



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

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

Bie, J.L. de

Citation

Bie, J. L. de. (2016, April 14). *How jihadist networks operate: a grounded understanding of changing organizational structures, activities, and involvement mechanisms of jihadist networks in the Netherlands*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/38841>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/38841>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/38841> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Bie, Jasper L. de

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

Issue Date: 2016-04-14

How Jihadist Networks Operate

Jasper L. de Bie

How Jihadist Networks Operate

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

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op donderdag 14 april 2016
klokke 15.00 uur

door

Jasper Lowie de Bie

geboren te Zaanstad
in 1987

Promotor: prof. dr. J.P. van der Leun
Copromotor: dr. C.J. de Poot (Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum)

Promotiecommissie: prof. dr. E. Bakker
prof. dr. J.D. Freilich (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, USA)
prof. dr. E.R. Kleemans (VU University Amsterdam)
prof. mr. dr. E.R. Muller
prof. mr. dr. M.A.H. van der Woude

This research was funded by the Dutch National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV)

© 2016 Jasper L. de Bie

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form, by print, photoprint, microfilm or any other means without written permission from the author.

Aan mijn familie

ISBN: 978-90-825123-0-4

Thesis lay-out: proefschrift-aio.nl
Cover design: proefschrift-aio.nl
Printed: proefschrift-aio.nl

Contents

Chapter 1: General Introduction	11	Chapter 3: Changing Organizational Structures of Jihadist Networks:	A Social Network Analysis	63
1.1 Aim of this study	14	3.1 Introduction	64	
1.2 Research to date	17	3.2 Data and Methods	67	
1.2.1 Organizational structures	17	3.2.1 Data	67	
1.2.3 Activities	20	3.2.2 Network conceptualization	68	
1.2.3 Involvement mechanisms	22	3.2.3 Quantitative analysis	69	
1.3 Approaches open to debate	25	3.2.4 Qualitative analysis	70	
1.3.1 Limited focus on the how	25	3.2.5 Limitations	70	
1.3.2 Limited methodological and empirical rigor	29	3.3 Quantitative Results	71	
1.3.3 Limited long-term perspective	31	3.4 Combining quantitative and qualitative results	74	
1.4 This study's approach	33	3.4.1 Network 1	76	
1.5 Outline of this thesis	35	3.4.2 Network 2	78	
1.6 Relevance of study	37	3.4.3 Network 3	83	
Chapter 2: Studying Police Files with Grounded Theory Methods to Understand Jihadist Networks	41	3.5 Conclusion	89	
2.1 Introduction	42	3.5.1 Implications	91	
2.2 Grounded Theory	42	Chapter 4: Shifting Modus Operandi of Jihadist Foreign Fighters:	A Crime Script Analysis	95
2.3 Data collection	44	4.1 Introduction	96	
2.3.1 Police files	44	4.1.1 Status quo of current foreign fighting literature	96	
2.3.2 Semi-structured interviews	50	4.1.2 Limited focus in current literature	97	
2.3.3 Trial observations	52	4.2 Approach	98	
2.4 Data analysis	52	4.2.1 Grounded theory	98	
2.4.1 Coding and categorizing	53	4.2.2 Crime script analysis	99	
2.4.2 Identifying relationships between categories	55	4.3 Data and Methods	99	
2.5 Benefits of combining police data and applying GT methods	56	4.3.1 Data	99	
2.5.1 Benefits of police data	57	4.3.2 Analysis	101	
2.5.2 Benefits of GT methods	57	4.3.3 Categorization	101	
2.6 Limitations	58	4.3.4 Limitations	102	
2.6.1 Limitations of the data	58	4.4 Results	102	
2.6.2 Limitations of the Grounded Theory methods	59	4.4.1 Personal traits of subjects in the sample	104	
2.7 Conclusion	61	4.4.2 Orientation stage	106	
		4.4.3 Co-offending stage	108	
		4.4.4 Operational stage	111	
		4.4.5 Finalization stage	114	
		4.4.6 Departure stage	116	
		4.5 Conclusion	117	

Chapter 5: Jihadist Networks and the Involvement of Vulnerable Immigrants: Reconsidering the Ideological and Pragmatic Value	121	Chapter 7: General Discussion	171
5.1 Introduction	122	7.1 Summary of findings	172
5.2. Data and methods	124	7.1.1 Organizational structure and division of roles	172
5.2.1 Approach	124	7.1.2 Modus operandi of foreign fighters	173
5.2.2 Police investigations	125	7.1.3 Irregular immigrants in jihadist networks	175
5.2.3 Interviews	129	7.1.4 Mechanisms enhancing, sustaining, and deterring involvement	175
5.3 Radical irregular Muslim migrants. A multidisciplinary perspective.	130	7.2 General conclusions	177
5.3.1 Jihadi-Salafism	130	7.2.1 A changing nature	177
5.3.2 Background factors of radical Muslims and irregular migrants	131	7.2.2 Jihadist involvement	180
5.3.3 Ideological and pragmatic responses	131	7.2.3 Main conclusion	183
5.3.4 Interaction of ideology and pragmatism	132	7.3 Reflections and implications	185
5.4 Results	135	7.3.1 Theoretical reflections	185
5.4.1 Pragmatic attractiveness	135	7.3.2 Methodological reflections and future research	189
5.4.2 Ideological attractiveness	139	7.3.3 Policy implications and recommendations	193
5.5 Conclusion	143	References	203
Chapter 6: Involvement Mechanisms of Jihadist Networks	147	Samenvatting	227
6.1 Introduction	148	Dankwoord	137
6.2 Data and Methods	149	Curriculum Vitae	241
6.2.1 Approach	149		
6.2.2 Data	150		
6.2.3 Analysis	151		
6.2.4 Limitations	151		
6.3 Results	152		
6.3.1 Process I: Encouraging mechanisms carrying too far	153		
6.3.2 Process II: Transforming discouragements into encouragements	159		
6.4 Conclusion	167		