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**SONS OF THE FATHER: THE NEXT GENERATION OF  
ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS IN CANADA**

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## SUMMARY

There are a number of young men living in Canada who are the sons of known Islamic extremists and who have adopted a jihadist mentality. Some were born in this country while others immigrated at a young age.

In most cases, these young men are the product of an upbringing by Islamic radicals who want their sons to follow in their footsteps. Their command of the English language, clean Canadian passports, familiarity with Western customs, computer literacy and traditional Arab/Muslim obedience to their fathers make them prime candidates for organizations like AL QAEDA to carry out terrorist acts. (S)

### Introduction

1. The public pronouncement that the KHADR family is tied to AL QAEDA and that several family members received terrorist training in Afghanistan has raised the spectre of young islamist terrorists in Canada. The Service is aware of a number of young Islamic extremists in Canada

(S)

### The Significance of the Problem

2. The presence of young, committed jihadists in Canada is a significant threat to national security for a number of reasons. These individuals are very familiar with Canadian customs and mores and have no difficulty fitting in to Western society. They have excellent English-language skills and can pass as average Canadians, thus evading more rigid scrutiny by security officials. Their knowledge of Canadian - and by extension Western - society renders them a valuable resource for international Islamic extremists who need individuals to infiltrate our countries to carry out terrorist acts. (C)

3. Young Canadian extremists also have bona fide Canadian travel documentation. The possession of a valid Canadian passport facilitates international travel,

While organizations such as AL QAEDA have sophisticated document forgery capabilities, the use of real papers provides another tool in their campaign.

(C)

4. Canadian jihadists are also very computer literate. Their skills are useful in the spread of jihadist propaganda and recruiting and provides a mode of communications

The young extremists also have access to a greater international on-line network than is available in the developing world.

These people are also usually highly educated and can use their intellectual skills to further the global extremist cause. (S)

5. These individuals are also the product of a culture where respect for and obedience to parental figures is paramount. Having a father who in turn is a jihadist leads to an atmosphere of extremism where the children are raised to see the justification of using violence to gain political goals. The duty to obey also explains why some youth have agreed to travel to Afghanistan and Pakistan for terrorist training. Finally, these young extremists exhibit a youth's zeal and enthusiasm for a cause. They can be extremely focussed on a given issue and will devote themselves to carrying out campaigns, be these actual acts of terrorism or the furtherance of global jihad through talent-spotting or the distribution of information. They are also impressionable and open to suggestion and can be easily convinced to undertake acts by more experienced and senior members of the international jihad. (C)

**Conclusions and Implications for Canada**

6. The spectre of young islamists terrorists is not exclusively a Canadian phenomenon.

(S)

7. The presence of young, committed jihadists in Canada is of grave concern. These individuals have been raised in an atmosphere of strict, extremist Islam within the general Canadian mosaic. They represent a clear and present danger to Canada and its allies and are a particularly valuable resource for the international Islamic terrorist community in view of their language skills, and familiarity with Western culture and infrastructure. As the JABARAH cases illustrate, these people are fully prepared to commit support for terrorist acts, and carry out the acts themselves. (S)

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