

The need for proper [jihadi] bloggers March 16, 2009

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As many of you may know, with the help of Allah, and with the support of my brothers, I've been around the blogosphere for quite some time now, alhamdulillah. As a result, I have seen many different blogs come and go; some were serious and some were not. Overall however, I have witnessed a major flaw in this front of ours. Oftentimes - and this was heavily practiced a year or so ago - when visiting a blog of a fellow brother or sister, it's either something I had put on my blog or something I've already seen from another blog or forum. It came to a point where I stopped visiting blogs and only went to those that were unique i.e., they wrote their own works or translated a piece independently.

Today, there has been quite an influx of blogs in the jihadi media world, with a new one appearing nearly every week or so. When visiting these sites, they quickly become boring, but at the same time, there is no doubt that the one behind it is spreading the haqq and obtaining his rewards. Nevertheless, there is a large gap in the Jihadi reporting and the Intellectual framework of educating Muslims on current events. So I am writing this short piece of advice as to what I propose to all my readers that happen to be bloggers or could be potential bloggers.

My proposition may be seen as non-traditional and modern, but the objective here is to be effective. The following list of blogging characteristics is what I feel, in my opinion, should be seen on new jihadi blogs and their reasons:

1. **The primary purpose.** Firstly, the purpose of the blog should be to serve the global jihad effort; in short, this effort is to gather all of our resources in changing how people look at modern day jihad.
2. **Using pro-Jihadi style should be avoided; neutrality in writing should be used.** Today, we have a lot of blogs where if you were to spend just a minute on their site, you can easily tell if they are pro-this and anti-that. Sometimes we need those sites, but other times, it gets very repetitive and people beg to ask 'what's new?' Let's avoid that and start to tackle issues from a neutral perspective. I feel that neutrality in writing has been ignored for much too long in the Ummah. When writing on an issue from a neutral perspective, it makes closed minded readers open minded, very quickly - as long as the writing is done correctly without showing favor or bias to any party. Let's dwell into this point a bit. What makes people like Michael Scheuer and William McCants highly respected by the Mujahideen and their supporters? It's because of two major characteristics that is found in their writings:
 - a. Neutrality
 - b. Thorough (or nearly thorough) research

Similarly, what makes people like Abu Mus'ab al-Suri so respected amongst the Crusaders and their supporters are the same two qualities. The point here is not to seek respect; rather, it is to widen the pool of people that actually read your works and are effected by it in one way or another.

3. **A central core issue to focus on.** The blogger should find an issue that appeals to him/her most within the Jihadi framework of study and stick to it only such that every post of his/her's is related to that core issue and not a single post deviates from it. For example, [Waq al-Waq](#) does an excellent job in this. The two authors behind this blog

make sure that every post or theirs is related to issues surrounding the Jihad in Yemen. They stay up-to-date on news items surrounding Yemen and present a brief analysis, such that people like myself visit their blog on a daily basis to see what's the latest on Yemen and what could be possible strategies of the Jihadi revival in that region. Another excellent example of this is Jihadica. Although they have a few writers now, they still focus on providing a summary translation or analysis on items that are available on the Jihadi forums in Arabic; they reveal to non-Arabic speakers what the Salafi-Jihadi community is up to.

Some suggestions as to what core issues that need to be focused on are (1) analyzing Shaykh Usamah's messages and tying them to the global jihad effort, (2) providing commentary on Abu Mus'ab al-Suri's works, (3) analyzing/summarizing neutral jihadi analytic books that are authored by non-Muslims, (4) events related to the Jihad in lands which the media stays quiet on such as Thailand and the Philippines, (5) analysis on the works of the 'Scholars of the Sultan' related to jihad; and the list goes on. Find something that appeals to you and make every post worth the read; this ties back with our last point concerning neutrality and thorough research. If these two are combined in your writings, then it is a recipe for widening the pool of interest from various backgrounds. Make sure your tone in writing sounds like you're interested in your field and that it doesn't sound artificial.

4. **Presenting yourself as a student rather than a teacher.** This is a very critical point which is heavily missing in the writings of the Ummah. When I come across Islamic forums for instance - both jihadi and non - I constantly see people bringing in their perspective as correct rather than trying to be constructive and dissecting the issues at hand like academic students. What is seen constantly is the teacher attitude; that is not to say that it's not correct. No, there are times when we need those kind of teachers to guide us, especially when it comes to critical issues. What I am saying is that we need more of the student mentality so that it opens up thoughtful discussions. Years ago, when I used to frequent the famous non-jihadi forums, there were only one or two writers that kept that student mentality and made the forums always interesting and intriguing, even though those one or two writers were professors at a prestigious university! It becomes a learning experience with every post, and it excites the intellect of the mind to continue the legacy of thinking deeply before speaking. In essence, this is what we should aim for. Each post should not be seen as a teacher teaching his readers, but as a student interacting with his readers with his/her's thoughts without actually physically interacting. This way, your posts will not appear to be 'brainwashing' but simply oriented to a more suggestive attitude and friendly thoughtful analysis.
5. **Avoid slogans of revival and jihad.** Part of being neutral is to avoid slogans that hint that you are attempting to revive jihad; because for the most part, people who do that, don't usually present anything unique or new to the plate. Moreover, avoid having images that reveal your opinion; so as a banner for the blog, use something neutral. As for linking to jihadi websites in your favorites or links, try to keep that at a minimum, and make it more academic than anything else. There's nothing wrong with linking to kafir analysts; eventually, your blog will spread and be read by many.
6. **Avoid hurting the Mujahideen.** This final point is not only implying that you should avoid tarnishing the image of the Mujahideen, but it is also implying that you must keep your revealing thoughts secret. In other words, if you feel you have something to say on an issue that will reveal a geographical secret location of the Mujahideen or expose one of their secrets or tactics or strategies, then do not speak on it nor hint towards it. That is not to say that one should completely stay mute on tactics and/or strategies; rather, this muteness should only

be used when it comes to something that can actually negatively affect the Mujahideen by it being used by the Crusaders.

These are my points in the proposal for future bloggers. We desperately need neutral authors so that it can spark interest in an array of subjects which in turn, In Sha' Allah, will help educate even the most senior of members in the jihadi and non-jihadi community. I hope that some of you will think about these points and try to benefit the global jihad with your good decision making.

Some of you may look at these points and try to compare it to my blog. Before you do that, keep in mind that my blog is not focused on a central core issue related to Jihad, but its field is vast in the effort of reviving the love, spirit, knowledge, advancements, analysis, history and misconceptions of Jihad and current events. Sometimes I step out of that framework and focus on Da'wah or Social issues. So for me to revert to a single core issue would destroy this blog's purpose and would in fact hurt the global jihad effort rather than strengthening it due to a few factors such as people depending on this blog for certain releases or discussions.

Comments»

1. feesabeelillaah - March 16, 2009

Assalaamu Alaikum, Akhee. JazaakAllaah Khair for the ideas.

I have decided to make an effort, inshaAllah. advice me on the core concept part. i am thinking, how about the education about jihad? books, articles, scholars, writings, magazines and discussions related to all these can be the subject of my posts. some problems could be accessing resources, limited background knowledge.

I just started learning arabic, so i am far, far away from refering to arabic resources, which means a huge section of jihadi literature is off my reach. These are some of the problems I might face. it needs serious planning and effort. but excellent idea akhee. anyone who is interested should make a sincere effort regarding this.

2. Muslim - March 16, 2009

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

Assalaamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu

I check your website regularly and try my best to convey the messages to other muslims who don't know much about our mujahid brothers and that they are on the Right Path Alh'amdulillah and about jihad and also that Victory is near by the Will of Allah 'azza wa jal so that they can be part of it and be their supporters not the slanders and so that they get the Reward that Allah has presented us with through jihad and so that no one dies without having the intention of waging jihad against the enemies of Allah and the muslims as that is a death of muafiqeen. I have recently started posting jihadi news on my blog. After reading your today's writing, Alh'amdulillah it encouraged me a lot, to keep it up inshaAllah. As I'm new, i don't have much knowledge regarding posting, for example, i don't know how to go to the link by clicking on a link posted on blog. I hope you help me for the sake of Allah.

Jazak Allah Khair

Wassalaam

3. Brother - March 16, 2009

r any of these blogs muslim, waq and waq's writers are brain and greg. also do the talibaan use opium and sell it and is hekmayter the orchestrator of the civil war part of them

4. admin - March 16, 2009

feesabeelillaah -

Wa 'Alaykum as-Salaam,

Wa Iyyakum.

In my opinion, if you have a good command over Arabic language, then that's your green light to focus on Jihadi material. Otherwise, a lot of what you will be saying will be things that are already well-known in both the Jihadi community and the non-Jihadi community. All the new Jihadi stuff is in Arabic, on the Arabic forums. So not knowing Arabic poses a problem because you will be missing out on changed tactics, discussions etc.

Try to see if you can focus on a political/economic/social issue in light of a Jihadi issue. For instance: Saudi Arabia's strategies in its war on terror.

I mentioned a few topics in my original entry that you can try. The point is to find something you like and are comfortable with.

At the same time, your focus should be something ongoing and not something which is concluded (like a book).

5. admin - March 16, 2009

Brother -

No, none of those blogs are Muslim.

No, Taliban do not use nor sell opium, according to what we know.

I am not sure regarding Hekmatyar.

6. LittleMusa - March 17, 2009

Where can I find these new arabic txts?