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## **How jihadist networks operate: a grounded understanding of changing organizational structures, activities, and involvement mechanisms of jihadist networks in the Netherlands**

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# HOW JIHADIST NETWORKS OPERATE

A grounded understanding of changing organizational structures, activities, and involvement mechanisms of jihadist networks in the Netherlands



Jasper L. de Bie

HOW JIHADIST NETWORKS OPERATE

The rise of ISIS and the recent terrorist attacks in Europe have raised a collective alertness for a potential terrorist attack. The presence of jihadist networks in the Netherlands, and the significant outflow of young people to conflict areas in the Middle East to join the jihad, have greatly enhanced this anxiety.

But how are these networks organized and how do they prepare their jihad? How do people get involved in jihadist networks and how important is ideology in that regard? Answering such questions will help to understand how jihadist networks operate, which can be useful knowledge for policy makers and practitioners who aim to counter terrorist threats.

Using unique data from police files, interviews, and trial observations, while utilizing different analytical methods, this study provides an in-depth insight into the *modus operandi* of jihadist networks in the Netherlands.

The findings show how jihadist networks have changed over the years and how this development has affected the way jihadists operate.

Jasper L. de Bie is a criminologist who completed his dissertation at Leiden University and the Research and Documentation Center of the Ministry of Security and Justice.

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