

any such development, they turned to more radical paths. These were the circumstances in which Habash and al-Hindi started recruiting members for their conspiratorial organization.

By the end of 1948 the above group was all set for immediate action when al-Hindi discovered through his contacts in Syria that two similar groups were founded in Damascus. The first included Jihad Dhahi, al-Hindi's friend and classmate at the American College of Aleppo. The second was found by some Egyptian political refugees. The Beirut-based group thought it might be wise to hold themselves from engaging in any violent acts until they pull together the three groups. Al-Hindi was asked to enter into discussions with the other two groups aiming at pooling the resources of the three groups into one formidable organization.

Al-Hindi did not find any significant differences between his group and the "Syrian Group". The latter, not unlike the Beirut-based group, consisted almost exclusively of young militants in their early twenties, most of whom were students at the Syrian University. Their founding leaders were all Syrians, none of whom had a working-class origin. They belonged to the middle and lower middle classes. Their revolutionary convictions coincided with the birth of Israel. They were too proud to acknowledge defeat. Their organization was, therefore, a commitment