

Dr. Maura Conway  
*Dublin City University*



# Cyberterrorism

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BRUCE ANDERSON: TORIES MAY WOBBLE BUT BROWN REMAINS THEIR STRONGEST ASSET

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# Terrorists 'gaining upper hand in cyber war'

the West's military infrastructure is at growing risk from sophisticated hackers

By Kim Sengupta, Defence correspondent

Saturday, 6 February 2010

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Western governments are facing a potent and ill-understood new threat from terrorists and hostile powers in the shape of cyber warfare, military and security experts have warned.

Network attacks, a British government report says, are "growing in seriousness and frequency". And in a timely reminder of the emphasis that states and corporations alike are placing on the problem, Google and the National Security Agency were yesterday said to be finalising the details of a two-operative deal aimed at boosting the search engine's defences after it was hit by sophisticated hacking attacks.



The threat posed by terrorists and hackers involved in cyberwarfare is a priority for defence chiefs

The company has stated that it will pull out of its business operations in China where the targeted attacks on the accounts of human rights activists are supposed to have originated. But the risk is not confined to individuals. US and British officials say what is at stake goes far beyond attempted state censorship, with military infrastructure and financial markets becoming vulnerable.

To overcome that risk, the Green Paper just published by the British Government has stated that part of the forthcoming Strategic Defence Review will focus on the risks posed by technology in enemy hands. At the moment, it is believed that insurgents with the right electronic capability could jam weapons systems and intercept classified communications during military missions.

"Cyber space, in particular, poses serious and complex

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

- Diane Abbott: Your Questions
- Adam Boulton on televised debates
- Race to save Roman chariot track site
- Simon Usborne rides the Cresta Run

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**T.M. Jewin SALE**

# A Definition:

...[H]ighly damaging computer-based attacks or threats of attack by non-state actors against information systems when conducted to intimidate or coerce governments or societies in pursuit of goals that are political or social. It is the convergence of terrorism with cyberspace, where cyberspace becomes the means of conducting the terrorist act. Rather than committing acts of violence against persons or physical property, the cyberterrorist commits acts of destruction or disruption against digital property (Denning 2006)

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# The Literature

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- Scholarly papers
- Media reports
- Policy documents

# The Literature

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- 'Hypers'  
(Verton's *Black Ice*, 2003)
- 'De-Hypers'

# 3 Arguments Against Cyberterrorism

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1. Technological Complexity
2. 9/11 & the Image Factor
3. 9/11 & the Accident Issue

# Technological Complexity

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- IT Knowledge
- Real world attacks difficult enough
- Hiring hackers and compromising operational security



# 9/11 & the Image Factor





# 9/11 & the Image Factor



Electric Grid

SCADA Systems

Air Traffic Control

# 9/11 & the Accident Issue

Howard Schmidt to the  
US Senate Committee on  
the Judiciary (2004):

**“...during NIMDA and  
Code Red, we to  
this day don’t know the  
source of that. It  
could have very easily  
been a terrorist...”**



# Conclusions

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- Cost-benefit analysis
- Cyberterrorism is not in our near future
- Bombs are still preferable to bytes



# VIOLENT ONLINE RADICALISATION: WEIGHING THE ROLE OF THE INTERNET IN CONTEMPORARY TERRORISM





# FARC-EP

FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA - EJÉRCITO DEL PUEBLO

Inicio Somos EP Noticias Editorial Documentos y comunicados Opinión Multimedia Partes de guerra Nuestra historia



**DESDE MARQUETALIA HASTA LA VICTORIA**

**FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA EJÉRCITO DEL PUEBLO**

### El Grito de Independencia UN GRITO DE BATALLA




MAYO INSURGENTE

**Editorial**



**Movimiento Continental Bolivariano: Una necesidad política de alcances estratégicos**  
 Compatriotas latinoamericanos y caribeños asistentes a este histórico evento, compañeras y compañeros: reciben el saludo entusiasmado del Secretariado, del Estado Mayor Central, del cuerpo de mando y de la guerrillera de las FARC - EP, así como de todos los integrantes de las milicias bolivarianas.

**Partes de guerra**  
**PARTES DE GUERRA FARC-EP 2.010**



**Documentos y comunicados**  
**SOBRE ATENTADO A PETRO**




Música por la Nueva Colombia



Historia de las FARC



Movimiento Bolivariano Nueva Colombia



**Somos FARC Ejército del pueblo**

**Opinion**  
**LA RUTA HEPTAGONAL**



Alexandra, la holandesa que milita en las FARC-EP  
**LA MUJER EN LA GUERRA** Da gusto oírla cantar por ahí, siempre a media voz, en holandés, inglés o quizás en que lengua extranjera. Por Gabriel Angel



**Solidaridad CON NUESTROS PRESOS POLITICOS**

**Últimas publicaciones**

- 16/07 LA RUTA HEPTAGONAL
- 16/07 El Grito de Independencia UN GRITO DE BATALLA
- 27/06 MAYO INSURGENTE
- 26/06 MAYO INSURGENTE
- 26/06 AL PUEBLO COLOMBIANO
- 24/06 TRIUNFO ILEGITIMO DEL CONTINUISMO

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# الجبهة الشعبية لتحرير فلسطين

Popular front for liberation of Palestine

القسم الإخباري | التكوين والتأسيس | بيانات وتصريحات | أفلام وأراء | سجل الخالدين | كتب وإصدارات | المكتبة الصوتية

الجمعة 2010/07/23 الساعة: 7:44 ( بتوقيت القدس)

### بيانات وتصريحات

21-07-2010 - 19:56  
الشعبية تسخر مما أسسته سلطات الاحتلال بالقيود التي سنتعها على جيشها خلال الحروب القادمة

21-07-2010 - 14:23  
الشعبية تستنكر تصريحات الرئيس الأمريكي ورئيس الوزراء البريطاني التي دعت لاستئناف المفاوضات المباشرة

21-07-2010 - 14:23  
الأرشيف ...

### الشعبية تبدأ تنفيذ برنامجها التدريسي الأول لأعضاء قيادة منطقة خانيونس الشرقية


22-07-2010 - 20:13

### الشعبية تقدم بخالص تهاديها للطلبة الناجحين في امتحانات الثانوية العامة هذا العام

22-07-2010 - 16:42

### الشعبية تستنكر تصريحات الرئيس الأمريكي ورئيس الوزراء البريطاني التي دعت لاستئناف المفاوضات المباشرة

21-07-2010 - 14:33



كاتب الشهيد أبو علي مصطفى تمني رفيقها المقاتل قاسم الشنياري من بيت حانون

وللآنسة نور ابنة الرفيق جاسم عبدربه أحمد ومن عموم أسرنا الجهادية على تفوقها وتميزها في امتحانات الثانوية العامة القسم العلمي بحصولها على الترتيب الأول في الصفه والقطر

### الجبهة الشعبية لتحرير فلسطين

تصدره: محمد حسين جليل نصر الله



المدد والناقد للمعتاد البرز والمعتد على مواطنه الضال

### قول اللان

كاتب الشهيد أبو علي مصطفى  
قصف لطل موز بصاروخ دون طيار كات

### سجل الخالدين

محمد شعبان أبوب  
الرواية



### تسجيل دخول

الاسم:   
كلمة المرور:

### نداء الوطن

العدد الأخير من نشرة نداء

### English

Solidarity with the Secretary-General comrade Ahmed saadat

### تصاميم ثورية



### في ذكرى الشهيد الأديب حسان كنفاني، "الشعبية" تنظم ندوة ثقافية في مخيم خان الشيوخ بسوريا

20-07-2010 - 11:46

### في ذكرى الشهيد الأديب حسان كنفاني، "الشعبية" تنظم ندوة ثقافية في مخيم خان الشيوخ بسوريا

20-07-2010 - 11:39

### أبو أحمد فؤاد؛ على الهبات والمؤسسات والفصائل جميعاً اتخاذ قرار برفض العودة للمفاوضات المباشرة

20-07-2010 - 16:22

### الشعبية: تنفيذ الاحتلال قتلون " أملاك الغائبين " بالقدس جريمة جديدة بحق شعبنا وتقويضاً لأسس بناء الدولة الفلسطينية

21-07-2010 - 14:28

### الشعبية تسخر مما أسسته سلطات الاحتلال بالقيود التي سنتعها على جيشها خلال الحروب القادمة

21-07-2010 - 14:28

### "الشعبية" في بيت حانون تحيي الذكرى السادسة لاستشهاد القائد نعيم الكفارنة

20-07-2010 - 16:22

### في ذكرى الشهيد الأديب حسان كنفاني، "الشعبية" تنظم ندوة ثقافية في مخيم خان الشيوخ بسوريا

20-07-2010 - 11:46

### أبو أحمد فؤاد؛ على الهبات والمؤسسات والفصائل جميعاً اتخاذ قرار برفض العودة للمفاوضات المباشرة

20-07-2010 - 11:39



# philippinerevolution.net



## RECENT POSTINGS

- Water crisis exposes Aquino's sheer insensitivity, immaturity and incompetence--CPP
- Punish US soldiers in sexual molestation of female singer in Basilan concert--CPP
- Patrol conducted by abusive Army detachment ambushed; 3 high-powered rifles seized
- NPA punishes drug lord and corrupt ex-mayor Mateo Biong, Jr
- NPA releases POW to give human rights and international humanitarian law a chance
- NPA Facilitates Return to Civilian Status of Minor Recruited as Combatant by AFP
- Without pinpointing AFP culpability, Aquino's call for military to prioritize human rights is meaningless--CPP

**POWS (Southern Mindanao).** The Merardo Arce Command ordered their release based on humanitarian grounds despite the finding of probable cause by the region's revolutionary organ of political authority against them for various acts constituting serious violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. [Click here to see the photo album](#)

**Parts Bagani II.** A new set of artworks from Comrade Parts Bagani of Southern Mindanao.

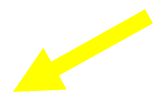
**Other videos:** [Stand for truth and change](#) | [9 music videos from North Eastern Mindanao](#) | [4 ka Dekada \(Panay\)](#)

**Latest Added Publications:** [Liberation International](#), April-June 2010 | [Daba-daba](#), Marso-Abril 2010 | [Pasa Bilis](#), Abril 2010

**NDF** Get the National Democratic Front's calendar for 2010.

 Catch Marco Valbuena on Facebook

 Follow Marco Valbuena on Twitter



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### ANG Bayan

[HULYO 21, 2010]

Rebolusyon, di magagapi ng dahas at panlilinlang ng rehimeng US-Aquino | Planong paghirang kay Etta Rosales, umani ng batikos | 20 sundalo napatay, 8 armas nasamsam ng BHB | Balik-tanaw sa PEACe Bonds

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العدل المنتظر

15 شعبان | ولادة الإمام المهدي  
(عجل الله تعالى فرجه الشريف) 2010-1431

موقع المقاومة الإسلامية في لبنان  
موقع جريدة الانتقاد الإلكتروني  
English | Français





الداود: كل الأصوات المناهضة للمقاومة مأجورة للعدو وستنظم

- English E
- Français F
- البريد الإلكتروني
- يحت
- بأقلامكم
- القائمة البريدية
- RSS

المكتبة الصوتية

معرض الصور

المكتبة الرقمية

عدوان شوز 2006



المؤتمر الصحفي للأمين العام لحزب الله  
الخميس ٢٢ تموز/يوليو ٢٠١٠



ولى أمر المسلمين: اميركا والكيان الصهيوني وبريطانيا الحماة الرئيسيون لمركبى جريمة راهدان  
الإمام الخاتمي: الجمهورية الاسلامية ستخط مخطط الفتنة بين المسلمين

أخبار

قنديل : خطة عمده هدفها وصول جعجع الى الرئاسة وإعادة تجربة 82 والنخبة الأولى في ذلك سعد الحريري



الشيخ ملص: كلام السيد نصر الله يستدعي وقف حملات التحريض التي تخدم إسرائيل وأميركا



تقرير مصور من المؤتمر الصحفي للأمين العام لحزب الله



خطباء الجمعة طالبوا اللبنانيين بعدم الانجرار وراء الفتنة المذهبية والتنه للخطط الاميركية والصهيونية للمنطقة



جديد الموقع

الشيخ ملص: كلام السيد نصر الله يستدعي وقف حملات التحريض التي تخدم إسرائيل وأميركا

المفتطف العربي يوم الجمعة: العدو يثقل وفي الدعم العسكري الدولي للبنان وحشية من شل النقل في الكيان بصواريخ حزب الله

قنديل : خطة عمده هدفها وصول جعجع الى الرئاسة

الصفحة الرئيسية

القادة

حزب الله

الأمين العام

المقاومة الإسلامية

بيرومات

الوحدة

الصناديق

ورشات

صوت وصور

خاصة بالشهداء

العاج رضوان

صور للشهداء

العاج عماد عطية

العاج رضوان

اسير

قائمة

الشهداء

بيروز مسماء من وجود "عالية مناهضة لاسرائيل" في الأمم المتحدة

"شائلا": "اسرائيل" شنت حربها الأمنية على لبنان بعد فشلها بحرب 2006



Top U.N. Official Says Tribunal Findings Will Cause Turmoil in Lebanon | Isr:



- Home Page
- Leaders
- Hizbullah
- Secretary-General
- Islamic Resistance
- Conflict with Israel



**JULY 2006 Zionist Daily Aggressions.. Daily Defeats...**



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**What's New**

Opinions and Analysis Following Sayyed Nasrallah's Press Conference

MP Hashem: Sayyed Nasrallah Failed the Element of Surprise "Israel" Was Preparing

International Athletes Might Join Freedom Flotilla 2



Hizbullah Condemns Zionist Police Allowing Settlers to Break Into Al Aqsa

**Hizbullah Affairs**

Media Awaiting Hizbullah SG Indispensable Conference...

Raad to As-Safir: Sayyed Nasrallah's Words Warned From Strife, "Israeli"-American Scheme

Loyalty to Resistance Bloc Calls for Cleansing Telecoms Sector

Sheikh Yazbik: International Tribunal a Red Line, Should Not be Politicized

# 'New' vs. 'Old' Terrorism

## 'Old' group SITES:

- Native language(s) + English
- Reaching out to global public(s)
- Language of human rights

## 'New' group CONTENT:

- Arabic (until recently)
- Targeted at supporters/sympathisers
- Radicalisation, recruitment?
- Practical advice, theological instruction, etc.
- Highly interactive



# Operating Environment =



Web 2.0



# TYPES OF JIHADI CONTENT

- Text

(Forum postings, magazines/journals, books, statements, etc.)

- Audio

(Statements, *nashid*, rap, etc.)

- Video

AQ have no 'official' website

Nor do they have a logo



AL-FALLUJAH ISLAMIC FORUMS

وان دولة الإسلام باقية لأنها بنيت من أشلاء الشهداء ورويت بدمانهم وبها انعقد سوق الجنة باقية لأن توفيق

أخر الأخبار والإصدارات

**:: مؤسسة الاندلس :: تقدم ضمن سلسلة ظلال السيوف و نكاية في المرتدين الاصدار الرابع [ غزوة المنصورة ]**



الإصدار الرابع

**[ غزوة المنصورة ]**



تنظيم القاعدة في جزيرة العرب :: تبني الهجوم على مبنى الأمن السياسي ومبنى الأمن العام في ولاية أبين

بيان تبني الهجوم على مبنى الأمن السياسي ومبنى الأمن العام في ولاية أبين	قاعدة الجهاد في جزيرة العرب
بيان تبني الهجوم على مبنى الأمن السياسي ومبنى الأمن العام في ولاية أبين	قاعدة الجهاد في جزيرة العرب





لن تُهَوِّد :: السحاب :: تقدم :: [ القدس لن تُهَوِّد - للشيخ الدكتور/ أيمن الظواهري - حفظه الله ]



[ القدس... لن تُهَوِّد ]  
للشيخ المجاهد / أيمن الظواهري حفظه الله



الفرقان :: تقدم :: العدد الخامس و الأربعون من سير أعلام الش45 هداء



# GENRES OF VIDEO



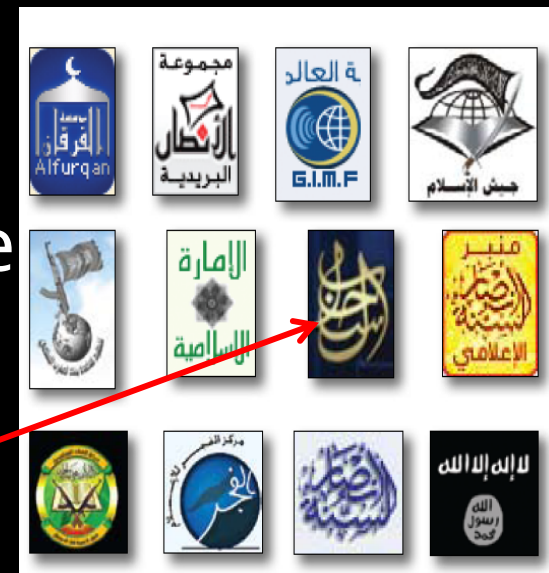
- Political Statements (OBL, Zawahiri, Western 'spokesmen,' etc.)
- Beheadings
- Attack footage (Esp. Iraq, Afghanistan)
- Living wills (i.e. 'pre-martyrdom' videos)
- Instructional
  - Theological
  - Operational
- Memorials (i.e. Commemorating persons &/or events)
- Music videos



# Distribution Channels

- 'Guerilla media network' (Kimmage 2008, 2)
- Al-Sahab ('the clouds') is primary AQ content producer
- Forums are primary distribution channels
- Logos are prominent
- Unofficial content risks diluting/ confusing the brand & is therefore frowned upon

Al-Sahab



# Importance of YouTube (& Similar):

- Videos much easier to locate (no Arabic or high level of Internet literacy necessary)
- Known and attractive to esp. young people
- Moving images more convincing than text
- Translations & subtitles
- Easy copying and dissemination (e-mail links, but also copy to VHS, CDs, DVDs, mobile phones)
- Increased scrutiny recently...
- But YouTube can't be shut down like forums



the manhattan raid

Search Browse Upload

OranGri Sign Out













# The Manhattan Raid 1

ASSAHAB888 127 videos



### Suggestions

-  **The Manhattan Raid 2**  
882 views  
ASSAHAB888
-  **Who is The Lion Usama bin Laden - ExCIA**  
5,002 views  
ASSAHAB888
-  **The Manhattan Raid 4**  
981 views  
ASSAHAB888
-  **The Manhattan Raid 7**  
620 views  
ASSAHAB888
-  **The Manhattan Raid 9**  
754 views  
ASSAHAB888
-  **Message to Europe-The Lion Usama bin Laden**  
1,176 views  
ASSAHAB888
-  **The Manhattan Raid 3**  
692 views  
ASSAHAB888
-  **Civilians, private militia to take on Pakistani...**  
181 views  
xgotfiveonix
-  **British police admit brutally beating Muslim**  
8,625 views  
pressvlondon
-  **1/6 Knowledge Is For Acting Upon 1**  
6,274 views  
HerosDocument



ASSAHAB888 | September 11, 2009  
"Knowledge is for acting upon it" AlQaeda Documentary on 9-11 attac... **1,756** views

Respond to this video...

### Uploader Comments (ASSAHAB888)

- keytoothed** 4 months ago  
They caught "Azzam the American." First American in 50 years to be charged with treason. They'll ask for the death penalty. And they will get it.  
  
Ur founding fathers were liars and racists, Ur modern leaders like Clinton, Nixon, Carter etc. are proven liars caught in their lies--and still u believe ur governments lies ?!?!?!?  
Just incredible...  
ASSAHAB888 4 months ago



### Juba the Iraki hero



Login to rate Save to Favorites Share Video Flag as Add to Groups Post Video Inappropriate

Views: 5,293 | Comments: 36 | Favorited: 27 times

Honors: 0 Links: 5

### Comments & Responses

Post a video response Post a text comment

Added March 01, 2007 From Waikiki221 Category News & Politics Tags Juba the Iraki hero URL http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUmDcZfHimA Embed <object width="425" height="350"><param name

Related More from this user Playlists

- Showing 1-20 of 353 See All Videos Juba the Iraki hero Reloaded 05:55 From: Waikiki221 Views: 64 sniperisti 05:16 From: mesxhidi Views: 625 Joe Bethancourt - Juba 02:02 From: grunt665 Views: 683 Master Juba: The Show 08:24 From: MasterJuba

### Director Videos

SLINGS & ARROWS Season 3 - Episode 1 00:50 From: sundancechannel

Clouds over a Silo Time Lapse 00:10 From: Zzx4k

Shag, LeBron, Dwight Howard All-Star Dance-Off 01:53 From: NBA

# radicalization, *n.*

---

The action or **process** of making or becoming radical, esp. in political outlook.

1867 *N.Y. Times* 23 July 2/1 There were very many who were resolved..to address negro meetings in order to avert the radicalization of that class of voters.  
1891 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 28 Feb. 7 The rapid Radicalization..of the Tory party. 1935 *Communist* 11 885 The bourgeoisie..are alarmed at the rapid radicalization of the workers. 1969 G. S. JONES in A. Cockburn & R. Blackburn *Student Power* 53 British students..are for the first time showing a certain radicalization.  
2006 *N.Y. Times* (Nexis) 5 Dec. 2006 Mr. Ramirez's words..point to a creeping 'with us or against us' radicalization in Venezuelan society (Oxford English Dictionary).



# Political Radicalisation Vs. Violent Radicalisation

**Online violent radicalisation** is here conceived as a process whereby individuals, through their online interactions and exposure to various types of Internet content, come to view violence as a legitimate method of solving social and political conflicts.

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But **how important** is the Internet in radicalisation processes? We don't know; there is ongoing debate...

## Stevens & Neumann in *Countering Online Radicalisation* (2009):

“Self-radicalisation and self-recruitment via the Internet with little or no relation to the outside world rarely happens, and there is no reason to suppose that this situation will change in the near future” (p.13).

## Stevens & Neumann in *Countering Online Radicalisation* (2009):

"Self-radicalisation and self-recruitment via the Internet with little or no relation to the outside world rarely happens, and there is no reason to suppose that this situation will change in the near future" (p.13).

# Others Disagree...

- Online radicalisation will become more widespread
- Internet generally component part of wider process, but not always
- Evidence from other realms (pro-ana, suicide pacts, etc.) of power of purely online social networks

*NB: Nobody has yet shown/proven (i.e. in a systematic way, rather than relying on anecdote) violent online radicalisation*



# Who?



- Distant from zones of conflict
  - But what about NIrl?
  - Hamas' childrens site
- Isolated/marginalised in 'real' world
- Those who stumble across content (on global portals) and are drawn in (through interest and/or social networking and/or targeting)
- Young women (esp. in jihadist circles)

**Forums**

('already made-up minds')

**Vs.**

**Global platforms**

(YouTube, blogs, etc.)

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# Available Responses?

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- **Remove** jihadi sites/content
  - Covert attacks
  - Legislation
  - Private initiatives (Terms of Service)
- Prosecute producers & distributors
- **Monitor** jihadi content/discussion
- **Contribute** content/discussion
  - Counternarratives
  - Infiltration and disruption (al-Faloja?)

# Where to Next?

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- More quantitative and qualitative (esp. interviews) research
- VOR research on other than violent jihadism (e.g. dissident Irish Republicans, far Right, etc.)
- Evidence from other realms (pro-ana, suicide pacts, etc.) of power of purely online social networks

# CONCLUSION 1

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Two basic questions remain unanswered:

1. Is it possible for persons to be radicalised online?
2. If so, how?

For why should we/how can we possibly respond if we don't have the answers to these?

# CONCLUSION 2

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- It's not about the Internet per se...
- It's about
  - Politics** (national &/or international)
  - + **Context** (Arab Spring, recession)
  - + **Social interaction** (online &/or off)
- With the Internet (and online tools/applications) as facilitator(s)

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