

# Prominent Jihad Media Organizations in Central Asia

By NEFA Senior Investigator Evan F. Kohlmann



السَّحَابُ للإنتاج الإعلامي  
As-Sahab Media

## As-Sahab Media Foundation

As-Sahab is the official media wing of Al-Qaida's core leadership based in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The media produced by As-Sahab includes original sermons by senior Al-Qaida commanders (such as Usama Bin Laden and Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri), footage of Taliban and Al-Qaida insurgent attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and footage of international terrorist operations carried out by Al-Qaida. The management of As-Sahab was, at various times, under the purview of both Dr. al-Zawahiri and professed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Other noteworthy Al-Qaida members who have been linked to the production of As-Sahab videos include Shaykh Abu Yahya al-Liby and American national Adam Yehiye Gadahn.

## Jundullah Media

Jundullah Media is the official media wing of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). The IMU has been named as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the U.S. State Department. According to the U.S. government, the IMU has "participated in attacks on U.S. and Coalition forces in Afghanistan and plotted attacks on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Central Asia." In September 2008, Jundullah Media released a new video featuring German-speaking militants in Afghanistan, including one who hailed the suicide bombing of the Danish embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan and promised "this will not be the last. Know that there are both men and women among us lining up for the chance... they are ready to sacrifice their souls."



## Labayk Media Productions

Labayk Media is a quasi-official media partner of Al-Qaida and the Taliban, producing interviews with Taliban and Al-Qaida leaders and exclusive footage of military operations along the Pakistani-Afghan border. Several individuals who have been profiled in videos released by Labayk Media have also been featured in similar coverage by Al-Qaida's As-Sahab Media Foundation. In July 2005, four high-ranking Al-Qaida members escaped from a high security U.S.-run detention facility at Bagram Airbase near Kabul, Afghanistan. Three months later, on October 19, 2005, one of the escaped prisoners—Saudi national Abu Nasser al-Qahtani—was featured in an exclusive video-recorded presentation produced by the Labayk Media Foundation.



## Ummat Studios

Ummat Studios is a Pakistan-based pro-Taliban media organization that has produced mujahideen propaganda videos and has released original footage of Taliban operations in both Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan. The videos created by Ummat Studios have a particular focus on Taliban activities in the Pakistani region of Waziristan, including scenes from locally-based terrorist training camps. In May 2006, Ummat Studios released a new video, titled "Na Pak Fouj", which featured a recruit at a camp in Waziristan singing, "O' infidels of the East and West, we have plans for you. We all must die, life is too short. You [Muslims] must act now, we are being oppressed. O' soldiers of Islam, come here for jihad... come here for jihad."



## Islam Awazi Information Center

Islam Awazi is the official media wing of the "Turkestan Islamic Party" (TIP), a terrorist organization primarily comprised of ethnic Uighur Muslims originally from the western Xinjiang province of China. In July 2008, the TIP released a series of videos through Islam Awazi, claiming credit for bombings of public buses in Shanghai and Kunming, and threatening to wreck the upcoming summer Olympics being held in the capital Beijing. A masked TIP leader (identified only as "Commander Seyfullah") warned, "Our goal is to target the most critical points relating to the Olympics. We will try to severely attack China's major cities using tactics that have never before been employed."



## Badr at-Tawheed Media

Badr at-Tawheed is the official media wing of the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU). The IJU was founded by breakaway fighters from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan in March 2002 in Pakistan's Tribal Areas. On May 25, 2005, the U.S. State Department announced the designation of the IJU as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). The IJU was responsible for bombings in July 2004 at the U.S. and Israeli embassies in the Uzbek capital Tashkent. According to an official statement from the State Department, "The Islamic Jihad [Union] continues to target Americans and U.S. facilities overseas and is a dangerous threat to U.S. interests."



## Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Media

Though it is relatively rare for the official media wing of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (the Taliban) to release video recordings per se, the group does produce a vast swath of written communiqués, political declarations, and a glossy online magazine known as "Al-Somood" (already well into its third volume). Taliban propaganda materials are published via the Internet in a wealth of foreign languages, including both English and Arabic. Despite a recent public outcry from some Arabic-speaking Al-Qaida supporters, the Taliban media wing has continued to release its publications through Internet forums managed by the Islamic Army in Iraq (IAI), a bitter adversary of Al-Qaida in Iraq.



## Manba al-Jihad Media

A relative newcomer to the field, the shadowy Manba al-Jihad ("the Source of the Jihad") has released an ongoing series of videos in 2008 and 2009 featuring original footage of Taliban attacks on coalition forces inside southeastern Afghanistan—including rocket barrages, improvised explosive devices, and suicide bombings. Manba al-Jihad is also evidently the source of at least one recording of longtime Afghan mujahideen commander Jalaludeen Haqqani. Both Haqqani and his son Sirajuddin are considered to be senior leaders among Taliban forces based in the remote Pakistani border region of Waziristan. The exact nature of the relationship between the Taliban and Manba al-Jihad Media is unknown.

