

# **Jihadi Strategies and Tactics Against CEI in the Caucasus region and beyond**

Emmanuel Karagiannis, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Security Studies  
Department of Defence Studies,  
King's College London

# Energy and Modern Muslim World

- OPEC has nine Muslim-majority member-states out of a total 12.
- Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, the UAE are among the top 10 oil producers.
- 2/3 of world's oil reserves are located in Muslim countries.
- Iran and Qatar have the second and third largest gas reserves respectively.



# Islam and Energy

- Hadith: “Muslims are partners in three things, in water, green pastures, and fire” (Reported by Abu Dawud)

Fire(al-Naar)=any resource that can generate energy(oil & gas)

- Sunni Islam:
  - Maliki school of jurisprudence - minerals (including oil) cannot be privately owned.
  - Hanafi school of jurisprudence – individuals can own minerals as long as they pay royalties.

- Taquiddin an-Nabhabi - “minerals belong to the ummah and the state is merely responsible for their development”.
- Yusuf al-Qaradawi - “corporations exploiting oil & gas must pay zakat of one-fifth because minerals are rikaz (buried treasure during jahiliyyah).
- Ibrahim Abdul-Matin – “energy from heaven” (solar and wind) vs. “energy from hell” (coal, oil, gas).

الإسلام محمد رسول الله

# Al Qaeda

- It was established in 1988 by Osama bin Laden.
- Current leader is Ayman al-Zawahiri.
- A Salafi-jihadi group fighting against the West and Muslim regimes.
- Al Qaeda has become a franchise group operating in the North Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa.



# Магистральные нефтепроводы Северного Кавказа















# Al Qaeda's energy agenda

## 1. Osama bin Laden's statements:

- Criticism against the US foreign policy in the Middle East which is oil-driven.
- Oil and gas profits contribute to the corruption of Arab regimes.

## 2. Shaykh Abdullah bin Nasser al-Rashid's Laws of Targeting Petroleum-Related Interests and a Review of the Laws Pertaining to the Economic Jihad (June 2004)

- The targeting of oil infrastructure is a legitimate means of economic jihad.
- The infidels do not own what they have seized from the ummah because it is still its property.

- The destruction of infidel property as part of jihad is legitimate, as long as the benefits outweigh the costs of such action.
- It is acceptable to destroy Muslim property if infidels have seized control of it, or if there are fears that something like this may happen.
- There are four types of oil related interests: oil and gas wells, pipelines, oil and gas facilities, energy business executives.

To sum up:

- ✓ Energy industry is a legitimate target – the Medinan strategy
- ✓ Disruption of market, not total destruction of infrastructure

### 3. Abu Bakr Naji's *Management of Savagery*, an Al Qaeda manual about jihadi tactics and strategy (2004)

- Jihadis must attack energy targets to “bleed America economically”.
- He advocated the striking of “pipelines where no humans will suffer or tankers which the infidels command and work on”.
- He proposed media campaign to inform the public about the “political importance of petroleum” and “the extent of injustice...which the ummah has suffered for decades on account of its devalued price”

# Explaining Al Qaeda's energy strategy

There are four reasons why Jihadis are interested in CEI and energy issues:

- It is a religious duty.
- Muslims have suffered from energy-related problems.
- Attacks can be used as an economic weapon against the West and its allies.
- Such strategy could bridge ideological gaps between Jihadis and other anti-Western forces

# Jihadi attacks against critical energy infrastructure

---

9 Sept. 2001-30 Dec. 2011

- 223 jihadi attacks against energy infrastructure in the Middle East, North Africa, and the former U.S.S.R.
- Data reveal that pipelines are most vulnerable to terrorist attacks.: 118 or 52 percent of all attacks were against pipelines or pipeline-related targets.
- Iraq (44), Russia (17), Yemen (12), Algeria (10), Turkey (9), and Egypt (9)

Source: Global Terrorism Database (START Center, USA)

# How to manage jihadi threats against CEI

- Threat assessment: To provide an analysis of possible threats against CEI. Where is the greatest concentration of incidents against pipelines? Where is the terrain most conducive to terrorist attack?
- Intelligence gathering: Use HUMINT!
- •Security Measures: Vulnerability and the long length of pipelines are two of the main factors to be considered. Recent advances in drone surveillance technology may be particularly helpful in providing pipeline security.

# Conclusion

- Jihadi groups have paid growing attention to energy issues.
- The attacks against CEI is part of the economic jihad strategy.
- Al Qaeda has prioritized attacks against CEI in the Middle East and elsewhere.
- An integrated approach is needed to protect CEI that will include threat assessment, HUMINT and security measures.

**Thank you for your attention😊**

**manos.karagiannis@kcl.ac.uk**