



# TRC TWW Report

## Terror Web Watch Report



July 15, 2005

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**Graphic:** Women of Jihad: a Fatah poster celebrates female suicide bombers.



## Orientation/Introduction:

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

## Item 1: British-based Islamists and their Web sites

The Islamist Web sites connected to British-based radicals Said al-Faqih and Mohammed Masaari have both been taken offline this week. In addition to the al-qal3ah site, which is alleged to be al-Faqih's, the "Islah" site of his MIRA organization has also been taken offline. The "al-Tajdeed" forum on the site of al-Masaari's group, the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) is also down.

The two Saudi exiles once worked together at the CDLR, and then an ideological split in 1996 caused Said al-Faqih to break off and form MIRA. Al-Faqih had connections to Bin Laden in the 1990s, and on December 21, 2004 the US Treasury Department designated him a provider of material and financial support to al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) and Osama bin Laden (for more on al-Faqih, see ([Intel Report](#) and [Intel Report](#))).

Both men have been tied to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, and so have their organizations. In May 2004, a member of the CDLR entered an oil installation in Yanbu, Saudi Arabia ([Country Profile](#)) with his brother, two nephews, and other members of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula ([Group Profile](#)) and shot to death two Brits, an Australian, two Americans, and a Saudi guard ([Terrorist Incident](#)).

The CDLR/Tajdeed site contained a message saying that the site was in search of a new company to host their material because they need a server that could handle increased traffic. A couple other sites registered to the two men are also down.

Speculation leads to two possibilities of why the sites of these men have been brought down. Either their service providers decided to stop hosting them after the London attacks ([Terrorist Incident](#)), or the men themselves took the sites down because they knew that there would be increased scrutiny and observation of them and their Islamist activities. There is no evidence that either man is connected to the attacks of July 7. Yet, they are worth examining as important players in the Islamist milieu of London.

Although the CDLR/Al-Tajdeed message forum is not up, there is still a link by which supporters can donate money to support the organization, either to an account at a bank in London, or via Paypal (see left).

ادعموا تنظيم التجديد <a href="http://www.tajdeed.net">http://www.tajdeed.net</a>
<b>الحساب الرسمي</b> <b>لتنظيم التجديد الإسلامي</b> <b>في لندن (بريطانيا):</b>
Account Name: CDLR Account Number: 11214438 Bank Name: HSBC Bank Plc Bank Number (Sorting Code): 40-07-27 91 High Road, Willesden Green LONDON: NW10 2TA UNITED KINGDOM
ادعموا تنظيم التجديد الإسلامي إضغط هنا للتبرع <b>PayPal</b> CLICK HERE TO DONATE

The CDLR, while it and its leader have been connected to terrorist activities, is not on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations. The al-Tajdeed forum is a very well-known Jihadist site on which writings and statements from a variety of terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda members and members of the group's branches in Saudi Arabia and Iraq ([Country Profile](#)), are posted.

## Item 2: Cleavages in radical Islam: one British radical stands against the attacks, Zarqawi's former partner criticizes him on al-Jazeera

Abu Busayr al-Tartousi (aka Abdel Moneim Mustafa al-Halima), a well-known Islamist Sheikh in London, has stood up in condemnation of the July 7 attacks. Previously lumped in with other Islamic extremists for various radical views, al-Tartousi put his foot down on the day of the London attacks, posting a letter on his Web site,



<http://www.abubaseer.bizland.com/> condemning the attacks as "a scandal and an embarrassment" to British Muslims, with "no courage, no honor, and no morality to them." He continued to say that the attacks benefit two groups only: "right wing groups in Britain who have been patiently waiting for something like this to happen so that they can exploit it to turn the people against Islam," and also "tyrannical Arab governments," who, he claims, will now have even more leeway to clamp down on the political Islamists in their midst.

Al-Tartousi's condemnation sparked a flurry of controversy within the ranks of radical Islamists. On the message boards of Jihadist Web sites, there were arguments between those who supported al-Tartousi's view that the attacks in London would only make it harder to accomplish the goals of the global Jihad and would also increase racism against Muslims in Europe. There was an even larger backlash, however, that praised the attacks and condemned Tartousi's "treason." By July 13, someone had composed a 65-page refutation to Tartousi's statement and posted it on the Jihadist Web site "al-Firdaws." Other arguments leveraging Islamic sources to "prove" the legality of the attacks were also quickly circulated. Some speculated that Tartousi had only posted the statement because he lived in Britain and wanted to evade the suspicion that would follow every visible Islamist after the attacks.

Simultaneously, another cleavage opened in the ranks of Islamic extremists. The former spiritual leader to Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi, Palestinian cleric Abu Mohammed al-Maqdese who founded al-Tawhid ([Group Profile](#)) in Jordan ([Country Profile](#)) with Zarqawi, went on *al-Jazeera* and announced that he and Zarqawi had had an argument about Zarqawi's activities in Iraq. Apparently, Maqdese told Zarqawi to stop attacking civilians and to stop targeting churches and Shia mosques. He also reported that he and Zarqawi argued over suicide bombings, which Maqdese said should only be used in "exceptional circumstances." He did not reveal when the disagreement took place.

Maqdese was released from prison in Jordan briefly on the first week of July but re-imprisoned after, according to the London-based Arab paper Asharq Alawsat, he made telephone contact with Zarqawi.

Zarqawi lashed back out immediately in an Internet statement, defending his tactics in Iraq. It is not the first time that Zarqawi has been criticized by former terrorist colleagues. In February, Gulbeddin Hekmatyar directed a letter to the "Iraqi resistance," with Zarqawi at its head, advising that they stop killing Iraqi civilians ([Intel Report](#)).

Maqdese is still an advocate of violent Jihad and a condoner of terrorism, and Tartousi is still a radical, right-wing Sheikh, but ideological splits within the right wing movement are helpful because they can, over time, weaken the movement and bring right wing Muslims further toward the middle and away from terrorist tactics.

### **Item 3: Alleged stolen credit card numbers and pins posted on the al-Firdaws Web site**

Stolen credit cards have been used to support terrorist activities in the past. This example may be another instance of this. On the al-Firdaws site, a list with about a dozen names, addresses, credit card information, and in some cases email user names and passwords were posted on the Web site. Most were individuals in the US, although there was one each from Canada ([Country Profile](#)), France ([Country Profile](#)), Israel ([Country Profile](#)), and the United Kingdom ([Country Profile](#)). The information was posted in English, and a note in broken English at the end bragged that the person, who called himself "Scammer," could get 200 such credit card numbers a day. Five of the US names on the list brought up the corresponding addresses provided in the posting on an online white pages search.

Terror Web Watch will monitor this and other sites further for any more signs that identity theft is being used to fund Jihadist activities.



## **Item 4: Abu Musaab al-Suri directs a threat to Europe: 01/2005**

"We warned the British government and people again and again," read the claim of responsibility that was posted shortly after the London attacks. While the authenticity of that claim is still being called into question, the attacks have sent some looking back for such warnings. Notably, there is the Bin Laden warning issued on April 15, 2004, in which he offers European governments a truce if they pull forces out of Iraq.

There was also another verbal threat from al-Qaeda that has not been getting mention. It was put forth by European al-Qaeda core member Abu Musaab al-Suri (bio on al-Suri: [Intel Report](#)). Al-Suri has been accused by the Spanish government of leading or giving the go-ahead for the Madrid train attacks ([Terrorist Incident](#)), as well as forming terrorist cells in Spain ([Country Profile](#)), France, and Italy ([Country Profile](#)). He lived in the UK from 1994-1997, where he was active in Islamist activities. His threat to European countries, made early in 2005, came in the context of a statement written in response to the US government's issuing of an offer of a US\$5 million reward for information leading to his capture. Most of the statement rails against the US, with al-Suri saying: "I'm sorry that there were not weapons of mass destruction on those airplanes [used in the 9/11 attacks]" ([War Report](#)).

However, the statement also contains the following threat directed at European governments. In it, he rescinds Bin Laden's offer of a truce by saying that it is not enough to support a Muslim cause in one country and not in another:

"I warn the European governments that we, as Muslims, have the ability to do what our religion commands us to do in order to advance our cause everywhere. It is not enough for us, if [a government] were to help only one country in which we have an interest, and to stop its enmity towards us only there. Examples are France and Germany and others with regard to the Palestinian cause, as well as [their opposition] to America's raid on Iraq, because we see the same governments attack Muslims in other cases and in other countries. For instance, France and Germany are helping to occupy Afghanistan and their soldiers are participating in the murder of Muslims there. Also, France attacks our women and violates their rights and revokes their personal freedom with its [ban on] the hijab. Also, there are the positions of the countries of the [former] Soviet Union in considering the Palestinian resistance terrorism, and considering the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations terrorist groups.

Further, there are even more European countries who are in the NATO alliance, and thus have military commitments towards America. So, as we see it, these countries do not agree with our positions. They support us when it is convenient. But partial support is just politicking, tactics that are guided by their interests..."

**Links:** Hamas ([Group Profile](#)), Islamic Jihad ([Group Profile](#)), Germany ([Country Profile](#))

Al-Suri is a natural suspect for connection to any attacks that take place in Europe, as al-Qaeda's highest ranking man that was sent to Europe to set up cells. However, there is not yet any evidence that he was in any way involved in the attacks. Still, the dual threats from Bin Laden and al-Suri may hint that al-Qaeda may have triggered or been somehow involved in the London attacks.

## **Item 5: Al-Hayat cannot find any trace of suspected bomb maker's involvement in Islamist circles prior to London attacks**

Al-Hayat, a prominent pan-Arab daily paper located in London, reached into Islamist circles in both Egypt ([Country Profile](#)) and the UK in search of Majdy al-Nashar, who was arrested on July 15 on suspicion of involvement in the London bombings.

[begin translation]

Majdy al-Nashar. Is he the new Mohammed Atta, or Abu Ubaida al-Panshiri?

If it is true that the Egyptian researcher Majdy al-Nashar was involved in any level of planning, training, preparation or execution of the London explosions, than al-Qaeda would have resorted to using an unknown





element from its cadres, prepared him, and pushed him into what ever level it wanted to carry out work in a strategy pre-planned for him. This is the style that was followed with Mohammed Atta, the Egyptian man who led the suicide operatives who carried out the September 11 attacks in the United States.

Or perhaps al-Qaeda has returned to its old strategy by inserting a known element with a lot of experience in the organization, taken from a high-level cadre connected to the [al-Qaeda] organization, in order to carry out the big operation in London. This is exactly what happened a decade ago when the organization used its Egyptian military leader Ali Rashidi, known by the name, "Abu Ubaidah al-Panshiri," who drowned in Lake Victoria in the middle of the 1990's after arriving in eastern Africa two years prior to set up the operations to bomb the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar As-Salem in 1998.

Al-Nashar's name is unknown to both the Egyptian security apparatus and their British counterparts. There are no files on him to provide information on his relationships with any heavy weight organizations, like Egyptian Islamic Jihad. This leaves the possibility that he may have used a code name at some level in his activity.

Sources have told al-Hayat that al-Nashar – aged 33 – studied chemistry in Egypt and worked as a researcher in the National Center for Research in Cairo. Neither his study nor his years in that institution attracted any attention.

Al-Hayat asked officials at the Center about him, and learned that he was a person that was hard to get to know, and that there was not much information on researchers at the Center as they number more than 5,000. In terms of activity with Egyptian religious groups, no one in the groups knew him, and even the lawyers for Islamists did not know him. [Prominent lawyer for Islamists] Muntaser al-Zayat denied to al-Hayat that the name had ever appeared in any of the cases of religious violence tried in Egyptian military or civil courts.

It is possible, according to Zayat, that al-Nashar was recruited from the outside, as he traveled to London to complete his studies and obtained a doctorate in October of 2000.

[Al Hayat also spoke to] Islamists in Britain. The director of the Maqreze Center [a British radical Islamist organization] in London, Dr Hani Sabaie, said that he did not know any person of this name [Majdy al-Nashar], and that the name was a complete unknown among Islamists in both London and other British cities. However, Al-Sabaie, who spoke to al-Hayat over the phone, did not deny that "there was no relationship between al-Nashar and the explosions," and said that "everything he did is connected one way or another to the suicide operatives – like his home, he rented a home from one of them. What relationship does al-Qaeda have to any of it this?"

Other sources said that al-Nashar had a presence in Leeds where he taught at the university until the beginning of last month. He then disappeared and was not seen again. Security experts say that it was possible that he traveled during that period. British media channels considered "the chemist" the sixth man involved in the operation, saying that the police had raided the home where they found explosives. It was the newspaper "the Sun" that revealed his name.

A spokesman from a North Carolina university where the Egyptian studied said that al-Nashar had stayed there only one semester at the chemical engineering college in the university. He has worked as a teaching assistant in Leeds.

[end translation]

**Links:** African Embassy Bombings, Kenya ([Terrorist Incident](#)), Tanzania ([Terrorist Incident](#)), September 11 ([Terrorist Incident](#)), Egyptian Islamic Jihad ([Group Profile](#))



## **Item 6: Al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers ([Group Profile](#)) denies that a top aide was captured, mocks the US for claiming detainees are "top lieutenants"**

Excerpt from "the Statement from al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers regarding the capture of the brother Abu Abdulaziz:"

"One of the leaders of the Crusader soldiers, the 'Marines,' came out this morning, 7/13/2005, to announce that one of the highest leaders Zarqawi has, 'the brother Mujahid Abu Abdulaziz.' It has become their custom to always claim that they have arrested one of the 'highest leaders,' and they have announced this time that this leader is the fourth or fifth highest person, after the sixty others that they have already announced in these positions. Every person that they capture, they claim that he is a chief leader.

God knows that our brother Abu Abdulaziz is only responsible for one of the cells in Baghdad. He was captured during a battle with the American forces, aided by the 'sons of alchemy,' the National Guard, in one of the houses in Baghdad... The announcements of the soldiers of the Cross that they capture a lieutenant of Zarqawi every day is nothing but an indication that they are being defeated..."

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