



TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



September 16, 2005

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Graphic: New al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) video issued on the fourth anniversary of September 11 (Item 4)



Orientation/Introduction:

Please review the introduction to the Terror Web Watch at [Intel Report](#).

Item 1: The creation of al-Qaeda in northern Europe announced

This statement was posted on the al-Ansar Web site on September 11 and circulated to other Jihadist Web sites. It was dated, presumably by no coincidence, as having been issued on the fourth anniversary of the September 11 attacks ([Terrorist Incident](#)). The statement was printed on a scanned sheet of paper displaying a letterhead and a watermark that has been associated with other al-Qaeda statements, probably to contribute to the appearance of authenticity (see image of statement below). It was apparently positioned first on the al-Ansar site, which has more credibility than other Jihadist sites. This may have also been a calculation aimed at communicating credibility of the announcement.

The announcement is brief, with few details. The statement was not signed by a known terrorist individual. The only individuals mentioned are the men who carried out the London bombings ([Terrorist Incident](#)), who are named as inspiration. Neither are the exact countries of operation named; the undefined region of "northern Europe" is the designated area of operation. Though the London bombers are mentioned, no claim is made of a physical connection to the group involved in that attack.

It has been known for some time that al-Qaeda has had a presence in northern Europe. The question that arises with this statement is whether it is indicative of any change in the al-Qaeda presence in northern Europe. It may communicate that a group of al-Qaeda operatives are organizing cadres to carry out more attacks on European targets, rather than the traditional use of Europe as a staging ground to attack the United States ([Country Profile](#)) and US targets located in Europe. Still, there has been no further word from this alleged organization and few details are offered in this announcement to back up that interpretation. Terror Web Watch will continue to monitor for more communication from this alleged new branch or configuration of al-Qaeda.



[begin translation]

The Organization of Qaedat al-Jihad
Northern Europe

The Date: 8 Sha'ban 1426 H.
Corresponding to: September 11, 2005 AD

Statement announcing the establishment of Qaedat al-Jihad in Northern Europe

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Praise God who dignifies Islam with his assistance and humiliates polytheism with his subjugation, who controls matters with his command, who shames the infidels with his scorn and who rules the days with his justice, and who brings rewards to the faithful with his favor. Peace and blessings upon he [the Prophet Mohammed] who raised the beacon of Islam with his sword, and peace upon his friends and companions.

God, Glorified and Sublime, made Jihad legal for us when He said: "Go ye forth, (whether equipped) lightly or heavily," and when He said: "It was not fitting for the people of Medina and the Bedouin Arabs of the neighborhood, to refuse to follow Allah's Messenger, nor to prefer their own lives to his: because nothing could they suffer or do, but was reckoned to their credit as a deed of righteousness,- whether they suffered thirst, or fatigue, or hunger, in the cause of Allah, or trod paths to raise the ire of the Unbelievers, or received any injury whatever from an enemy: for Allah suffereth not the reward to be lost of those who do good."

This [establishment of al-Qaeda in northern Europe] is in order to uplift and defend [Muslims] and to lift away the oppression and the subjugation of our brothers the oppressed Muslims in every place, who have had their land usurped and what is sacred to them desecrated, all over existence. This [fact] escapes no one who has a kernel of sense. We see that the sacred places, the possessions, and the riches of this *Umma* are being violated and stolen by the vengeful Infidels and their henchmen from among the apostate regimes. And as if that was not enough, they have killed and imprisoned and tortured and violated the honor of our brother and sister Muslims. Because of this, we in the al-Qaeda organization of northern Europe announce that the blood of the Muslims that has been shed and is still being shed will not spill in vain. We swear to God, who raised the skies without a pillar, that we will make ready our souls and our bodies to be sacrificed for this religion, in order to raise the banner of the Mujahideen and preserve the lives of Muslims, as our brothers the Mujahideen in Britain did.

Allahu Akbar,
And dignity unto His messenger, and unto the believers.

[end translation]

Item 2: Newest clip in mysterious series of bomb making instructional videos

A group of videos has come out that give step by step instructions in aspects of bomb making (for others in this series, see last week's Terror Web Watch, and Terror Web Watch, August 19: [Intel Report](#)). The videos are similar to one another in style, graphics, and even background music, and thus all seem to have been produced by the same group of individuals. Beside the fact that the videos are in Arabic and are clearly produced for the self-styled Jihadist, there is not any information in them as to the identities of the Jihadists or group of Jihadists who are behind them.

The videos display only very clear, detailed instructions in Arabic, both pronounced on the audio track as well as written out on the bottom of the screen. There are no recommendations of targets for attacks or even calls to attack certain cities or nations. Unlike other Jihadist videos, these are intended to calmly instruct, rather than provoke anger or emotion or spread propaganda. There is none of the filling that typically accompanies Jihadist videos: no clips of vitriolic, anti-American speeches from al-Qaeda leaders, no scenes of insurgent operations in Iraq ([Country Profile](#)), and no images of the Muslim victims of Israeli or American military operations.



This particular video is entitled "A people's detonator," and it shows the viewer how to construct a homemade detonator out of a small quantity of the explosive RDX and household items like a soda can and a pen. The video is available from TRC upon request.

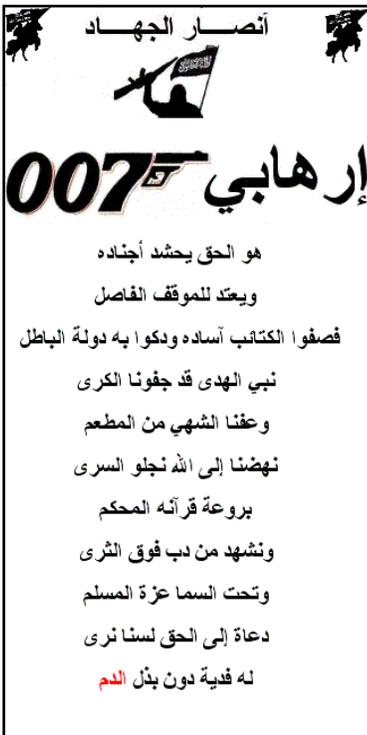
Item 3: Terror Web Watch report on a pioneer of the virtual Jihad, Irhabi 007

A mysterious Internet Jihadist has gained the attention of both media intelligence circles. On September 6, an article in the *New York Post* described him as follows:

"U.S. counterterrorism authorities have been engaged for months in a shadowy war with a computer hacker extraordinaire who is using cutting-edge technology to help al Qaeda and other jihad groups with their vast Internet operations.... Experts inside and outside the government confirmed in recent interviews that an intensive effort has been under way for more than a year to track and shut down the mysterious cyber-ghost, who identifies himself as Irhabi 007 — or 'Terrorist 007.'"

Responding to requests for more information on "Irhabi 007," Terror Web Watch has compiled the following report.

Report: Irhabi 007



This self-aggrandizing graphic accompanied some of the Internet postings by the virtual Jihadist. The top reads "Irhabi 007," and is followed by a poem.

Al-Qaeda and its broader ideological movement use the virtual sanctuary of the Internet to disseminate propaganda, wage psychological warfare, recruit potential operatives, supporters, and sympathizers, raise funds, provide tactical and operational training, and exercise command and control over its amorphous network. As part of this effort, al-Qaeda seems to rely on a small family of sites that are redundant in nature and, thereby, ensure the survivability of the movement's Internet presence. What seems to be a small group of sites are developed and maintained by a selective group of tech-savvy al-Qaeda sympathizers. Irhabi 007 is thought to be one of these technologically knowledgeable sympathizers who is heavily involved in maintaining al-Qaeda's on-line presence.

Irhabi 007 is likely the administrator of the Muntada al-Ansar Web site, a site that was considered for some time to be the primary mouthpiece of Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi's network in Iraq, in addition to hosting a wide array of other Jihadist propaganda, statements, training materials, and videos. It was on this site that the video depicting the beheading of Nicholas Berg ([Terrorist Incident](#)) was first posted. Irhabi 007 himself¹ posted another beheading video depicting an Arab victim, an alleged "CIA agent" in Iraq. He typically posts links to insurgent videos from Iraq and Afghanistan, which have been uploaded to file storage sites like www.megaupload.com.

The evidence that Irhabi 007 is the administrator of this site does not come from the site registration information, which typically lists a different name (or sometimes a set of initials) each time it registers at a new URL. This is a frequent occurrence: the iteration of Muntada al-Ansar has moved four times in just over a month and a half. The site is currently hosted at the URL www.irhaab.com/ansaarnet.

¹ The assumption that Irhabi 007 is a male comes from the masculine format of the adjective "terrorist," in his name. In Modern Standard Arabic, a female would be called "Irhabia." Further, others on the site refer to Irhabi 007 as "our brother." Though this individual could be a female posing as a male, for the purposes of this essay, Irhabi007 will be referred to as a male.



Evidence that Irhabi 007 remains the administrator of the site, as it moves from URL to URL, from one registrant name to another, comes in other forms on the site. Underneath all postings by any member, a word appears signifying that person's status on the site. Under Irhabi 007, that status reads "administrator," in Arabic. Further, when the site came back online in late July after months' hiatus, members heaped praise on Irhabi 007 for getting bringing the Web site back. Further, he has responded to questions posted on the site that were directed to the administrator, for example, explaining that a certain video had to be removed from the site because it took up too much space on the server.

The type of materials that Irhabi 007 has himself posted to the site include beheading videos, videos of insurgent attacks from various groups in Iraq, and videos put out by the "al-Sahab" foundation, sometimes referred to as al-Qaeda's production company because of the number of films it has produced glorifying al-Qaeda leaders and their attacks. Just hours after Ayman al-Zawahiri and one of the London subway bombers appeared in a video aired on *al-Jazeera*, Irhabi 007 had posted the *al-Jazeera* clip on the www.irhaab007.org web domain, providing a link to it on the Muntada al-Ansar forum (www.irhaab.org). He has also posted audio recorded speeches by Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi, which have been uploaded to large file storage sites with links for downloading available on the forum. Such clips regularly appear on al-Ansar before they are circulated to other Jihadist Web sites, but there is no definitive evidence to prove that Irhabi 007 receives the videos or audios directly from the terrorist groups that have created them. Neither does he brag about direct association with any terrorist individuals or groups. Still, his following online is evident in the praise and blessings he receives on al-Ansar, and member user names on al-Ansar and other Jihadist sites are springing up with "007" tacked on as tribute, such as "walid007".

Besides the al-Ansar site, Irhabi 007 has also had a presence on other Jihadist forums. On one, he "jokes" in English about killing Aaron Weisburd, a researcher and activist who hacks Islamist extremist Web sites. After posting what he alleges is Weisburd's physical address in Illinois, he says "p.s: I get to keep a finger or an ear a little souvenir...ahahahaha...Yahudi [Jewish] sushi?" He was a regular member on the Jihadist forum hosted on the Web site British-based Islamist Said al-Faqih's MIRA Web site. One of his postings cached on the Internet records that he had posted at least 54 times on the site. He was also listed as the "supervisor" of the now-down Jihadist Web site al-Ekhlaas in 2004, according to the member status information under his name. His "vice-supervisor" on that site had a name indicating a Tunisian background: Mohib al-Shaykain al-Tunisi. Mohib al-Shaykain, writing on a French language Jihadist Web site, referred to Irhabi 007 and seemed to indicate that they worked together. With the combination of languages Irhabi 007 speaks and his apparent teaming up with a Tunisian, speculation may be made that he himself is North African in origin, although this is pure speculation. His Arabic betrays no North African colloquialisms. Also, puzzlingly, he seems to have been a member of a Kuwait-focused web forum at one time.

Irhabi 007 also has shown a penchant for hacking and other forms of Internet mischief. He is believed to have hijacked a vulnerable FTP server hosted by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (www.ahtd.state.ar.us). Irhabi 007 used the FTP server to host over 70 al-Qaeda related media files.² Among Irhabi 007's posts on the al-Ekhlaas site were links to the book: "Hacking a Terror Network: The Silent Threat of Covert Channels," by Russ Rogers and Matthew G. Devost, the President and CEO of the Terrorism Research Center, Inc. Links to a document called "Directions by Irhabi 007 on the best ways to hide from the eyes of the FBI," was posted on the Jihadist Web site al-Farouq."³

Irhabi 007 is also suspected of stealing people's identities to register his sites or for other purposes. His www.irhaab007.org domain name was registered to the name, phone number, email address, and Pennsylvania home address of a first lieutenant deployed to Iraq. Al-Ansar and al-Ekhlaas domain names have been registered under identities of individuals who appeared on a list of donors to a Miami Gay and Lesbian film festival.⁴

From Irhabi007's postings, besides Arabic, he speaks English and French fairly well. He has recently opened both English and French language forums on the al-Ansar site and has posted comments in both languages on each. He has posted translations and summarizations of English language press stories, translated or summarized in

² <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47681-2004Jul13.html>

³ The links to this alleged document were found to be broken when access was attempted.

⁴ <http://www.mglff.com/angelgrant.htm>, and Internet Haganah.



Arabic, and rough translations into English of Arabic songs glorifying Jihad. He has posted Hebrew maps of Israel on one Jihadist site but has not written anything to demonstrate knowledge of Hebrew. He appears to monitor the English press fairly regularly, posting video clips, pictures, and news stories from the BBC, PBS, the Washington Post, Yahoo News, as well as Jewish interest news sites.

His faculty in both French and English, as well as Modern Standard Arabic (as opposed to demonstrating a regional dialect) may indicate a European residence with formal schooling in Modern Standard Arabic language. Weisburd of Internet Haganah claims to have traced Irhabi 007 to Ealing, England, although does not reveal his methodology in doing so. Judging from the hosting history of the al-Ansar site, Irhabi 007 often registers his site with US-based Web hosting companies. This is not necessarily evidence that he himself is US-based. Indeed, he may prefer US-based companies only to irk and irritate his American pursuers.

He demonstrates irreverence uncharacteristic of traditional Muslim fundamentalists in his use of bad language and joking. He has referred to Aaron Weisburd as a "queer," while for most Islamic fundamentalists, the mention of homosexuality would be taboo, especially on a forum discussing such a sacred issue as Jihad. The picture inserted at the top of this document that accompanied earlier Jihadist Web site posts by Irhabi 007 was saved under the title: "007_Is_Going_to_Kick_Some_Kafir[infidel]_Ass!" His familiarity with English vulgarity and sarcasm, his tech savvy, his non-traditional fundamentalism, and awareness of English language media may all be indications of western world residence, as may his activism on the London-based MIRA Web forum. Time stamp information collected from more than 50 of Irhabi 007's postings on his Web site fall during normal waking hours at Greenwich Meantime: between 9:30 am and midnight. While all of these factors may feed into an educated guess that Irhabi 007 is based in the UK, or at least in Europe, none of these is evidence enough to determine neither his current whereabouts nor his origin.

Of Americans, one comment by Irhabi 007 seemed to demonstrate contempt tinged with annoyed familiarity. In response to one al-Ansar forum member's comments that Americans were the real terrorists in the world, Irhabi007 disagreed, "The American people are cowardly and stupid more than they are terrorists." He also declared his desire to see the US attacked: "As long as the American people inside America – those other than the volunteer soldiers – are safe from the attacks of the Mujahideen, nothing will change."

Item 4: Video Available: "The Lion Cubs of al-Qaeda are Coming, O America"

A new al-Qaeda propaganda video has been issued for the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. It was put together by the Islamic Media Center, an al-Qaeda mouthpiece and propaganda unit of sorts. The video contains archival footage of Osama Bin Laden and al-Qaeda spokesperson Suleiman Abu Ghaith speaking, as well as scenes of the World Trade Center towers on the morning of September 11. The tape also shows montages of al-Qaeda training videos, with disturbing footage of children dressed in camouflage uniforms training at what appear to be Jihadist camps. Clips of a camouflage-clad boy of about 10 or 12 reading a pro-Jihad speech are intermixed with clips of Osama bin Laden, also wearing camouflage, also belting out praises for Jihad. The message is clear: al-Qaeda is bringing up a whole new generation of terrorists to replace its old guard.

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