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Children , Adolescents , Adults

Pediatric Neuropsychology

Psychotherapy , Evaluations , Trauma

CONFIDENTIAL FORENSIC EVALUATION

Name:	Jihad
Date of Birth:	July 30, 1988
Age:	17 years, 6 months
Date of Evaluation:	December 29, 2005
Education:	Last grade: 9 th grade at Audenreid
Referral Source:	Juvenile Special Defense Unit (Voluntary Defender)

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Background Information

Jihad . . . is a 17-year old, African-American male who was referred to this examiner by the Juvenile Special Defense Unit of the Defender Association of Philadelphia. He is currently experiencing his initial contact with the adult court system, having been processed as a Direct File Juvenile. This young man was 17 years old when he was arrested on charges of Robbery, Theft, Possession of an Instrument of Crime, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, Aggravated Assault, and Violation of the Uniform Arms Act. This alleged offense took place on March 30, 2005, and he was arrested the next day.

Jihad was referred for a psychological evaluation by his attorney, Mr. Michael J. Lovell, Esq. of the Defender Association of Philadelphia, to assess his cognitive functioning, educational achievement, his treatment needs, and amenability to treatment as a juvenile.

Procedures

Jihad was evaluated for approximately five hours on December 29, 2005, in the Official Visit Room at the Public Defenders' Office at 1441 Sansom Street in Philadelphia. The subject was advised of the nature of the evaluation, what was being assessed, and the limits of confidentiality. He agreed to submit to the proceedings. Besides a clinical evaluation to assess his current mental status, Jihad was administered the following instruments:

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Third Edition (to assess cognitive functioning); selected subtests of the *Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Second Edition* (to assess academic functioning); the *Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory* (to assess personality factors and emotional status); the *Beck Depression Inventory* (to screen for depression); and the *Beck Anxiety Inventory* (to screen for anxiety).

The following documents were obtained from the Defenders Association and were reviewed prior to the examiner's meeting with Mr.

- (1) Juvenile Special Defense Unit Psychosocial Summary (12/13/05)
- (2) Property Receipts for Items Recovered from the scene (3/30/05 & 4/29/05)
- (3) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Search Warrant and Affidavit (4/28/05)
- (4) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Warrant of Arrest & Affidavit of Probable Cause (4/27/05)
- (5) Philadelphia Police Department Investigation Interview Record (3/31/05)
- (6) Philadelphia Police Department Investigation Report (5/5/05)
- (7) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia County Criminal Complaint (3/30/05)
- (8) First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Preliminary Hearing Volume 1 (10/5/05)
- (9) First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Pretrial Service Division Investigation Report (4/28/05)

(10) Juvenile History Profile (12/13/05)

Client History

Developmental / Family History

According to the information gathered from the psychosocial history compiled by Ms. Susan Shachter, BS, and questionnaires filled out by Jihad, he was the product of a normal pregnancy with no complications and no remarkable medical history.

Jihad is currently living with his mother, [REDACTED], and has four older maternal half-siblings and two paternal half-brothers. Jihad's entire family lived with his maternal grandmother, [REDACTED], until he was seven and his parents separated. Jihad's father, [REDACTED], who had been ill after having a stroke when Jihad was around two years old, has a reported history of substance abuse. Jihad's mother reports that [REDACTED] was allegedly abusive during their relationship, and said disparaging things about him in front of the children. This was a source of stress for Jihad who had a self-described strong sense of loyalty to his father. [REDACTED] later remarried [REDACTED] and moved in with him three years later, at which time Jihad was left to stay with his grandmother. To date, Jihad and [REDACTED] have not developed a meaningful relationship.

[REDACTED] described Jihad as being particularly sensitive and as having a low frustration toleration. She also stated that he has been a slow learner and has been enrolled in special education classes.

When Jihad was eight years old, [REDACTED] went to jail and did not consistently reenter Jihad's life until he was 13 years old. It was noted that without his father's guidance, Jihad got into more physical altercations. Jihad has also been particularly affected by street violence, having witnessed the shooting death of his best friend and the shootings of a cousin and two other friends. Jihad expresses that he is often concerned about becoming the victim of violence, which was ultimately the reason he left school.

Educational History

While in Barrett Middle School for 7th and 8th grade, Jihad was placed in an emotional support class. Jihad expressed fear about the treatment of the students when being restrained and felt that school was a dangerous place to be. Jihad attended Audenreid High School for 9th grade, and had to repeat the following year. In April, he stopped going because he felt like "he was not getting anything positive out of it". Jihad has expressed interest in returning at a later date for either his high school diploma or GED. He would then like to get a job as a construction worker.

Medical and Psychiatric History

Jihad reported no history of any chronic medical or psychiatric history and has never been on any regular medication.

Substance Abuse History

Jihad reported a period of several months when he smoked marijuana several times per week. He alleges that he has not used marijuana in the last 10 months, having stopped because it made him lethargic.

Juvenile History

Jihad's only juvenile arrest occurred on May 1, 2004 when he was charged with Theft, Unauthorized Use of an Auto Vehicle and Criminal Conspiracy. On July 1, 2004, he was placed on a consent decree, with restitution and community service. This current charge is Jihad's first contact with the adult justice system.

Results of Evaluation

Behavioral Observations / Mental Status

Jihad was neatly attired and well-groomed. He was cooperative and outgoing, and was motivated through most of the assessment. He was oriented in all four spheres. His mood was normal and affect was appropriate. There were no signs of either thought or perceptual disturbances. He denied the presence of any thoughts concerning harm to either himself or others, and expressed no history of suicidal behavior. His concentration was variable, while his memory and judgment were intact. The examiner observed that Jihad's gait and posture were normal, with no evidence of any motor movement disorder. No visual or auditory problems were mentioned, nor were any noted during the session. His speech was clear and relevant with no signs of dysarthria (pronunciation problems), dysprosody (problems with rate, flow or intonation of speech), or word substitutions. Thus the examiner judges that the results of this evaluation accurately reflect his current potential and ability in a one-on-one situation.

Intellectual / Cognitive Functioning (see Appendix for details)

Jihad was administered 11 subtests of the *Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Third Edition (WAIS-III)* from which his IQ and Index scores were derived. The *Full Scale IQ* is the aggregate of the Verbal and Performance scores and is usually considered to be the most representative measure of g, or global intellectual functioning. Jihad's general cognitive ability is in the Low Average range of intellectual functioning, as measured by the *Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale -Third Edition (WAIS-III)*. His overall thinking and reasoning abilities exceed those of approximately 10% of adults his age (*FSIQ* = 81; 95% Confidence Interval = 77-85).

The Verbal score is a measure of acquired knowledge, verbal reasoning, and comprehension of verbal information. His verbal reasoning abilities, as measured by the *Verbal IQ*, are in the Low Average range and above those of approximately 21.0% of his peers (*VIQ* = 88, 95% Confidence Interval = 83-93). On the verbal reasoning subtests, Jihad obtained his highest score(s) on the *Similarities* subtest(s). His performance on this subtest differs significantly from his Verbal subtest mean score and suggests that this is the area of most pronounced strength in Jihad's profile of verbal reasoning abilities.

The Performance score provides an indication of an individual's nonverbal reasoning, spatial processing skills, attentiveness to detail and visual-motor integration. His nonverbal reasoning abilities, as measured by the *Performance IQ*, are in the Borderline range and better than those of approximately 6.0% of his peers (*PIQ* = 77, 95% Confidence Interval = 72-85). On the nonverbal reasoning tasks, Jihad obtained his highest score(s) on the *Picture Arrangement* subtest(s) and his lowest score(s) on the *Block Design* and *Digit-Symbol Coding* subtest(s). In Jihad's profile of nonverbal reasoning abilities, his performance across these areas differs significantly and suggests

that these are areas of relative strength and weakness, respectively. His weak performance on the *Block Design* and *Digit-Symbol Coding* subtest(s) is below that of most of his peers.

Although he performed significantly better on verbal reasoning tasks than on nonverbal reasoning tasks, such differences in performance are not very unusual among adults in general.

Academic Functioning

Reading: Jihad performed comparably on tasks that required him to read sentences and paragraphs and answer questions about what was read (*Reading Comprehension* standard score = 78) and correctly read a series of printed words (*Word Reading* standard score = 75). His performance on *Reading Comprehension* and *Word Reading* is within the Borderline range. His skills on these tasks exceed that of only approximately 7% and 5%, respectively, of individuals his age.

Mathematics: Jihad's skills in mathematics are diverse and may not be adequately summarized by a single number. He performed much higher on tasks that evaluated his ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide one-to three-digit numbers, fractions, and decimals; and solve simple linear equations (*Numerical Operations* standard score = 75) than on tasks that required him to understand number, consumer math concepts, geometric measurement, basic graphs, and solve single-step and multi-step word problems (*Math Reasoning* standard score = 60). Because of this variability in his performance, the *Mathematics Composite* standard score (64) may not be the best summary of his overall skills in mathematics. Jihad's skills in *Math Reasoning* are within the Extremely Low range and better than those of only approximately 0.4% of individuals his age. His *Numerical Operations* subtest score is above that of approximately 5% of his peers, placing these skills in the Borderline range.

Discrepancies Between Aptitude and Achievement

Jihad's scores on the *WIAT-II* were compared to the level of achievement predicted for a individual with his general cognitive ability, as indicated by his *Full Scale IQ* score of 81 on the *WAIS-III* administered 12/29/2005. Significant differences between actual and predicted achievement scores are reported in this section.

Word Reading (actual standard score = 75) and *Reading Comprehension* (actual standard score = 78) are areas of difficulty for Jihad. The difference between Jihad's actual and predicted scores on the *Word Reading* subtest (12 points) is significant, and indicates a specific weakness in tasks that required him to correctly read a series of printed words. For the *Reading Comprehension* subtest, the discrepancy between his actual and predicted scores (9 points) is also significant, suggesting a specific weakness in tasks that required Jihad to read sentences and paragraphs and answer questions about what was read.

Jihad displays difficulty with achievement in mathematics. He performed much lower on the *Mathematics Composite* (actual score = 64) than expected for an individual with his general cognitive ability (predicted score = 85). The difference between his