



Jihadists? They are criminals, say UK ministers

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LONDON - Ministers in Britain have dropped the term "war on terror" and will refer to jihadists as "criminals" in an attempt to stop glorifying acts of terrorism.

The move is part of the British government's drive to prevent young Muslims falling under the influence of fanatics. "As you disrupt radicalisation, you must be aware how you describe it and must not do so in a way that is inadvertently inflammatory," said a Whitehall source.

"We need to communicate more effectively, but we don't think we can communicate our way out of this."

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith was yesterday set to outline the government's counter-radicalisation strategy with a pledge to target websites used to foment hatred.

"We are already working closely with the communications industry to take action against paedophiles. I believe we should also take action against those who groom vulnerable people for the purposes of violent extremism," she said.

Her speech at the International Centre for Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence comes as MI5 continues to monitor dozens of websites seeking to recruit for Al Qaeda.

One Arabic site briefly carried a threat, posted on Jan 6, to kill Prime Minister Gordon Brown and referred to "the creation of the Al Qaeda organisation in Britain". Visited by more than 17 million people, it urges young Muslim men to rise up against infidels such as "Brown and Blair".