



TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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Item 2: Zarqawi reads aloud to the Mujahideen from *The Washington Post*.

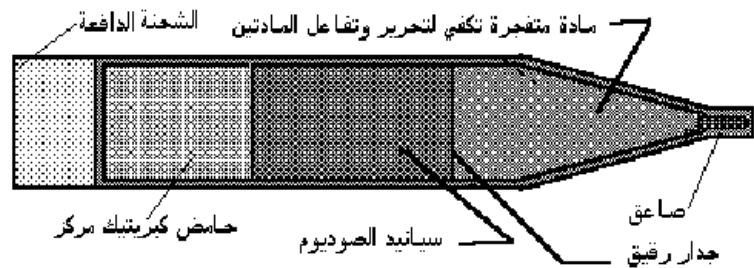
Item 3: Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula resumes publication of "Sawt al-Jihad."

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Item 5: Syrian Jihadist website indicates that the government is finally cracking down on terrorists traveling to Iraq through Syria.

Graphics:

(Left) The cover of the latest issue of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula ([Group Profile](#))'s *Sawt al-Jihad* magazine. (Right) A diagram from an al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) poisons and chemicals expert contains instructions for packing a "dirty missile" with sulfuric acid and sodium cyanide.



Orientation/Introduction:

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

Item 1: News reports of the announcement of the death of Osama bin Laden on a Jihadist website are based on false information.

The website, "Minbar Ahl al-Sunna wal Jama'a" (roughly, "Pulpit of the Sunni People") did contain an article this morning under the headline "the Death of Osama Bin Laden." This title was picked up by the pan-Arab daily paper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, at which point English news outlets caught on to the story.

Apparently, no one bothered to actually read the article. It started with the following line in quotation marks: "The news has reached us that the al-Qaeda organization has announced the death of Bin Laden," the article then continues: *Yes, the death of Bin Laden (may God keep him) could happen at any time...* the rest of the article is concerned with how al-Qaeda will survive once Bin Laden actually passes away. The opening line was clearly a hypothetical situation to introduce the discussion of the topic. It was used in much the same way a dream sequence might be used in a TV show or movie.

The article does not claim that Bin Laden is dead at all. In fact, it contains prayers for his long life. The blessings "May God Keep Him," and "May God Make His Life Long," written after Bin Laden's name in the very opening paragraph is emphasis for anyone who may have missed the fact that the title was just a rhetorical device.

The website was quick to pick up on the misunderstanding by *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*. A link to the *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* article was posted, with the words "Apparently, *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* has read only the first line of this article, and not the whole thing!!" The writer of the original article was reprimanded with: "Do you realize what has happened! They do not understand sarcasm. Be more careful. And God bless and keep Osama Bin Laden."

Currently, there are rumors circulating in the international press because *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* did not read past the first couple lines of this benign, rather meaningless website post.

Item 2: Zarqawi reads aloud to the Mujahideen from *The Washington Post*.

This morning, a new audio recording attributed to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was posted on various Jihadist websites. The speech is addressed "to the Steadfast Mujahideen in Iraq ([Country Profile](#))." The speech is an optimistic 18-minute long pep talk, rallying the fighters and letting them know what a great job they are doing in Iraq. It encourages them, lets them know they are making a difference, and reassures them that through perseverance they will successfully drive out "the Crusaders, who have come to help the people of Zion [the Jews] establish their state [Israel] with its borders stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates."

The interesting part of the speech is the evidence Zarqawi provides of the success of the Iraqi resistance. Rather than employing the sayings of the Prophet or Koranic passages to motivate his fighters, he reads from a *Washington Post* article which focuses on the military's inability to recruit and retain personnel needed to continue the occupation of Iraq.

"Our success is described...by the newspaper the Washington Post, in an article published on the 19th of March under the title, "Two Years Later, the War In Iraq is still draining the American military,"" says Zarqawi. He then skips around quoting a few parts of the article, including: "Two years after the United States launched its war in Iraq...a guerilla conflict is grinding away at the resources of the US military...the active duty Army and Marine corps failed to meet their recruiting goals in the first quarter of the year 2005." reads Zarqawi. He includes quotes from two generals: "General Richard Cody, Army Vice Chief of Staff, says 'what keeps me awake at night is, what will this all-volunteer force look like in 2007?'...and General Schultz, the Director of the National Guard says, "If we don't get this thing right, the risk is off the scale,"" Zarqawi recites triumphantly.



Zarqawi also mentions the efforts of the coalition to “open dialogue with the leadership of the insurgency,” as evidence that the “strikes of the Mujahideen” are successfully forcing the coalition into negotiating. However, he warns the Mujahideen against entering into any such dialogue.

The translation of the Washington Post article is indicative of a trend seen on various Jihadist websites whereby articles in the English press that express pessimism about the potential for a positive outcome in Iraq are translated into Arabic and posted as proof of the insurgency’s success. To this particular Arabic-speaking audience, the idea of a free press is somewhat unfathomable, and thus if the United States’ ([Country Profile](#)) own media is admitting things are going poorly in Iraq, to the pro-Jihad community, this means that the US government itself feeling defeated.

Similarly, photographs of dead or wounded US soldiers are culled from English media websites, anti-war websites, and websites like www.ogrish.com, and are published on Jihadist websites and in propaganda materials to use for recruiting purposes. With the Internet, terrorist groups hardly need to go out and try to take their own photographs anymore. The materials they need, the evidence of their “success,” is being made available to them by Americans and others posting such pictures on the Internet.

Item 3: Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula resumes publication of “Sawt al-Jihad.”

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has published a new issue of “Sawt al-Jihad” after a nearly five-month hiatus. The group stated in this issue that they have been unable to publish the magazine previously because of the losses they have suffered under constant, sustained pressure from Saudi Arabia ([Country Profile](#))’s security forces.

In this issue, the group is clearly licking their wounds. Rather than presenting the trumped-up image of themselves as warrior-saviors of the Arabian Peninsula, frightening away westerners in the kingdom and bleeding the regime, the group instead spends pages mourning its losses at “the battle of al-Rass” (War Report), a recent three day gun battle where Saudi forces managed to take down the group’s leaders and a number of important fighters.

The issue is concerned with describing the events of the battle, and also delving into Islamic scriptures and history for comfort. Much focus is given to theological explanations that demonstrate that, in spite of their losses, God is still on their side and they are still carrying out His orders. The group is looking for hope and motivation; there is a clear sense of discouragement and a searching into the religion to find purpose and meaning to all the losses they have suffered in recent months. For example, there is much discussion of how the Prophet Mohammed’s loyal followers sustained losses in the early battles against the Pagan and Jewish tribes of the Arabian Peninsula, and how this was something of a “test” from God, a trial to make the Muslims stronger. In the mentality of the Islamic extremist, examples from the past are often sought for reassurance about the future. The Koran and other religious texts are often revisited to seek out evidence of continuing divine support. The good news for Saudi Arabia is that it is obvious from this issue that the group is feeling beleaguered.

Even the contributors to the publication have been whittled down to the point where only one live contributor is published in the magazine. The other articles were written by now dead members. In the “coming next month” section, the biggest feature for the next issue of “Sawt al-Jihad” is an interview with Al-Qaeda planner Kareem al-Mojati – killed this month.

In a somewhat odd tangent, the magazine then chooses to devote one of its few articles responding to the question: “Is Yemen ([Country Profile](#)) a part of the Arabian Peninsula?” The significance of this question is whether the order of the Prophet Mohammed to “expel the Pagans from the Arabian Peninsula” applies to Yemen. This saying, “Expel the pagans from the Arabian Peninsula” has become the slogan of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, whose theology classifies Jews and Christians as Pagans for various reasons. The ensuing article focuses on the Jews of Yemen and how they must be cast out of the country. This is a strange and unprecedented target group: Yemeni Jews are a very old community and have mostly been well accepted by Yemeni Muslims. They do not fall into al-Qaeda’s usual target groups in Arabian Peninsula countries – they are



not western nor associated with the United States or the ruling regime. For the most part they are an unassuming, rather poor community in Yemen which has always been essentially at peace with its Muslim countrymen. Al-Qaeda want to inspire attacks on Yemeni Jews just because they are such a soft and vulnerable target. They may also be hoping to provoke a reaction from Israel ([Country Profile](#)), which has made efforts to help Yemeni Jews in the past.

Item 4: Detailed manual on the use of poisons, chemicals and toxins by Al-Qaeda poisons' expert and Zarqawi spiritual leader available on the Internet.

From a website entitled "The Military Office of the Sheikh Abu Musab al-Suri" comes more alarming training materials and weapons manuals (for a background on Al-Suri, the ideologue who influenced Zarqawi and who has a \$5 million dollar bounty on his head from the US government, see last week's [Terror Web Watch](#)).

Another poisons manual has been made available on the site (last week's Terror Web Watch covered one such manual). This one is more detailed, containing precise information on preparations, experimentation, and application of a variety of poisons, toxins, and chemicals. The 90+ page manual discusses preparing and using weapons like botulism, ricin, and cyanide, as well as poisonous gases like nerve gas, mustard gas, and chlorine gas. It contains instructions for testing poisons on animals, and for mixing them with vehicles like DMSO that help them penetrate the skin to kill by touch. It is in many ways similar to the manual described in last week's Terror Web Watch, but with more detail in terms of the preparations of the poisons and the discussion of their potential applications and effects on the different systems of the body. There is nothing amateurish about this manual, and the attention to detail is alarming. Like the poisons manual discussed last week, this longer version recommends combining chemicals or poisons with bombs or missiles, but this manual gives more detailed instructions for how to construct these devices and what toxic or poisonous materials to use in them.

Item 5: Syrian Jihadist website indicates that the government is finally cracking down on terrorists traveling to Iraq through Syria ([Country Profile](#)).

The following was posted by the administrator of a Syrian Jihadist website, and indicates that the Syrian government may finally be making serious steps towards stopping the flow of fighters over its territory into Iraq.

[begin translation]

Important: To the young men who wish to go to Iraq over Syria.

In the name of God the Merciful and the Compassionate...

...I write these lines to clarify some of the points that may be unknown to many of the brothers who wish to go to Iraq across Syria.

- 1 – The Syrian regime is like any other Arab regime – up to its ears in its collaboration with the Americans.
- 2 – The regime has begun to set up check points and conduct inspections on the roads that lead to Iraq (and have arrested a number of foreigners), especially those leading to Qamashli and Deir a-Zoor [towns close to the border of Iraq].
- 3 – Orders have been handed down that any [non-Syrian] Arab staying in a hotel in the border region must be reported.
- 4 – If you are taken to prison, the investigation will involve torture. It will start with the decrepit, unclean conditions, and continue to various forms of beatings, and then you will be turned over to the authorities of your own country to be subjected to more torture from them.

The brothers who wish to join the Mujahideen [in Iraq] by crossing over Syria are hereby forewarned.



God helps the believers and hates the infidels...

Another message was posted on the same subject:

"I have tasted what you have spoken of in the prisons of the Syrian regime. I was imprisoned by them for trying to cross Syria to fight Jihad in Iraq. They are trying to stop the young men from crossing into Iraq over their borders. I have the following advice to give to young men wishing to enter Iraq via Syria:

- 1 – The Mujahideen [in Iraq] have representatives and liaisons in most Arab countries. Find them first and they will help you. Do not try to go by yourself.
- 2 - Do not go in traditional clothing (do not wear a beard or a dishdasha or a thobe) [long, traditional gowns for Arab and Muslim men]. To avoid their intelligence services, do not pray in the mosques.
- 3 – When approaching the border area, stay away from the roads which have check points. There are many in that region.
- 4 – Try not to remain in Syria for very long to avoid drawing attention to yourself – there are so many informants there.
- 5 – You must listen to the [Mujahideen] liaison and do whatever he tells you to do. He has experience and knowledge, even if this means delaying your trip by months. The way is not as easy as most of the young men think it is going to be. They are caught because they go hastily and do not have patience and do not follow the instructions of the liaison.
- 6 – If you get into any trouble you must ask God for help and pray, if you can, in order to remain in his good graces. Mention Him in the morning and evening. Also, do not hesitate to pay money to ease your way.
- 7 – If you are arrested there, persevere and look to God for help. Do not despair; I have been through this. The length of your captivity in Syria will not be very long in most cases. You will be held for some days in a single person cell in the area in which you were arrested. Then they will move you to the main office of the intelligence services in Damascus (which is called "the Palestine branch"). In the Palestine branch you will be kept in one of the barracks, of which there are more than ten. In each barracks there are about 35-50 men, as far as I know. There will be lots of young Muslim men who have been arrested for the same reason that you have been arrested, and also some other young men. They can keep you company and hopefully the days will pass quickly, with God's permission. Some of you will be held for as long as ten months – mostly those from the North African Arab countries.
- 8 – After your imprisonment in Syria you will be turned over to the authorities of your own country.

In conclusion, I send my best to the brothers imprisoned in Palestine branch, especially in barracks number 5.

To my brothers there from the Arabian Peninsula, the Land of Shem (the Levant), North Africa, and all the others: [poem follows]

....Your brother Abu Abida,
The Land of Shem

[end translation]

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