CHILDREN OF THE WORLD
RECRUITED TO BE TERRORISTS

IN THE FOLLOWING LINK YOU WILL FIND THAT CHILDREN ARE RECRUITED TO BE TERRORISTS BY THE SHINING PATH (A COMUNIST MAOIST TERRORIST GROUP) IN PERU, LATIN AMERICA.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzT39fAW-Xk

WHAT IS THE SHINING PATH (SENDERO LUMINOSO)?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shining_Path

The common name of this group, the Shining Path, distinguishes it from several other Peruvian communist parties with similar names (see Communism in Peru). It originates from a maxim of José Carlos Mariátegui, founder of the original Peruvian Communist Party in the 1920s: “El Marxismo-Leninismo abrirá el sendero luminoso hacia la revolución” (“Marxism-Leninism will open the shining path to revolution”). This maxim was featured in the masthead of the newspaper of a Shining Path front group, and Peruvian communist groups are often distinguished by the names of their publications. The followers of the group are generally called senderistas. All documents, periodicals and other materials produced by the organization are signed by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP). Academics often refer to them as PCP-SL.

Although the organization's numbers had lessened by 2003, a militant faction of the Shining Path called Proseguir (or "Onward") continued to be active. It is believed that the faction consists of three companies known as the North, or Pangoa, the Centre, or Pucuta, and the South, or Vizcata. The government claims that Proseguir is operating in alliance with drug traffickers.

Despite these arrests, the Shining Path continues to exist in Peru. On December 22, 2005, the Shining Path ambushed a police patrol in the Huánuco region, killing eight. Later that day they wounded an additional two police officers. In response, then President Alejandro Toledo declared a state of emergency in Huánuco, and gave the police the power to search houses and arrest suspects without a warrant. On February 19, 2006, the Peruvian police killed Héctor Aponte, believed to be the commander responsible for the ambush. In December 2006, Peruvian troops were sent to counter renewed guerrilla activity and, according to high level government officials, the Shining Path's strength has reached an estimated 300 members. In November 2007, police claimed to have killed Artemio's second-in-command, a guerrilla known as JL.
In September 2008, government forces announced the killing of five rebels in the Vizcatan region. This claim has subsequently been challenged by the APRODEH, a Peruvian human rights group, which believes that those who were killed were in fact local farmers and not rebels. That same month, Artemio gave his first recorded interview since 2006. In it he stated that the Shining Path would continue to fight despite escalating military pressure. In October 2008, in Huancavelica Region, the guerrillas engaged a military convoy with explosives and firearms, demonstrating their continued ability to strike and inflict casualties on military targets. The conflict resulted in the death of 12 soldiers and two to seven civilians. It came one day after a clash in the Vizcata region, which left five rebels and one soldier dead. In November 2008, the rebels utilized hand grenades and automatic weapons in an assault that claimed the lives of 4 police. In April 2009, the Shining Path ambushed and killed 13 government soldiers in Ayacucho. Grenades and dynamite were used in the attack. The dead included eleven soldiers and one captain and two soldiers were also injured, with one reported missing. Poor communications were said to have made relay of the news difficult. The country's Defence Minister, Antero Flores Aráoz claimed many soldiers "plunged over a cliff". His Prime Minister Yehude Simon said these attacks were "desperate responses by the Shining Path in the face of advances by the armed forces", and expressed his belief that the area would soon be freed of "leftover terrorists". In the aftermath, a Sendero leader called this "the strongest [anti-government] blow... ...in quite a while".

RECENTLY, WE HAVE LEARNED BY CNN REPORTS AND OTHER NEWS THAT TALIBAN USES CHILDREN FOR THEIR TERRORISTS PURPOSES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Pakistan: Taliban buying children for suicide attacks

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (CNN) -- A top Taliban leader in Pakistan is buying and selling children for suicide bombings, Pakistani and U.S. officials said.

Children are shown at a training camp in this video footage shot by the Taliban.

Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud has been increasingly using the children in attacks, the officials said. A video released by Pakistan's military shows the children training for the task.

In the video of a training camp, children can be seen going through exercises.

Mehsud has been selling the children, once trained, to other Taliban officials for $6,000 to $12,000, Pakistani military officials said. Watch more about the child bombers »

Some of the children are as young as 11, the officials said.

"He has been admitting he holds a training center for young boys, for preparing them for suicide bombing. So he is on record saying all this, accepting these crimes," said Major General Akhtar Abbas, spokesman for the Pakistani army.
The young suicide bombers may be able to reach targets unnoticed, the military said.

"If he is approaching on foot, there is a possibility he will bypass security," Abbas said.

"In certain areas, there is a possibility in the population centers everyone can not be checked physically, so he can create havoc there."

Pakistan has launched an offensive against the Taliban, started in the Swat region of the North West Frontier Province. The Taliban have countered with a spate of suicide bombings, including a July 2 attack in Rawalpindi, in which a suicide bomber on a motorcycle struck a Pakistani Defense Ministry bus. At least one person was killed and 29 others were wounded.

Pakistan's army said it is hunting Mehsud in the hopes that the supply of suicide bombers will dry up after the Taliban leader is captured.

Meanwhile, a suspected U.S. drone attack killed at least 12 people and wounded five others in northwest Pakistan Tuesday, Pakistani officials said.

The missile strikes in South Waziristan targeted a suspected Taliban hideout at a madrassa, or Muslim school, in Zangarah, according to intelligence officials.

The attack near the border with Afghanistan involved a pair of missiles shot from an unmanned drone, local resident Janbaz Mehsud told CNN. He said all the dead and wounded were Taliban.

A local government official, who asked not to be named, said the madrassa was a training center for the Taliban and belongs to Baitullah Mehsud. That official put the death toll at 14, but said the number of dead could rise.

The U.S. military routinely offers no comment on reported drone attacks. However, the United States is the only country operating in the region known to have the ability to launch missiles from drones, which are controlled remotely.

CHRISITIAN AMANPOUR, THE INTERNATIONAL CNN CORRESPONDEN HAS SHOWN THIS FACT IN A CNN SPECIAL REPORT. SOME OF THIS REPORT IS IN THE FOLLOWING VIDEO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yur3qgAh4QI

MORE NEWS...
Taliban training leaves children traumatized
Pakistani army finds 20 boys who escaped from militants


MINGORA, Pakistan | In a voice barely above a whisper, I.H. stared at his feet as he recounted haltingly how the Taliban had kidnapped him and a classmate as they had played in the street. They cleaned dishes for a few days in a militant training camp in northern Pakistan before escaping during Friday prayers, he said.

The Pakistani army says it has so far found 20 boys like I.H., who is being identified only by his initials for his safety, in the battle-scarred Swat Valley, scene of a major offensive against the Taliban in the spring.

The soldiers think the Taliban hoped to turn the boys into informants, fighters or even suicide bombers. Some escaped; others were rescued by authorities. Maj. Nasir Khan said many more are believed to be in the hands of militants.

Eleven such boys -- the youngest only about 7 years old -- were presented to journalists Monday at a military base in the Swat's main town of Mingora.

The Taliban have been known to use children as fighters before in Afghanistan, and the army seems keen to capitalize on the boys’ capture, hoping their stories will help turn public opinion against the militants.

The spring offensive in Swat -- to clear the region of militants after they flouted a peace deal and expanded their area of control -- was relatively popular in Pakistan. The government now hopes to extend its grip on Swat to prevent Taliban fighters likely hiding in the mountains from mounting their own counteroffensive to regain control of the strategic area.

The U.S. sees Pakistan's ability to take on the Taliban as key to its own troops' success across the border in Afghanistan. But some Pakistanis support the Taliban, especially in the lawless tribal areas that border Afghanistan, and the army's military campaign against them also has involved public-relations battles.

Taliban spokesman Maulvi Omar could not be reached for comment on the militants' use of children.

The boys on Monday said they had spent time in training camps -- though how long was unclear. They mostly said just a few days, but the army said they probably were with the Taliban for a month or more.
Three of the boys appeared to be younger than 10 and were visibly traumatized, occasionally breaking down in tears. The others were mostly in their midteens. Of the six who spoke to Associated Press, most said they had been made to clean dishes or undergo rigorous physical training. None said he had been trained to carry out a suicide attack.

Feriha Peracha, a clinical neuropsychologist called in by the army to assess the boys, said some of them clearly were depressed and traumatized. However, she said it was unlikely all had been kidnapped as they claimed.

"It's only one or two maximum out of this group that I would say was probably actually taken by force," Ms. Peracha said.

The Taliban have been known to persuade boys to join their ranks or even pay impoverished families to hand over a young future fighter, Maj. Khan said.

"They are like the Mafia. Some children are inspired by them. They command respect because people are afraid of them," he said.

Ms. Peracha said most of the boys she interviewed tested below average on intelligence tests and came from poor families, which may have made them easy targets for the militants. One displayed psychotic symptoms.

I.H., who said he's 12 but looks much younger, said he was snatched off the streets and driven to a training camp.

"We were just playing" in the village when a car drove up, he said. "They blindfolded us."

B.K., a 15-year-old from Mingora, said he was lured into a car.

"They took me to a mountain place that was a training center" where he and other boys were awakened before dawn for prayers, followed by strenuous physical exercise, he said.

"I was told that I would be trained for jihad to fight against the army and to kill soldiers," he said, adding that another 50 to 60 boys were at the camp. He said an uncle managed to negotiate his release.

M.K., a 16-year-old who already has some gray hair, said he was returning home after buying groceries when a car pulled up and offered him a lift. However, he said, when they reached the turn for his house, the bearded men in the car gagged and blindfolded him and drove him to a training camp where there were about 250 other boys, between 12 and 18 years of age.
"They told us jihad is the duty of every Muslim," M.K. said. He said he was told it was OK to kill your parents if they disagreed.

"I was shocked. I was thinking, how can someone kill their parents?" the boy said, his voice barely audible.

Maj. Khan said that once the boys are picked up by the army, they are questioned before they are allowed to return home.

Army officials took blood and hair samples from the boys on Monday to run DNA tests and check whether any of them had been drugged while they were in the training camps.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Akthar Abbas said it's clear some of the boys were being trained as fighters or worse.

"They were being trained as suicide bombers. There is fear still at the back of their minds," he said.

Col. Abbas said they army is setting up a rehabilitation program for the boys to provide them with education and psychotherapy.

"We will try to convert them as useful society members."

ON THE FOLLOWIN LINK YOU WILL FIND A REPORT ON THE TALIBAN AND THE DRUG TRADE:


IRAN HAS BEING SUPPORTING TALIBAN FOR MANY YEARS...

US Cites New Evidence of Iranian Support for Taliban
By Al Pessin
Pentagon
30 April 2008

The Pentagon said Wednesday Iran is continuing to provide weapons and other material to Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan, in addition to its alleged continuing support for Shiite militias in Iraq. Officials spoke to reporters Wednesday shortly after a second U.S. aircraft carrier strike group arrived in the Persian Gulf. VOA's Al Pessin reports from the Pentagon.

The chief of operations for the senior U.S. military staff, Lieutenant General Carter Ham, says Iranian support for the Taliban, first reported last year, is continuing.
"There is indication that the Iranian support of the Taliban has continued," said General Ham. "Again, we don't believe it to be at the same level of which they have provided fighters and weapons into Iraq. But there is some clear evidence that it has occurred." General Ham says the support involves "weapons and material," but he did not provide details of what Iran sends or how much. He did say there is no indication Iran is providing the high-powered roadside bombs it has given to insurgents in Iraq.

The new allegation comes as two U.S. aircraft carrier strike groups are in the Persian Gulf in an unusual display of American military power in the waterway along Iran's southwestern coast. Officials say one carrier group is relieving the other, and the overlap will not last long. On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Robert Gates offered this characterization of the temporary double deployment.

"I don't see it as an escalation," said Secretary Gates. "I think it could be seen, though, as a reminder."

General Ham says the message is aimed at both U.S. allies and potential adversaries in the region, but he said it would be a mistake to view the carrier overlap as designed specifically to send a message to Iran.

"The message of commitment to the region is one that we think is important, but it's not intended to be any more than that," he said. "It's a message to all nations that the United States possesses the capability and the will to operate globally. So this is an opportunity to do that."

General Ham says the two carriers will enable U.S. commanders to order more air strikes in Iraq, as well as more reconnaissance flights and other missions.

He says it also provides an important training opportunity for the two carrier crews. White House spokeswoman Dana Perino explained it this way.

"These exercises are not aimed at Iran," said Dana Perino. "They reinforce that the U.S. has an enduring commitment to the region and to our allies and we continue to protect our allies and interests wherever necessary."

Also on Wednesday, the director of planning for the U.S. military staff, Lieutenant General John Satler, denied a news report that indicated there is increased planning for potential U.S. military action against Iran.

"There has been no order, specific order, to plan in any particular area of the world," said General Satler. "But I want to make it clear to everyone that we do plan. We challenge those plans. We challenge the assumptions of those plans, ongoing. And I would just leave it at that. We don't discuss, as you well know, specific plans that are ongoing or operations that are ongoing."
U.S. officials have said they do not want to have a military confrontation with Iran, and hope to work through allies and diplomatic channels to convince Iranian leaders not to support insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**IRAN HAS PRESENCE IN LATIN AMERICA**

*Iran's Growing Presence in Latin America*
*Tuesday, April 8, 2008*


**Jaime Daremblum**  
*Director, Hudson's Center for Latin American Studies*  
Introductory Remarks  
*Keynote Address:*
  
**Douglas Farah**  
*The Strategic Threat: Iran in Latin America*

Douglas Farah senior investigator for the NEFA Foundation ([www.nefafoundation.org](http://www.nefafoundation.org)) and a senior fellow at the International Assessment and Strategy Center (IASC). He is also a national security consultant to the U.S government and military, author of two books, "Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror," (Broadway, 2004) and "Merchant of Death: Money, Guns, Planes and the Man Who Makes War Possible," and was a foreign correspondent covering Latin America and West Africa for the Washington Post for two decades.

**Panel Discussion:**

**Hillel Fradkin (moderator)**

*Iran's International Horizon and Ambitions*

Hillel Fradkin is a senior fellow of the Hudson Institute where he directs its Center on Islam, Democracy and the Future of the Muslim World. He is the founder of *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology*, the leading journal on contemporary Islamism (sometimes known as militant or radical Islam) which he co-edits with Husain Haqqani and Eric Brown.

**Brian Fonseca**

*Emerging Relationships: Iran and Latin America*

Brian Fonseca is the Senior Political and Security Analyst at Florida International University's Western Hemisphere Security Analysis Center. His academic background is International Relations specifically Latin American studies. Brian Fonseca served in the United States Marine Corps from 1997-2004 and facilitated the training of several foreign military forces in both hostile theaters and during peace time
operations. Brian Fonseca received several national awards recognizing his efforts and strategic thinking capabilities.

Julio Cirino

Chavez and His Iranian Supporters

Julio Cirino is a historian, journalist, and Director of International Relations with the Fundacion Pensar in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has published numerous articles and books on Latin American politics, international relations, and security affairs.

Betsy and Walter Stern Conference Center
Hudson Institute
1015 15th Street, NW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20005

IRAN HAS A CLOSE ALLY IN LATIN AMERICA, PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ OF VENEZUELA...


The Iran-Venezuela Military Relationship Rolls On

posted by Douglas Farah

Two related items that should give the Obama administration pause as it seeks ways to engage Venezuela’s Hugo Chávez and other countries in Venezuela’s sphere of influence (Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador primarily).

The first is the new Memorandum of Understanding signed between the militaries of Venezuela and Iran. According to the official FARS News Agency, Iran’s defense minister, in a visit to Caracas, “underlined Tehran’s all-out efforts to help Venezuela promote its defense capabilities and bolster its power of deterrence through bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on military cooperation.”

Chávez, for his part, stated that “The Bolivarian and the Islamic Revolutions have a lot in common and these commonalities have consolidated the two countries’ bonds.”

Stressing that Iran has a special place in Venezuela’s foreign policy, Chavez referred to the two countries’ armies, and underlined that armed forces of the two countries should be reinforced in a bid to help strengthen sustainable security.

Secretary of State Clinton, as the Washington Post recently noted, has been talking about improving relations with Venezuela while remaining studiously silent on Chávez’s increasingly bold attacks on the legitimate opposition (something Bolivia’s Evo Morales is imitating).
It should be quite clear that Chávez values the ties to Iran far more than he does potential ties to Washington, and the recent MOU with Iran makes that clear.

At the same time, **17 people were arrested in the small Caribbean island (and Dutch territory) of Curacao** on charges of transporting several tons of cocaine and sending some of the money to Hezbollah.

“He have been able to establish that this group has relations with international criminal organizations that have connections with the Hezbollah,” prosecutor Ludmila Vicento said.

Island officials said the US and the Netherlands are helping them to investigate the alleged Hezbollah connection.

**Two shipments of cocaine totaling 2,000 kilograms (4,400 pounds) have been seized from the ring in Curacao since the beginning of last year. The traffickers used cargo ships and speed boats to import the drugs from Colombia and Venezuela for shipment to Africa and beyond to Europe, according to Curacao authorities.**

Since Venezuela has become a no-go zone for virtually any type of international counter-narcotics efforts and seems to tolerate a great deal of cocaine traffic to Africa, one has wonder how this all ties together. This [AFP story provides more details from the Dutch investigators](https://afpnews.com/afpnews.php?lang=en&story=20170604afpnl015256)

“The group shipped containers with cocaine from Curacao to the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Jordan,” it said. “From Venezuela, containers with drugs went to West Africa and then to the Netherlands, Lebanon and Spain. Carriers smuggled the cocaine as airline passengers from Curacao and Aruba into the Netherlands.”

The proceeds were allegedly invested in several countries, said the statement. “The organisation had international contacts with other criminal networks that financially supported Hezbollah in the Middle East. Large sums of drug money flooded into Lebanon, from where orders were placed for weapons that were to have been delivered from South America.”

Since Venezuela’s blooming relationship with Iran has grown closer, the amount of cocaine coming through Venezuela has skyrocketed and the documented cases of Hezbollah activities have soared. It is hard to imagine, as many seem to, that this is all some big, unhappy coincidence.

The military relationship will bring with it a formal role for the Quds Force, which will bring in greater cover for Hezbollah’s activities. Weaning Venezuela away from Iran by being nice to Chávez, as Secretary Clinton proposes, is neither realistic nor wise.