

A Jihadist Paradox:

Is This A Crime Or An Act Of War?

INTRO:

In preparing for this review of the article referenced below, I noted that various points of discussion were raised and validated by the author. Of particular interest to me was the possibility of a connection to any cyber crimes or acts of cyber war committed. Personally, I am as of yet undecided if the actions taken at Pulse, an LGBT nightclub in Orlando, were acts of ISIS as a foreign terrorist entity, or possibly as a combination of hatred against persons whom ISIS solely deems unworthy of existence, up to and including the Western society as a whole.

CYBER?

In an age of kinetic warfare where social engineering and psychological warfare ("war on words") continues to play a pivotal role throughout our history, it is my understanding that while this deplorable and shameful act was primarily a result of allegiance towards ISIS possibly via online means, the massacre at Pulse was not in and of itself cyber related, but simply a physical act. Were this act to include hackings of social media accounts, spear-phishing and spam activities, or DDOS attacks of organizations friendly to the LGBT community, then I would classify this otherwise as a cybercrime or a dangerously provocative and initial act of cyber war.

CONCLUSIONS:

ISIL/ISIS, as the presumptive successor of Al-Qaeda, remains a dangerously spirited group of like minded persons with the intent of destruction, not unlike motives of a war criminal. But Orlando seemed to me like the sort of event that would only lead up to such a war, where followers of the jihadist movement were able to take advantage of our incredibly poor enforcement of legal weaponry, up to and including rifles, to incite the crime and renew our national debate.

REFERENCE:

<https://geopoliticalfutures.com/facing-some-truths-behind-the-florida-massacre/>