



The social networks as a source of inspiration and imitation for terrorists: the case study of Nihad Ra'ed Waked, who, with his cousin, carried out a shooting attack targeting IDF soldiers in northern Samaria.



A picture Nihad Ra'ed Waked posted on his Facebook page on September 29, 2015. The Arabic reads, "This is my childhood. Take it from me as a gift...only!! bring me a rifle."¹ He quoted the picture, repeating, "Take it [my childhood] from me as a gift." An M-16 assault rifle was used in the shooting attack Nihad Ra'ed Waked participated in.

Overview

1. On the morning of **February 14, 2016**, two young Palestinians went to the border security fence near the village of Hinanit in northern Samaria. They threw stones at the fence to attract an IDF force with the intention of launching a shooting attack at the force when it came to respond. The two were identified by IDF surveillance, and an IDF force was sent to the site. When the force arrived the Palestinians shot at the soldiers. The force returned fire, killing the two. One of the terrorists was armed with an M-16 assault rifle and the other with a knife.

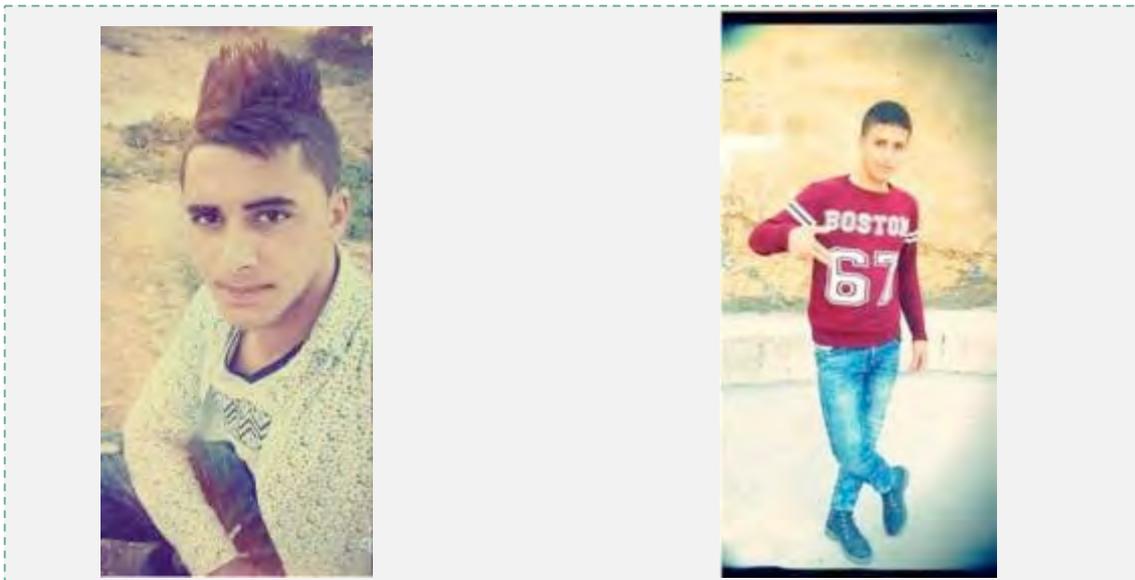
¹ The figure in the picture is similar to "Handala," the character drawn by cartoonist **Ali Naji**, who was assassinated in London. Handala is a Palestinian refugee child who became a symbol of the Palestinian struggle. However, the original figure holds the scales of justice, while this one holds a rifle in the air, **the symbol of armed campaign**.



The rifle used by one of the terrorists (Facebook page of Shihab, February 14, 2016).

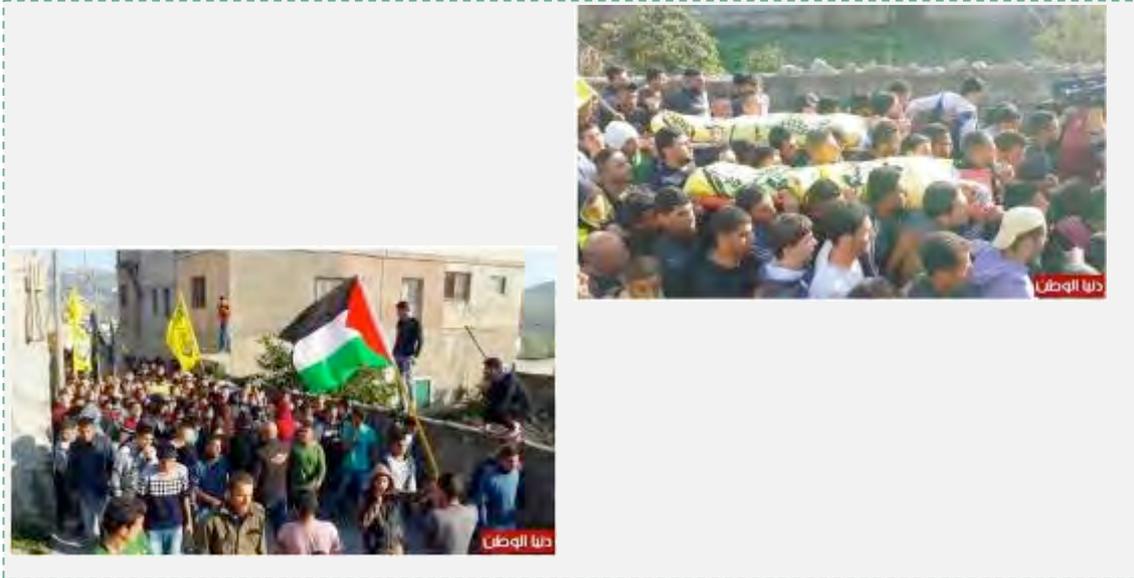
The Two Terrorists Who Carried Out the Attack

2. The two Palestinian terrorists were **Nihad Ra'ed Waked** and **Fuad Marwan Khaled Waked**, cousins, both 15, students in the 10th grade from the village of **A'raqa** (west of Jenin, near the village of Hinanit). Hamas, Fatah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) all issued death notices for them, but according to their friends they did not belong to any organization. Nihad Ra'ed Waked wrote on his Facebook page that he often participated in violent clashes with IDF soldiers.



Left: The use Nihad Waked made of his Facebook page (Facebook page of Nihad Waked, February 1, 2016) Center: Fuad Waked (Facebook page of Shihab, February 14, 2016). Right: The M-16 found in the possession of one of the terrorists.

3. On February 14, 2016, a mass funeral was held in the village of A'raqa for the two terrorists. Their bodies were draped with yellow Fatah flags. Palestinians who attended the funeral waved Fatah flags and called for the "crimes of Israel" to be avenged and to "settle the score" (Dunia al-Watan and Ma'an, February 14, 2016). Young Palestinians also carried PIJ signs (see below).



Left: A'raqa villagers wave yellow Fatah flags at the funeral. Right: The funeral held in A'raqa for the two terrorists. Their bodies are draped with Fatah flags (Dunia al-Watan, February 14, 2016).



Left: The death notice issued by Fatah in Jenin for the two shaheeds (Facebook page created to commemorate Nihad and Fuad Waked, February 14, 2016) Right: The death notice issued by Hamas for the two "shaheeds of Palestine" (Facebook page of Hamas in Nablus, February 14, 2016).



Young Palestinians hold a PIJ sign commemorating Nihad and Fuad Waked (Dunya al-Watan, February 14, 2016).

Nihad Ra'ed Waked's Facebook Page

4. Both terrorists had Facebook pages. Fuad Waked was not particularly active on Facebook, updating his page only every two or three weeks. **Nihad Waked, on the other hand, had a very active Facebook page on which he posted support for the shaheeds, his desire to become a shaheed, a request of Allah to reach paradise and his desire to enter the pages of Palestinian history.**

5. Nihad Waked's Facebook page is another example of the role played by the social networks in the current terrorist campaign Facebook pages they serve as a platform for the terrorists' thoughts, desires and emotions and as a source of inspiration for terrorist attacks (especially for young Palestinians). A comparison of Nihad Waked's Facebook page with those of other terrorists during the terrorist campaign **revealed several similar themes:**

1) **Expression of the desire to sacrifice life** [for the sake of Allah]: The Facebook pages of Nihad Waked and other terrorists frequently mention the desire to sacrifice their lives as shaheeds. (Nihad Waked wrote, "...let the mother be ashamed...who does not have a son who is a shaheed," February 7, 2016).

2) **Serial postings:** Nihad Waked posted messages to his Facebook page which in retrospect show the maturing of the idea to carry out a terrorist attack and sacrifice his life. His messages were similar to those other terrorists

posted in the weeks and sometimes months before they carried out attack (Nihad Waked wrote, "Rejoice aloud, gun, and wake the sleepers, tell them that without blood Palestine will not be restored," October 24, 2015).

3) **Pictures and references to weapons:** Nihad Waked and other terrorists posted **pictures or mentioned rifles and other weapons** (On August 16, 2015, he posted a picture, apparently of himself, holding a rifle. The Arabic read, "Raise your head...this is your weapon").

4) **Terrorists who were killed as role models:** Nihad Waked posted a picture of **Fadi Alloun**, who was killed on October 4, 2015 while carrying out a stabbing attack in Jerusalem. Other terrorists used their Facebook pages to identify with shaheeds who died during the current terrorist campaign, whom they regarded as role models and sources of inspiration.

5) **Religious or semi-religious justification for death:** Nihad Waked's Facebook page has a quotation from the Qur'an often used during the second intifada relating to the fate of the shaheeds after death ("...do not think of those who have been killed in Allah's way as dead. Rather, they are alive with their Lord, well provided for" [3:169]). In previous instances terrorists used a saying popular on the Internet and the social networks, about "things that come from heaven...like the rain, like luck...like death."

Previous Bulletins and Appendix

6. For the maturing of the idea of carrying out a terrorist attack, as reflected on Nihad Waked's Facebook pages, see the **Appendix**.

7. For the maturing of the idea of carrying out a terrorist attack as reflected on the Facebook pages of Palestinians who carried out attack during the past weeks, see the following ITIC bulletins:

1) "The Shooting and Stabbing Attack at the Nablus Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem Signals an Escalation in the Complexity and Daring of the Palestinian Terrorist Campaign" (February 9, 2016).

2) "The social networks as a source of inspiration and imitation for terrorists: the case study of Amjad Jaser Sukari, the Palestinian policeman who carried out a shooting attack near Beit El" (February 2, 2016).

3) "The social networks as a source of inspiration and imitation for terrorists: the case study of Obada Abu Ras, the Palestinian terrorist who carried out the stabbing attack in Givat Ze'ev, Jerusalem" (January 31, 2016).

4) "The stabbing attack in Beit Horon showed an increase in relative complexity, daring and premeditation" (January 27, 2016)

Appendix

The Idea for the Shooting Attack as It Matured on Nihad Ra'ed Waked's Facebook Page

1. The Facebook page of Nihad Waked **once again illustrates** the mindset of the young Palestinians who play a central role in the current terrorist campaign. Beginning weeks before its outbreak, **he posted praise for the shaheeds and expressed his willingness to sacrifice his childhood, become a shaheed, reach paradise and enter the pages of Palestinian history.** He wrote, **"I have given my resignation to the world, there is no one worthy of trust."**

2. The following are some examples from his Facebook page (in reverse chronological order):

1) On **February 7, 2016**, the week before he died during the attack, he posted pictures of himself and wrote, **"We are the people...let the mother be ashamed...who does not have a son who is a shaheed"**²



² **Shaheed** is a term rooted in classical Islam, and refers to a warrior who dies in battle fighting for the sake of Allah, usually an act of self-sacrifice on the battlefield during a holy war (jihad). In the context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a shaheed is anyone who dies within the framework of the conflict, whether on his (or her) own initiative or not.

2) On **January 19, 2016**, he wrote, "Only in Palestine...a morning of *shahadah* [death as a martyr for the sake of Allah]...may Allah have mercy on all the shaheeds...we will truly be victorious."



3) On **November 19, 2015**, he posted a picture of himself, apparently at a rally, and wrote, "Raise your head...you are a Palestinian."



4) On **October 30, 2016**, he posted a picture of Al-Aqsa mosque and wrote, "We will not write history...history will write us...**we are the sons of Palestine**...and everyone will know [that]." He signed it, "Abu Shaheed" ["father of the shaheed"].



5) On **October 24, 2015**, he wrote, "**Rejoice aloud, gun, and wake the sleepers, tell them that without blood Palestine will not be restored.**" He wore a Jerusalem Battalions pendant (the military-terrorist wing of the PIJ), but it did not necessarily indicate affiliation with the organization.



6) On **October 8, 2015**, he posted a picture of himself and an unidentified friend, both masked. He wrote, "**The Molotov cocktail is my gun...and my weapon is Allah, who is the greatest of all.**"



7) On **October 4, 2015**, he posted a picture of **Palestinian terrorist Fadi Alloun from the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya**, who on the same day had carried out a stabbing attack on a main street in Jerusalem and was shot and killed by the police. The Arabic on Alloun's picture reads, "They told me, don't be in a hurry. The occupation will destroy your house and throw your family out. I told them, good. **I have already built them a palace in paradise. [Signed] The shaheed.**" In response Nihad Waked wrote, "Where is the *shahadah*? [death as a martyr for the sake of Allah]..." (Facebook page of Nihad Waked, date, 2016).



8) On **October 4, 2015**, he posted a picture of rioting Palestinians and wrote, "**The intifada has broken out.**" He added, "Young Palestinians, [make] Allah happy."



9) On **September 29, 2015**, he posted a picture that said, "**This is my childhood. Take it from me as a gift...only!! bring me a rifle.**" He quoted the picture, repeating, "**Take it [my childhood] from me as a gift.**"



10) On **September 19, 2015** (about five days after the outbreak of the current terrorist campaign³) he posted a video of Palestinians clashing with IDF forces.



11) On **September 15, 2015**, the day after the current terrorist campaign broke out, he posted two pictures reading, "**My greatest desire is to be in your paradise, lord of the worlds,**" and "**You ask me what happiness is? I will tell you about the paradise waiting for those who have patience**" (Facebook page of Nihad Waked, September 15, 2015).



³ In ITIC assessment, the current terrorist campaign can be considered as beginning on September 14, 2015, when Palestinians threw stones at the car of Alexander Levlowitz, leading to his death.

12) On **September 10, 2015**, he wrote, "The most beautiful words [are]: '**...do not think of those who have been killed in Allah's way as dead. Rather, they are alive with their Lord, well provided for.**'"⁴



13) On **September 4, 2015**, he posted ten pictures taken of Palestinians rioting in confrontations with IDF soldiers as well as a post **calling on young Palestinians to go out and confront IDF forces.**



⁴ Qur'an Surah 3, "Al-Imran," verse 169, it encourages death as a martyr for the sake of Allah. It was extensively used by terrorists and their dispatchers during the second intifada to encourage suicide bombing and self-sacrifice attacks. According to classical Islam, shaheeds are ensured many benefits, including everlasting life in paradise in the presence of Allah, Muhammad and the righteous.

14) On **August 19, 2015**, he posted a video entitled "**What [comes] after death?**" It included sermons given by two Saudi clerics, **Khaled al-Rashad**, a **Salafist sheikh jailed in Saudi Arabia for his involvement involved in funding terrorism**; and **Yasser al-Dossari**, another prominent Saudi cleric.⁵ Nihad Waked wrote, "**What [comes] after death...There is no god by Allah, praise to the creator...Allah, let me enter your paradise.**"



15) On **August 16, 2015**, he posted a picture of himself [apparently] holding a rifle, and wrote, "**Raise your head...this is your weapon.**"



⁵ **Khaled al-Rashad**, born in 1970, is a **Saudi Salafist cleric**. In 2005 he was sentenced to 15 years in **prison for funding terrorism**, and is still in a Saudi jail. His wife is conducting a campaign to have him released. **Yasser al-Dossari** is a prominent Saudi cleric, born in 1980. He holds a PhD in comparative Islamic law and teaches at the King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. He is the imam and preacher of the Al-Dakhil mosque in Riyadh. He has a website where he posts his lectures and sermons, and appears on TV in Saudi Arabia as well as on Arabic channels.

16) On **August 2, 2015**, he posted pictures of Palestinians rioting against Israeli security forces. He wrote, "Palestine and [your] soul confirm it...**Declare a revolution.**"

