

Al-Yaqeen Publishes ISI Media Training Guide, Episode 1

May 20, 2011

[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.]

Al-Yaqeen Media Center published a revised edition of a guide created by al-Furqan Foundation, the media arm of the al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), which provides guidance for individuals wishing to engage in media jihad. The first episode of this guide titled, "The Methodology in Gaining Media Experience," comes as a 35-page document and was posted on jihadist forums on May 14, 2011. The introductions to the guide and the episode each emphasize the importance of media work in jihad, and encourage those individuals who cannot participate in physical jihad to contribute to the cause in ways of media. Media jihad, al-Yaqeen and al-Furqan explained, allows the fighters to combat enemy propaganda, incite others to participate in jihad and support the mujahideen, and "vex" the enemy.

Following is a translation of the introduction to the guide and a summary of the first episode:

Full Text

The Methodology in Gaining Media Experience

A Training Series for the Media Jihad

First Episode

Jumada al-Akher 1432H

Produced by al-Furqan Foundation

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Introduction by the Publisher:

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful

He who observes the state of the Ummah today feels an overwhelming happiness for seeing the Ummah shaking off the dust of its stagnancy and bringing down the idols of the tyrants and their weak security agencies. He is filled with joy for hearing the cries of the proud people who were not distracted from the high goals that their religion drew for them and that their Lord wanted for them.

The Ummah today is more aware and more adherent to their path - the path of tawhid [monotheism] and jihad - and the loss of a free honorable person, a proud emigrant, or a courageous lion won't stop them.

There is no doubt that this stage of awareness about the goals and the understanding of the laws of trials and afflictions bore fruits, with help from Allah, as a result of the great efforts

in education, preparation and sacrifice.

Al-Yaqeen Center obtained a copy of this special material by the soldiers of the Islamic State of Iraq, and extracted this valuable material for you. Al-Furqan Foundation gave permission to publish it on the Internet after revising the materials to suit the publication.

We ask Allah to make it a guide for the media mujahid to continue with the Ummah towards the goal with steadfast and clear steps.

Everyone should know that deterrence of the apostates is not just a temporary wave but a well-planned and methodological work. Thus, the Ummah should learn to think deeply, with foresight, and start preparing its army that has already begun marching towards Jerusalem...

Allah is the Helper. He is the Granter of success, glory be to Him...

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful

Introduction:

What should the media person know:

Praise be to Allah, who created us and didn't abandon us, and who revealed to us the Book, which is clear of mistakes and was sent to us Muhammad, the best of Messengers, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him and upon the honorable generation of the Companions and those who followed his perfect example. And thereafter:

To every brother who is stationed in the jihadi media front:

We put between your hands some recommendations and tips in the field of your work that we collected for you from several resources and from the essence of the experiments of the predecessors. We organized them in periodic publications and series of episodes, which each deal with a subject that is important to you, and we will present them to you successively in order not to let your minds become bored and become more influential on the intellect. The Truth, glory be to Him, said to His noble Prophet, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him: *"And (it is) a Qur'an which We have divided, in order that you might recite it to men at intervals. And We have revealed it by stages."* [Al-Isra' 17:106] And He said, Glorified and Exalted be He: *"And those who disbelieve say: 'Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once?' Thus, that We may strengthen your heart thereby. And We have revealed it you gradually, in stages."* [Al-Furqan 25:32]

We started with you the most important subject first before the less important ones, so as to answer questions in our minds such as:

What is the type of knowledge that I need to have for my media work?

What is the correct methodology to attain jihadi media knowledge?

How can we develop media work?

How can I create balance between jihad media work and studying media science?

What are the qualifications of the successful media person?

And many other questions echoing in your minds...

On the other hand, the serious media brother who is seeking media knowledge and who is sincere in raising the level of his media work might feel confusion. For example, he might start following a program, and before he has mastered it he turns to learn another program! Or, he might try to formulate news, then back up and only collect it. Some start strongly in learning, and in the middle of the way, their determination wanes and their strength weakens! A brother might be afflicted with vanity after he sees that he acquired some knowledge, may Allah the Almighty protect you from that!

When you ask this brother: Are you really willing to develop yourself and advance your work?

He says: Yes.

Glory be to Allah! He who said [the following] was right:

{Poetry}

For that reason, and in order to do all that is possible to reach the best in terms of acquiring knowledge and media education, we drew for you - O wise media person - the milestones on the road to gain media expertise (the correct scientific methodology in pursuing media knowledge). This is in order to arm yourself in the fighting area and severely harm the enemies of Allah.

We organized the milestones on the road into successive research points, each of which deals with a milestone. We focused in our research on the important matters and only the outline. We left out those matters that are obvious as well as the subtle issues, for the sake of brevity. Those brothers who seek more can refer to the research resources in the margins.

My beloved media brother, know that the road of jihad you follow was taken by your brothers before you, and your media field was invaded by the media mujahideen before you, and they knew it well. Allah the Almighty made it easy for some of them, and they were innovative and did very well; and others faced difficulties, bumped into obstacles and had some failures in their work.

So O you patient one, you must benefit from the experience of those and those. If you find success in the experience of a media brother before you, follow his path. If you see failure - and it is possible for humans - avoid the causes that led to this failure. The wise one is he who learns from others.

My brother, you might ask about the purpose for which we wrote for you these recommendations?

We answer you - may Allah the Almighty guide and us and you - with several points, the most important of which are:

- The necessity of acquiring knowledge before talking and acting. The Almighty said: *"So know that there is no God but Allah, and ask forgiveness for you sin."* [From Muhammad 47:19] Glory be to Him, put knowledge before action. The media work that is lacking the fundamentals of media and its Shariah- and technical-restrictions will bring opposite results.

- That which is necessary for a duty is obligatory, and jihad, as you know, is obligatory upon you. However, you cannot do it as it should be done unless you prepare for it. In your case, preparation is learning what has to do with the responsibility that you carry, which here, is the field of media.

- The virtue of the knowledgeable and the learner. This is a huge chapter; no matter how much we talk about the virtue of seeking knowledge and learning it, we will not give it its due. This is assuming this knowledge to be general Shariah-knowledge, so imagine learning the knowledge of jihad in the Cause of Allah, the pinnacle of Islam. Imam Ahmad said: "Seeking knowledge is the best deeds for those of true intent."

- The superiority of the enemy's media, technically and organizationally, despite the falsehood of its subjects and its deviation. It is more worthy of you - my media mujahid brother - to be superior over your enemy while you're on the side of the clear truth. Some of the early Muslims said to the extent of: If the disbelieving enemy becomes superior over the Muslims in a certain skill, then all the Muslims are marked with sin if they do not become superior over them in their skills.

- The importance of the front where the media soldiers are stations. The attention of the enemy to the media weapon is great, and they throw their weight on the media front. This is noticeable and not hidden from every one. This therefore requires extreme care and constant vigilance for what is being plotted against the global jihadi project. There must be integrated media preparation to face the media battle and stand against the intellectual invasion-the Crusader-Magian-secular-colonial invasion.

- Finding solutions for problems from which the media brothers suffer, such as distractions and idea, wasting time, stagnancy and lack of development, routine in work, boredom in learning, and improvisation in work without planning.

- The martyrdom or the capture of the qualified media brothers. Some trustworthy brothers advance to the media functions in addition to their fighting functions, and their advancement is to fill in the gaps in the jihadi media, may Allah reward them in the best way. They are the virtuous ones, may Allah the Almighty bless their efforts, and they need some guidance in their new field.

- The martyrdom or the capture of the qualified media brothers and some fighting brothers are helping with the media work besides their fighting duties.

O courageous ones of the media:

Give us all your attention and the best of your time in obedience to Allah, glory be to Him, and the command of His Messenger, Allah's peace and prayer be upon him, in order to take each other's hands towards improving the jihadi media, give a distinguished media performance, and to establish an integrated theory of Islamic jihadi media. We will throw the theory into the arena of the media war in order to adopt the poisoned media theories that were formulated by the Pharaoh's magicians (the media liars) and with which they charmed people's eyes and terrorized them with their propaganda.

So, my media soldier brother, take your place in the battle and assume your position in the fight. Prepare to the fullest and ready yourself for the darkest of circumstances. Do not wait for anyone to take your place and defend you except the One and Only. Trust in the Living One who does not die and celebrate His praise. Allah the Almighty is a sufficient Guardian and is the Grantor of success.

We took the middle road in writing these episodes, a road between the methodology of scientific research and the methodology of literary writing, in order to preserve the value of the information and to avoid boring those who receive this knowledge. We chose to correspond with you via mail and to be in constant contact with you by writing due to the security circumstances. Allah the Almighty knows that we always hope for long interviews and quiet meetings in which we exchange expertise, and we hope that will be fulfilled soon in the shade of our precious Islamic state. Such is not difficult for Allah.

{Supplication}

The First Episode:

The Media Jihad in the Cause of Allah the Almighty

From the Series "The Methodology in Gaining Media Experience,"
A Training Series for the Media Jihad

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Second Research Topic: Excerpts from the Words of the Scholars and the Commanders of Jihad in the Media Field

{Note: The following is summary of the guide}

"Introduction to the First Episode:"

Al-Yaqeen explains that to start the first episode, they would like to point out that media jihad is another form of jihad, and want to emphasize the following points:

Shedding light on the importance of the jihadi media in Jihad and in the fight against disbelief.

Reminding of the great reward for those who do jihadi media work due to the dangers and the great responsibility.

Motivating the media people for the importance of achieving a media victory in addition to increasing the military victory, and the importance of causing a moral defeat to the enemy before the material defeat.

Getting rid of wrong views about media work, that jihad is only about fighting and using weapons.

Preparing a new media generation that does perfect work in accordance with the guidance of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Doors of Jihad through which the Jihadi Media People may Enter"

Al-Yaqeen says that the media mujahid must know that their work is a form of jihad if their intention is sincere, and that such work is not any less than direct fighting and is included in the various types of jihad. These various types are given in each of the eight chapters.

1. "Jihad with the Tongue": It is establishing proof against the disbelievers and the hypocrites, calling them to the path of Allah, and scaring them, showing their mistakes and refuting their falsehood. On the other hand, it is raising the moral of the mujahideen, publishing the news of their victories, encouraging people to support them, and showing their methodology and creed.

2. "Jihad with the Self": Media people do not do jihad with the tongue on sofas in luxurious homes, but are in dangerous arenas and in the middle of a war, participating with their fellow fighters against the enemies and "sharing a loaf of bread" with them. Al-Yaqeen says that those in doubt about this should look at the media people in the Islamic State of Iraq whose blood flowed on the land of Iraq and were imprisoned and did jihad. Al-Yaqeen also asks the reader if they noticed the men in the videos running with the fighters while carrying cameras instead of Kalashnikovs.

3. "Inciting for Jihad": Incitement is the twin of jihad and its motivation, and it is the job of the Caliphs, leader, scholars, preachers and those who call for virtue from all segments Muslim society. If jihad is to defend the religion, the lives, the honor and the holy places and lands, then it becomes the most important obligatory duty for every Muslim and thus everyone should incite and call for jihad.

4. "Vexing the Enemy": Al-Yaqeen explains that this is part of jihad, and that those who know the "Crusader" Americans know how vexed they get from the jihadi media due to its importance and danger. Jihadists know from the media people who were caught by the Americans how they were interrogated very carefully because the Americans understood their role in the war. One jihadist who was arrested saw how the Americans tried very hard to catch the media people, and then when he returned to jihadi work, he insisted on working

in the media after he had wanted to be a soldier before his arrest.

5. "Gladdening the Hearts of the Believers": The other face of jihadi media is giving glad tidings to the believing Muslims, because everything that vexes the disbelievers and the hypocrites is a double-edged sword. Al-Yaqeen notes how the jihadist can imagine how

happy and joyous the believing Muslims would be when they see a publication of the achievements and the victories of the monotheists and the losses of the invaders and the apostates.

6. "Obeying those in Charge": The obedience here comes when the leader who is in charge assigns everyone their position and assigns an individual to the media front. If the individual obeys him, then he has obeyed Allah, and if not, then he has disobeyed Allah. There must be some who dedicate themselves to learning and teaching the fighters their religion, otherwise ignorance will be rampant, and when this generation passes then no one will be able to continue the journey at the level of the global conflict. Al-Yaqeen asks the media mujahid to see the needs of the Muslims and the mujahideen and guide them on the path to save them from the corruption, the disbelievers and the oppression. That, they declare, is their responsibility.

7. "Speaking the Truth": A media mujahid speaks the truth in a time when people of truth are rare, so he delivers the true image of the fight without exaggeration or lies to the simple people. Meanwhile, the enemy media personnel became professional liars and trumpets for debauchery and subterfuge.

8. "Standing against the Intellectual Invasion": The media mujahideen are protecting their fellow Muslims from the worst colonial attack known in the history of the "Crusader" and Shi'ite wars. They are an aegis deterring an invasion that is more dangerous than the military invasion and it is the intellectual invasion, which is attacking the hearts and minds of the Muslims, altering their identity and distorting their thoughts, reducing their understanding, replacing their traditions, and drying up the sources of their faith. The enemies of the Muslims realized that the military invasion of Muslims is impossible, so they resorted to the intellectual, social and cultural invasion.

"Excerpts from the Words of the Scholars and the Commanders of Jihad in the Media Field"

Al-Yaqeen writes that it is time for the media to take its due position and play its needed role in facing the fierce "Crusader" campaign with all available means including written and audio-visual materials. The media mujahideen should carry the responsibility and play their required role in enlightening Muslims, explaining the truth about the enemy and exposing their plots and games.

The guide then gives words of support from Ayman al-Zawahiri, Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, Hamoud al-Sho'aybi and Abu Musab al-Surf, and writes that in this way, everyone sees the important role of incitement to jihad and the media in reviving the roots of resistance and creating the atmosphere of revolution against the "invaders."