

# Exposing A Radical Jihad Training Network in America: an Interview with Ryan Mauro of The Clarion Project

by Jerry Gordon (February 2015)

Wall Street Journalist Danny Pearl was on his way to a meeting with Jamaat ul-Fuqra (JF) founder, Sheik Mubarak Ali Gilani, a radical Sufi cleric, in Lahore, Pakistan on January 22, 2002. He was on the hunt for al Qaeda connections when he was abducted by four conspirators and [allegedly killed](#) by Al Qaeda mastermind of the 9/11 attack, Khaled Sheik Mohammed. As [reported](#) by the Georgetown University, Center for Public Integrity, Omar Sheik, a British-educated Pakistani, is in prison for Pearl's kidnapping and murder, as are three accomplices.

Were there any connections between the shadowy Sheik Gilani and the murder of Pearl? Pakistani authorities had Gilani jailed and later put under house arrest. Given the turmoil in that country, we may never know the extent of his involvement, if any.

What we do know is that since the founding of JF, or the "community of the impoverished," by Gilani in 1980, a network of 22 so-called Islamic Villages, actually paramilitary training camps, was created by JF's US front group, [Muslims of the Americas](#) (MOA). The MOA has its headquarters on a 70 acre site at Islamberg near Hancock, New York. Its 'holiest' enclave is Islamville in South Carolina. MOA members are alleged to have committed murders and robberies, acquired contraband arms, and engaged in counterfeit activities. JF members participated in the 1993 terror bombing of the World Trade Center. It is estimated that the MOA has more than 3,000 residents in this network of Islamic "villages."

JF seeks to "purify Islam through violence."

The extremist anti-Semitic views of Sheik Gilani of JF were the subject of a February 2014 *Counter Jihad Report* by Clarion Project national security analyst, Ryan Mauro, "[Muslims of America say that "Hitler was no enemy of the US"](#):"

The [MOA video](#), it is taught that [Allah](#) punishes the Jews for being "stubborn and arrogant," that a Zionist "hidden hand" had "manufactured the crisis at Pearl Harbor in

order to get America to go to war” and Israel was “directly involved” in the 9/11 attacks so it could hijack the U.S. government.

Gilani bizarrely accuses British Intelligence of being the creators of Saudi Wahhabism and Salafist ISIS. He offers up JF as the so-called “moderate” solution.

What is of great concern is that federal and state law enforcement authorities have investigated and monitored JF and its front group (MOA) and delisted the group as a terrorist organization. Nor has the IRS taken away MOA’s charitable tax exempt status.

Look at this [response](#) by the State Department to a question about why JF was taken off the official terrorist list.

Question: The group headed by Sheik Gilani used to be designated by the State Department as a terrorist group but it was taken off the list. Why?

Answer: Jamaat ul-Fuqra has never been designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. It was included in several recent annual terrorism reports under “other terrorist groups,” i.e., groups that had carried out acts of terrorism but that were not formally designated by the Secretary of State. However, because of the group’s inactivity during 2000, it was not included in the most recent terrorism report covering that calendar year.

Mauro in 2014 [reported](#):

A [2007 FBI file](#) obtained by the *Clarion Project* this year and [a wealth of documentation](#) shows that Jamaat ul-Fuqra/MOA [qualifies](#) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

The *Clarion Project* [identified](#) one of its enclaves in Texas earlier this year, prompting a dozen North American Muslim groups to [request] the U.S. government to label it as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

JF/MOA draws heavily from African American prison converts to Islam. An *American Thinker* [article](#) in December 2014 estimated that 15% of America’s prison population, 350,000, is Muslim. Islam is the fastest growing faith among incarcerated prison population in the US. That amounts to 18% of America’s estimated Muslim population of 2.4 million. Muslim prison chaplains have free access under the Freedom of Religious Expression Act of 1993 and the Religious Land Use and Incarcerated Persons Act of 2000. Muslim felons, such as convicted American Muslim convert and Al Qaeda fighter John Walker Lindh and Gregory Holt have [used](#) the provisions of these federal laws to obtain access to radical material and even the right to

grow Shariah compliant beards in successful suits brought before Federal and the US Supreme Courts. Muslim military and prison chaplains are certified by Muslim Brotherhood front groups like the Muslim American Society funded by Saudi Wahhabist groups supplying radical Islamic "reading materials." One such Wahhabist/Salafist group is the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences of Ashburn, Virginia. Another is the Hartford Seminary in Connecticut that had been run by former Islamic Society of North America President, Canadian convert, Dr. Ingrid Mattson.

The recruiting appeal of the MOA to Muslim prison converts to join the JF splinter group was revealed in a Christian Action Network (CAN), film, *Sleeping Giant*