1997, HUM was first designated by the U.S. Secretary of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. According to the U.S. State Department’s Patterns of Global Terrorism: 2003:

“The HUM is an Islamic militant group based in Pakistan that operates primarily in Kashmir. It is politically aligned with the radical political party, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazlur Rehman faction (JUI-F). Longtime leader of the group, Fazlur Rehman Khalil, in mid-February 2000 stepped down as HUM emir, turning the reins over to the popular Kashmiri commander and his second in command, Farooq Kashmiri. Khalil, who has been linked to Usama Bin Ladin and signed his fatwa in February 1998 calling for attacks on US and Western interests, assumed the position of HUM Secretary General. HUM operated terrorist training camps in eastern Afghanistan until Coalition airstrikes destroyed them during fall 2001. In 2003, HUM began using the name Jamiat ul-Ansar (JUA), and Pakistan banned the successor JUA in November 2003... [HUM] [h]as conducted a number of operations against Indian troops and civilian targets in Kashmir... The HUM is responsible for the hijacking of an Indian airliner on 24 December 1999, which resulted in the release of Masood Azhar—an important leader in the former Harakat ul-Ansar imprisoned by the Indians in 1994—and Ahmed Omar Sheik, who was convicted of the abduction/murder in January-February 2002 of US journalist Daniel Pearl. The HUM trained its militants in Afghanistan and Pakistan... In anticipation of asset seizures in 2001 by the Pakistani Government, the HUM withdrew funds from bank accounts and invested in legal businesses, such as commodity trading, real estate, and production of consumer goods.”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Al-Hindi, `Esa. The Army of Madinah in Kashmir. Maktabah Al Ansaar Publications; Birmingham, UK. ©1999. Page 18.

<sup>7</sup> “Appendix B: Background Information on Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations.” Patterns of Global Terrorism: 2003. U.S. State Department; Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. April 29, 2004. <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/pgrtpt/2003/31711.htm>.





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The U.S. Treasury Department has also taken several actions against alleged JEM charitable front groups, including the Al-Rashid Trust and the Al-Akhtar Trust. According to “information available to the U.S. government”, Jaish-e-Muhammad members set up these two organizations, among others, “hop[ing] to give the impression that the... new organizations were separate entities and sought to use them as a way to deliver arms and ammunition to their members under the guise of providing humanitarian aid to refugees and other needy groups.”<sup>12</sup> The U.S. Treasury Department specifically accused JEM of establishing Al-Akhtar Trust “for the purpose of providing financial assistance for mujahideen, financial support to the Taliban and food, clothes, and education to orphans of martyrs.”<sup>13</sup> During a “custodial interview” in early 2003, a senior Al Qaida detainee related that Al Akhtar Trust and Al-Rashid Trust were the “primary relief agencies that Al Qaida used to move supplies into Qandahar, Afghanistan.”<sup>14</sup> Additionally, during a second “custodial interview” in mid-April 2003, a senior Al Qaida detainee stated that Al-Rashid Trust and Al Akhtar Trust “provided donations to Al Qaida... Al-Akhtar Trust was providing a wide range of support to Al-Qaida and Pakistani based sectarian and jihadi groups, specifically Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, and Jaish-e-Mohammed.”<sup>15</sup>

JEM’s top leader, Maulana Masood Azhar—freed from Indian custody during a December 1999 airline hijacking engineered by Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HUM)—has made no secret of his violent anti-Indian and anti-Western military agenda. He has published at least two books which have been translated into English and he contributed regular articles to various English-language jihad publications such as the Taliban’s *Dharb-i-Mumin* (also linked to the JEM). In late July 2001, Azhar urged his followers to “take the advantages of the spring”:

“From where do all the mujahideen get all these weapons, wondered the Kuffar of the world in amazement. Waves of terror then started striking against their minds... In conditions such as these, Jaish-i-Muhammad sallallahu `alaihi wassalaam rose on the horizon of Kashmir with the shining splendour of emaan [faith]. The fidayee [commando] attack of Afaq Shaheed terrified India out of its wits while the fidayee attack of Bilal Shaheed sent shock waves across the whole world of Kufr [disbelief]. Lines of anxiety became visible, on the black and white faces of the Kuffar [infidels] and India’s nerves became jittery... Behind the lofty mountains, the lions who are sacrificing their lives day and night for the glory of Islam continue on their way down the road of Jihad, unconcerned and indifferent with the talks. They are following, with all their strength and vigor, the blood covered path of their shuhada [martyrs].”<sup>16</sup>

In his book, *Virtues of Jihad*, Azhar openly endorses international terrorism as an essential requirement of his followers:

“The Kafirs [infidels] only fear the blasts of those bombs which are detonated in the Israeli army’s installations and barracks. They are scared of those mines which blast the Indian army’s vehicles... They fear a blind holy man like Umar Abdul-Rahmaan (a distinguished Aalim, presently in a US jail on trumped up charges) who dared to

<sup>12</sup> “JS-899: U.S. Designates Al Akhtar Trust: Pakistani Based Charity is Suspected of Raising Money for Terrorists in Iraq.” U.S. Treasury Office of Public Affairs. October 14, 2003. <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js899.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> “JS-899: U.S. Designates Al Akhtar Trust: Pakistani Based Charity is Suspected of Raising Money for Terrorists in Iraq.” U.S. Treasury Office of Public Affairs. October 14, 2003. <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js899.htm>.

<sup>14</sup> “JS-899: U.S. Designates Al Akhtar Trust: Pakistani Based Charity is Suspected of Raising Money for Terrorists in Iraq.” U.S. Treasury Office of Public Affairs. October 14, 2003. <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js899.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> “JS-899: U.S. Designates Al Akhtar Trust: Pakistani Based Charity is Suspected of Raising Money for Terrorists in Iraq.” U.S. Treasury Office of Public Affairs. October 14, 2003. <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js899.htm>.

<sup>16</sup> Azhar, Maulana Masood (Amir, JEM). “Take the advantages of the spring.” *Dharb-i-Mumin*. Vol. 3; Issue 8. July 20-26, 2001. <http://www.dharb-i-mumin.com>.



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speak about the greatness of Islam. They are afraid of those Muslim youths of Europe who openly stroll the streets of London and Paris wearing military clothing... They are scared of Shamil Basayev (leader of the Mujahideen, who successfully carried out the Jihad inside Russia) who with a handful of Mujahideen had forced the whole of Russia to their knees... Their minds are disturbed with the thought of those unknown Mujahideen who forced the Americans to pack their bags from Somalia. They are frightened of those Muslim daughters who somehow transport weapons to the Mujahideen in Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia. All Kafirs [infidels] fear the word of Jihad. It is our duty and responsibility to revive this forgotten obligation of JIHAD.”<sup>17</sup>

Similarly, at a July 2001 conference in Karachi organized “under the auspices of Jaish-e-Muhammad”, the chief of JEM’s “Fostering Virtue and Repressing Vice Bureau” Maulana Qari Mansoor Ahmad admonished over 450 other JEM leaders and clerics that “Jihad was the only source which provided a powerful centre in the face of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan... the most powerful ruler on earth is Ameer-ul-Mu’mineen, [Taliban leader] Mulla `Umar Mujahid, who is not afraid of anyone but Allah.”<sup>18</sup> Another speaker at the conference, Sheikh Mufti Atiq-ur-Rahman further acknowledged that everyone “who has confronted imperialism has met with immense difficulties and obstacles, so the Ulema and the mujahideen must fight back imperialism’s propaganda, conspiracies, and baseless allegations leveled against Islam.”<sup>19</sup> In April 2001, JEM leader Masood Azhar told a gathering of JEM supporters in Mardan, “I want to warn Vajpayee and Advani that if burning the copies of Quran and desecration of mosques was not stopped then the fire burning in Kashmir will reach their halls; from Bombay to Delhi, self-sacrificing attacks will play havoc with India.”<sup>20</sup>

As one might surmise, the JEM has a fanatically anti-American agenda and is rigidly hostile in its dealings with the U.S. In an editorial published in the weeks following 9/11, JEM defiantly brushed aside Western accusations of terrorism: “Definitely, this is a matter of delight and a medal for us that Almighty Allah’s enemies are troubled by us and they are giving the testimony of our Jihad...In this battle the winners are the Muslims only if they are faithful to their religion. Today the Taliban movement has reached the infidel annoying stage and is busy in the war... Jaish-e-Muhammad (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) has also reached the infidel annoying stage in a short period.” The newsletter reportedly continued on to denounce America as “the global terrorist, the murderer of millions, Aids-stricken... [run by] crusading monsters.”<sup>21</sup> When interviewed by Reuters in October 2001, JEM’s then-regional commander in Pakistan’s Baluchistan province Abdul Jabbar declared, “Wherever Muslims are under attack, we are ready to fight. We are international. Our goal, when Muslims are in trouble, is to free them, to fight with them against our common enemies, wherever that may be.”<sup>22</sup>

- **Anjuman Sipah e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)**

Though Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) has never been specifically designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States, the U.S. State Department does officially categorize SSP as a “terrorist organization.” According to Patterns of Global Terrorism: 2003:

<sup>17</sup> Azhar, Maulana Masood. Virtues of Jihad. Ahle Sunnah Wal Jama’at Publications. ©1996.

<sup>18</sup> “Jihad will continue for Islam’s sanctity.” Dharr-i-Mumin. Vol. 3, Issue 5. June 29-July 5, 2001. <http://www.dharr-i-mumin.com>.

<sup>19</sup> “Jihad will continue for Islam’s sanctity.” Dharr-i-Mumin. Vol. 3, Issue 5. June 29-July 5, 2001. <http://www.dharr-i-mumin.com>.

<sup>20</sup> “Ameer-i-Jaish flays silence on sacrilege of mosques, Quran in India.” April 7, 2001. Internet newsgroups: soc.culture.malaysia.

<sup>21</sup> Syed Ali, Naziha. “A Call to Arms.” Newsline (Pakistan). December 2001.

<http://www.newsline.com.pk/NewsDec2001/cover5.htm>.

<sup>22</sup> Fullerton, John. “Muslim charities treading fine line on politics.” Reuters. October 3, 2001.





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I spend the first five days of every month in Madrasah Sayyed Ahmed Shaheed, Balakot punctually.”<sup>29</sup> In a separate appeal for donations to help support the new mujahideen camps, Maulana Masood Azhar announced:

“A training centre of Jaish-i-Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alaihe wasallam) is being built in Balakot. The name of this training centre is Madrasah Sayyed Ahmad Shaheed Rahimahullahu Ta’ala. A masjid, large water tanks, a ground for physical training, and rooms for the mujahideen are being constructed on its premises. Some women have sent their jewellery for the construction of the mosque and the other buildings. Just think, what felicity and good fortune, what blessings these women have acquired in exchange for their lifeless gold! How many will be the mujahideen, the future [martyrs] offering [prayers] in this masjid, how countless will be the Ibn-e-Qasim and Salahuddin produced, how numerous Afaq Shaheeds [referring to the past example of a JEM suicide commando] will acquire training in this ground - in the ‘ajr’ of all of them these Muslim women will have a share.”<sup>30</sup>

Allegedly, according to JEM internal records, as many as 7,000 “students” were enrolled at JEM’s Balakot camp in the year 2000 alone.<sup>31</sup> Moreover—according to sources in Pakistan—in November 2001, former JEM spokesman Abdul Jabbar convened a meeting at the same Balakot camp, where participants swore “to resist the increasing US influence in Pakistan through any means possible, including suicide bombings.”<sup>32</sup> Dissident members of JEM have subsequently admitted that a number of their former colleagues “were adamant to carry out suicide missions against the US interests in Pakistan to avenge the fall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.”<sup>33</sup> Unfortunately, it appears that those who have advocated anti-American suicide bombings “largely control the dominant faction of Jaish.”<sup>34</sup>

Consonant with its self-declared “internationalist” mission, JEM has helped recruit Muslim converts and Pakistani Muslims living in the West, often connecting them directly with Al-Qaida in Afghanistan. In this sense, JEM and other Pakistani mujahideen organizations acted as a virtual breeding ground for other designated foreign terrorist organizations. After arriving in Pakistan in June 2001, Australian Muslim convert Shane Kent reportedly attended an orientation session at a mujahideen training camp near the Chinese border run by Jaish-e-Muhammad. After receiving his initial indoctrination from JEM, Kent graduated up the ranks and was later transferred to Al-Qaida’s Al-Farooq Camp near Kandahar, Afghanistan. At least seven Saudi nationals who later served as suicide hijackers in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks received “basic training” at the Al-Farooq camp. According to the Congressional 9/11 Commission final report, “[t]his particular camp appears to have been the preferred location for vetting and training the potential muscle hijackers because of its proximity to Bin Ladin and senior al Qaeda leadership.”<sup>35</sup> JEM recruit Shane Kent was finally arrested by police in Melbourne in November 2005 and accused of conspiring to wage “violent jihad” in Australia.<sup>36</sup>

In August 2004, the U.S. Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported Denver, Colorado resident Sajjad Nassar to his homeland in Pakistan. Nassar—who became enraged when his brother

<sup>29</sup> Azhar, Maulana Masood. “Organizing Central Office of Jaish-i-Muhammad (sallallahu `alaihi wa sallam).” *Dharb-i-Mumin*. Vol. 2; Issue 36. January 26-February 2, 2001. <http://www.dharb-i-mumin.com>.

<sup>30</sup> “The Fortunate Woman.” *Dharb-i-Mumin*. Vol.2; Issue 8. November 8, 2000. As reprinted at <http://www.jamiat.org.za/isinfo/fwoman.html>.

<sup>31</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. *A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan*. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 226.

<sup>32</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. *A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan*. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 20.

<sup>33</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. *A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan*. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 25.

<sup>34</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. *A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan*. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 27.

<sup>35</sup> *The 9/11 Commission Report*. Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. July 22, 2004. Page 234.

<sup>36</sup> Neighbour, Sally. “Aussies schooled by al-Qa`ida – Terror Hits Home.” *The Australian*. November 9, 2005. Page 3.





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HUM]. He told us that the camp had been closed in March [2002], but as soon as things return to normal it will be reopened.”<sup>43</sup>

#### IV. Training Camps Under the “Regime of Controlled Freedom”

In the years that have followed 9/11, Pakistani mujahideen organizations associated with the Kashmir conflict have come under increasing pressure from the Pakistani government to restrain their activities. Needless to say, the involvement of JEM and HUM activists in sectarian terror attacks and assassination attempts on Pervez Musharraf have not improved their regional standing. In 2003, following two failed bombing attacks on Musharraf, Pakistani Interior Minister Shaykh Rashid Ahmed admitted, “Kashmiri and Afghan militant groups were behind the latest assassination attempt on General Musharraf... It’s a huge network of terrorists having tentacles from Kashmir to Afghanistan, [with] international ties.”<sup>44</sup> Between 2002-2003, the Pakistani government officially banned several prominent jihad factions active in Kashmir, including JEM, HUM, and Lashkar-e-Taiba.<sup>45</sup>

Yet, despite a series of highly-publicized Pakistani government crackdowns, as one militant leader puts it, the militant organizations (many of which have simply been renamed) are once again up to their “old habits” and are still able to actively function under a “regime of controlled freedom.”<sup>46</sup> Pakistani mujahideen analyst Amir Mir has commented, “At the moment, it seems that the Musharraf-establishment does not want to take any extreme measures against the militant groups... a complete dismantling of the militant network in Jammu and Kashmir is highly unlikely... those who most want Musharraf dead have traditionally been the closest allies of the Musharraf-led military establishment.”<sup>47</sup> This odd predicament was clearly well understood by Pakistani militant organizations facing off against the Musharraf government. In 2002, a Pakistani researcher interviewed HUM member Mohammed Saleh at HUM’s local office in the town of Kotli. Saleh was asked, “Jehadi camps have been shut down, how are you going to get your training now?” In response, Saleh insisted, “There is no need to worry, the camp in Mansehra will [stay] open and if it doesn’t I’ll just train here [at the HUM office in Kotli].”<sup>48</sup>

Recent developments strongly indicate that any would-be interruption in the activities of Pakistani mujahideen training camps was quite brief and only temporary. In July 2004, New York Times reporters were given access to Muhammad Sohail, a young Pakistani from the city of Karachi who was captured by Afghan forces only three months earlier during combat with Taliban guerillas in southern Afghanistan. Afghan officials claimed to have seized Sohail’s membership card in Jamiat ul-Ansar—a post-9/11 pseudonym for HUM—and a list of phone numbers of high-level party officials. In 2002, Sohail reportedly traveled with a group of 15 others to a Jamiat/HUM training camp near Mansehra, where he received a one month training course in explosives and weapons. Following their training in Mansehra, Sohail claimed that his group was sent to Islamabad, where he met with leaders of Jamiat-ul-Ansar. Three months later, Sohail and his friends were mobilized to “fight the Americans” and were subsequently dispatched to the Afghan city of Kandahar. Other Afghan militants

<sup>43</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 251.

<sup>44</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 20.

<sup>45</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 23.

<sup>46</sup> Ali, Zulfiqar. “Back to Camp.” Pakistan Herald. July 11, 2005. <http://www.dawn.com/herald>. See also: Rana, Muhammad Amir. A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Page 23.

<sup>47</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Pages 9-10.

<sup>48</sup> Rana, Muhammad Amir. A to Z of Jehadi Organizations in Pakistan. Mashal Publishing; Lahore, Pakistan. ©2005. Pages 106-107.



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captured alongside Sohail described receiving military training in large, walled residential compounds in and around the Pakistani border city of Quetta, according to the governor of Afghanistan's Helmand Province.<sup>49</sup>

In response to reports printed in the New York Times and elsewhere, Pakistani journalists traveled personally to Mansehra in an attempt to confirm what Sohail and other captured Pakistani fighters had claimed during their interrogations. Though some of the camps in Mansehra were briefly abandoned in 2004, a local mujahideen guide triumphantly declared, "now we can start again."<sup>50</sup> According to a "top manager" of the training camp in Mansehra, all the major militant organizations—including HUM and others—had begun renovating and re-activating facilities that were briefly deserted under pressure from the Pakistani government. The manager explained, "Our transport fleet is back, electricity has been restored and the communications system is in place."<sup>51</sup> Pakistani media alleged that at least 13 major military camps in the Mansehra region were restored to near full operation, including in Pano Dheri, Jallo, Sufaida, Ogi, Khewari, Jabba, Batrasi, Naradoga, Akherilla, Hisari, Boi, Tanglaee and Achherian.<sup>52</sup>

Despite heavy scrutiny by Pakistani intelligence services, the training camps in Pakistan continued to draw foreign extremists seeking a stepladder to "greater glory." In late 2004, Shahzad Tanweer—one of the July 7, 2005 suicide bombers in London—reportedly spent time taking courses at an HUM training camp in Mansehra, where he was schooled in handling arms and explosives.<sup>53</sup> In the wake of the London bombings, two mujahideen confirmed to a Pakistani journalist working on contract for the New York Times that they had personally met Tanweer while he was training at the HUM camp in Mansehra.<sup>54</sup>

Meanwhile in 2005, Afghan authorities continued to intercept Pakistani nationals fighting alongside the Taliban who claimed to have received recent military training at jihad camps near Mansehra. A Pakistani militant captured in Afghanistan told a private Afghan television channel in June 2005 that he had been trained at a camp based in Mansehra.<sup>55</sup> According to an Afghan intelligence official quoted by the Times, three Pakistanis recently sentenced to prison terms for trying to assassinate the U.S. ambassador in Kabul admitted they had been trained in the Mansehra region.<sup>56</sup> Sher Ali, yet another 28-year-old Pakistani captured en route to join the mujahideen, explained, "Nowadays they don't have legal camps [in Pakistan]. I got the feeling it was a very secret place."<sup>57</sup> In southern Afghanistan, Mullah Sayed Mir—a Taliban commander who defected to the Afghan government—claimed that similar training programs were also being conducted near the Pakistani town of Quetta: "The Taliban have rented houses in Pakistan, they live there and also get training there. Then, they are sent to Afghanistan."<sup>58</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Gail, Carlotta. "Journey to Jihad: Pakistan Allows Taliban to Train, a Detained Fighter Says." New York Times. August 4, 2004.

<sup>50</sup> Ali, Zulfiqar. "Back to Camp." Pakistan Herald. July 11, 2005. <http://www.dawn.com/herald>.

<sup>51</sup> Ali, Zulfiqar. "Back to Camp." Pakistan Herald. July 11, 2005. <http://www.dawn.com/herald>.

<sup>52</sup> Ali, Zulfiqar. "Back to Camp." Pakistan Herald. July 11, 2005. <http://www.dawn.com/herald>.

<sup>53</sup> Herbert, Ian. "Terror Investigation: 'Khaka' and 'Sid', the committed jihadists who turned to murder." The Independent (London). December 17, 2005. Page 2.

<sup>54</sup> Rohde, David and Carlotta Gall. "In a Corner of Pakistan a Debate Rages: Are Terrorist Camps Still Functioning?" New York Times. August 28, 2005. Page 11.

<sup>55</sup> Rohde, David and Carlotta Gall. "In a Corner of Pakistan a Debate Rages: Are Terrorist Camps Still Functioning?" New York Times. August 28, 2005. Page 11.

<sup>56</sup> Rohde, David and Carlotta Gall. "In a Corner of Pakistan a Debate Rages: Are Terrorist Camps Still Functioning?" New York Times. August 28, 2005. Page 11.

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