

EIR warned of Kashmir group behind skyjacking

On Oct. 13, 1995, EIR published this dossier on Harkat ul-Ansar, the group behind the India Air hijacking. It was headlined, "Pakistan, Northwest India Insurgencies," by Madhu Gurung and Ramtanu Maitra:

The major terrorist organizations inside Pakistan and in the northwestern areas of India, particularly in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, are direct offspring of the afghansi operation, or have been built, in part, in reaction to it, as in the case of the Mohajir Qaum Movement (MQM) in Pakistan. The primary target of the afghansi in the region currently is the Indian-held sections of Kashmir, where the British are hoping to instigate an all-out war between India and Pakistan, or to create an independent Kashmir, carved out of both India and Pakistan, which would give British intelligence a direct foothold in this strategically sensitive area that sits at the nexus of China, India, Afghanistan, Russia, and Pakistan. The Sikh Khalistani movement, which seeks to create an independent Sikh State out of India's breadbasket state of Punjab, also operated under the protective shield of the Anglo-American-backed afghansi. As the following profiles show, these terrorist organizations operate either as direct subsidiaries of the "afghansi networks," or their support networks are based out of Canada and Great Britain.

Harkat-ul-Ansar

Name of group: Harkat-ul-Ansar (HUA).

Headquarters: Mazaffarabad, in Azad Kashmir (Pakistani-held Kashmir). Offices also exist in Karachi, Lahore, Azad Kashmir, and Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Reportedly, it also has a Myanmar (Burma) and Tajikistan branch, and has been seen in Bosnia.

Founded: Founded in 1980, in Karachi, to fight in Afghanistan. At the time of its inception, it was called the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. In October 1993, it merged with the Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami to form the HUA. The unification occurred reportedly through the efforts of patrons from Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Locations of operations, areas active: At the time it was founded, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen had a few dozen members from most Islamic countries. These members would fight in Afghanistan for six months, and then return to their countries to recruit. Now, this organization sends volunteers to the Indian part of Kashmir to fight. The group is most active in the southern Kashmir Valley and Doda district.

Major terrorist actions:

- In December 1992, the HUA paralyzed the Indian ad-

ministration of Jammu and Kashmir by attacking 25 police stations.

- The HUA captured Lt. Col. Bhupinder Singh in January 1995 and killed him.
- In May 1995, HUA militants conducted two attacks in Doda district, in which they stopped buses, picked out individuals, and shot them.
- In February 1995, seventeen people died in an explosion set off by highly explosive RDX planted in a vehicle in Jammu.

Leaders' names and aliases: Maulana Saadatullah Khan, Maulana Farooq Kashmiri.

Groups allied to nationally or internationally:

- Hizbul Mujahideen: A militant group in Kashmir with about 17,500 trained members. Hizbul, like Anjuman Sipahie-Sahaba, is a militant wing of the Jammat-e-Islami.
- Al-Jehad, which later became the Janbaz Force.
- Ahle Hadith, a militant Sunni group based in the province of Punjab in Pakistan.
- Anjuman-e-Sipah-i-Sahaba (ASS) (see below).

Religious/ideological/ethnic motivating ideology: The group seeks Kashmir's accession to Pakistan.

Known controllers/mentors/theoreticians of: The group is politically mentored by Jamaat-e-Islami, which, in turn, is trained, transported, and guided by Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI), parts of which function as a "rogue operation" in Pakistan itself. . . .

Current number of cadres: About 4,500, mostly from outside of Kashmir.

Training: It was trained as a guerrilla organization. The training is given by the ISI, and the members have been trained with Indian-made heavy and light armaments and Russian-made assault rifles, light machine guns, etc.

Rockets have also been used by the group. The presence of mortars and heavy machine guns, and even small missiles, has also been reported with the group. The group has a 40-day training course.

Known funding: The HUA collects donations from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf and Islamic states, to purchase relief supplies which it reportedly distributes to Muslims in Tajikistan, Kashmir, and Myanmar. The details of HUA's military funding have been traced to Arab countries, and wealthy Pakistanis and Kashmiris.

The HUA, which trains the Rohingya Muslims in the Arakan hills in Myanmar, against the Myanmar regime, also collects funds from there, and collects funds from the Tajik rebels, whom the HUA reportedly trains.

Thumbnail historical profile: The HUA is yet another offshoot of the afghansi operation in Afghanistan. The group uses ruthless methods and retaliates viciously to any provocation. The HUA also supports Muslims in Kashmir, with humanitarian and military assistance. There are many Algerians, Lebanese, Syrians, and Egyptians among the active militants, and the HUA has district commanders from Kazakhstan and Bosnia.