



# TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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**Graphic:** A picture of a downed helicopter in Iraq is circulated on the Internet by the insurgents who claim to have brought it down.



## Orientation/Introduction:

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

## **Item 1: "Ways to Conceal an Explosive Charge," notes from a Palestinian on small-scale terrorist attacks against soft targets**

After this document was posted to the al-firdaws site, another member of the site noted that it had been circulated around before. It was penned by someone named "Abu Jundel al-Filistini," a *nom de guerre* for a Palestinian. While the document contains by no means the complete, necessary steps for successful attacks, it contains enough tips and scenarios to prompt the intellect and imagination of a reader to think creatively and precisely about the plotting of an operation and all of the specifics that can make an attack as crude as a car bombing more lethal and successful.

These kinds of attacks are nothing new to Palestinian terrorist groups, but by posting it on the Internet and on Salafi Jihadist message boards with international reach, there is a clear intention or hope that others may learn from these small-scale attacks and emulate them. They can be carried out by very small groups of people, possibly as few as two or three. The scenarios described are all ones to which western countries like the United States ([Country Profile](#)) would be particularly susceptible: small attacks on soft targets. If that MO starts to gain the kind of traction among international, al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#))-affiliated or -inspired groups as it has in Israel ([Country Profile](#)) and the territories, it would present a particularly tough challenge to security infrastructures. Security measures have been designed and resources allocated to prevent the larger, more complicated and more devastating operations like the September 11 attacks ([Terrorist Incident](#)) or the March 11 Madrid train bombings ([Terrorist Incident](#)). Attacks against soft targets would be very difficult to prevent, and even though they are often less lethal, a campaign of them, as has been carried out over decades by the Palestinians, would be hard to counter and financially and psychologically draining to any society.

[begin translation]

### Ways to Conceal an Explosive Charge

First: Operations inside a marketplace [referring to a Middle Eastern style souq/shouk/bazaar]

1. Enter the marketplace like you want to shop, and carry a shopping bag, not a briefcase. Put the charge in it and place the bag down in one of the shops in order to buy some new things. Choose a cluttered place so that people do not notice you leaving the bag.
2. You might be able to sneak a large explosive charge into crowded markets by placing it inside a large carton, like a carton of samna [Arabic cooking ingredient] or pickles, or inside of a large crate that you bring in pretending to deliver goods. This can only be done after you have staked out the souq and know the timings of the deliveries, the nature of the goods, and where they enter the market place.
3. You can put the charge inside large cartons like those that are used to carry coca cola, or any others like it. It is better if the carton is new, and its contents are written upon it. This is how Coca Cola cartons come.
4. It may be better to use the crates which contain electronic appliances. You can put the charge inside a stereo or computer box.
5. You can hide a charge of up to 5 kg inside a box of [powdered] laundry detergent, or any such box – cardboard or plastic, whose pictures or brands on the outside describe the product inside – such as Ariel or Persil [Middle Eastern brands of powdered laundry detergent] boxes. Do it in the following way:
  - a. Open the flap from the bottom, and scoop some of the material out. Make sure you open it in an inconspicuous way, so it will look like it was just purchased at one of the stores in the market. That way, if you are exposed to a search (God guard against it!), then when they look at the box from the top, it will look like it just came from the factory.
  - b. Put the charge inside, and close it to make it look the way it was.
  - c. Carry the box as is, do not put it in a bag, unless, if you have to, you have a plastic bag that can be seen through, in order to evade suspicion.
  - d. Enter the market as if you have just bought the box of laundry detergent from another place, and you need to buy a couple of other things. Here, go into a store, and pick out some other things to buy. Put your things on the



counter as if you want to count your money, then, when it is appropriate, just leave the place without raising any alarm [leaving the box with the charge on the counter].

Things to consider when hiding a charge:

1. You must be careful that the weight of the box with the charge in it is roughly the same as the weight of the box with its original contents.
2. When making the explosive, keep in mind the size of the container .
3. Be careful that the explosive cannot move around inside the container. Use cork or sponge to keep it in place inside the box.
4. Put some of the original contents of the container on top of the explosive and the sponge, in case it is just opened from the top in an inspection. For instance, leave some powdered detergent on the top.
5. Make sure the charge is positioned so that the center of gravity does not make the container heavier on one side or the other.
6. Make sure there is nothing unnatural showing on the container like a button, wire, or light.

If the charge is big, you can put it on a shopping cart, or the kind of carts that are used to deliver goods. You must make it look like the kinds of goods that are delivered to the market, and bring it at the time when other goods are delivered, and have with you the kinds of papers or notes that other delivery men have, like the bills to be signed by the vendors.

You might be able to leave the goods at the door of one of the stores and go in like you want to talk to the owner of the store, then leave the place afterwards. Then leave immediately...keeping in mind the time the explosive is set to go off.

Second: Operations inside a bus or bus station

1. If the plan is to carry out the operation within a bus, it is better that you have a hand bag or "Samsonite" [brief case or soft-type laptop bag].
2. However, if the plan is an explosion in the middle of a gathering of the enemy inside the bus station, you might bring a large explosive charge in a large travel bag. Do this only if the bus station is the kind that has buses that take travelers to faraway places. Otherwise, your large bag will draw attention. Also, it may work to put the large charge in the space under the bus reserved for luggage. That way you can get off anywhere and leave it, so that the operation does not have to be a martyrdom operation.

Take note of the following:

You may be able to use a car bomb to break into a place, like open markets, bus stops, enclosed markets. Keep in mind that you need to distribute the explosives in the vehicle in a way appropriate to the nature of the crowd you are driving into.

It might be best to put shrapnel near the open places [in the vehicle, such as by the windows], do not put it in the closed places. For the closed places, it might be best to put gallons of gasoline or gas canisters. Driving into open markets and bus stops is easier than driving into a enclosed markets, and breaking into enclosed markets requires research on an entrance through which you might be able to drive a car. You must also deceive the guard if there is one, and you can do that by pretending that you want to park the car near the entrance. So you approach slowly, and then shoot out all of the sudden at a high speed, breaking into the market. Kill as many as you can [by crashing into them], and the others will be killed in the explosions.

Third: Operations in public places such as restaurants, public squares, etc.

1. In the case that the operation is inside of a restaurant, you can put an explosive in a hand bag or a "Samsonite." If you carry a Samsonite, make sure you are dressed like someone who would carry one.
2. If the operation is inside an official place like a post office, a bank, or an official building, carry a Samsonite.

Fourth: The use of a car bomb in an operation (remote or timed).

1. Put explosives in the doors of the car, and in the front fender on both sides, or in the front bumper, and also perhaps in the back one, especially if they are made of plastic.
2. You can put a quantity of explosives into the trunk, and then put gasoline or gas canisters in with it.



3. You can load explosives into a taxi sign that goes on the roof of the car. This way, you can include shrapnel which will hit people at head-level. There is nothing to block the shrapnel but plastic, as the taxi sign is made of plastic.
4. It may benefit you to tie suitcases with explosives inside them to the roof of the car.
5. You can put boxes or crates [containing explosives] in the car near the glass, as long as the glass is tinted, and the car is a station wagon or a van.

Fifth: Targets that are appropriate for a car bomb with the use of a remote control or timer.

1. Entrances to markets
2. Exits to sports stadiums
3. Entrances and exits to colleges
4. Entrances of cinemas
5. Bus stations
6. Gathering places (protests, parties, festivals)

Make sure you do surveillance on the place and know the routes people take after the film ends, or after they come out of college, or at the end of a sporting match. Put the car out along the way that the throng travels, because if you put the car too close to these places you will attract the attention of the enemy and they will ask to inspect the car. However, if you keep a distance from the gathering place, you will not attract attention. Here, you must make sure that cars are allowed to park on the road so that the enemy will not be alerted if you park there, and that the car will not be towed because of parking violations. Blow up the car by remote control, or by timer, but only after precision surveillance to determine the time that the throng will pass the car precisely. Take note – You must pay attention to the nature of the place, and the kinds of things that are appropriate for it and for the area in general, like the way people dress, or the kinds of cars that they drive. For instance, if it is a holiday or special occasion, you might bring with you a container of sweets or a bunch of flowers or some house plants (with bombs buried in the pots, then covered with soil).

[end translation]

## **Item 2: Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades of al-Qaeda in Europe ([Group Profile](#)) claims responsibility for second wave of bombs in London on July 21 ([Terrorist Incident](#)), threatens Italy ([Country Profile](#)) and other European countries**

This is the only public claim of responsibility for the July 21, 2005 attacks. The statement translated below sounds very threatening, especially for Italy. However, Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades, named after now-dead al-Qaeda leader Mohammed Atif (Abu Hafs was his *nom de guerre*), has threatened Europe before, emptily, and has also claimed responsibility, falsely, for a number of events in which it was not involved. Among these is the blackout that hit the northeast of the United States on August 14, 2003 that was caused by an accidental power surge. The group also claimed responsibility for the Marriot Hotel bombing in Indonesia that took place on August 5, 2003 ([Terrorist Incident](#)). This attack was actually carried out by Jama'a Islamiyya ([Group Profile](#)). Another bogus claim of responsibility was the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad ([Terrorist Incident](#)) that was actually done by Ansar al-Sunna ([Group Profile](#)).

The Abu Hafs Brigades of al-Qaeda in Europe claimed responsibility also for the bombings of Turkish synagogues on November 15, 2003 ([Terrorist Incident](#)). This attack is believed to have been the work of al-Qaeda, but it was never found that these "Abu Hafs brigades" in particular carried out these – or any other -- bombings. They claimed that the July 7 London bombings ([Full Coverage](#)) were also their doing.

The group may not care if it lies sometimes, knowing there will be some in their constituency of radical Muslims who will believe them. But, for their target countries, it is a classic "boy-who-cried-wolf" dilemma. It is hard to ignore them completely because of the violence of their rhetoric and because it has not been disproved, yet, that the group did not have a hand in the London or Turkish synagogue attacks. At this point, the group is still in need



of investigation. It is possible that someone knows the frightening effect that threats signed by "al-Qaeda" can have on a populace and simply puts up such messages with no real intention of action. With that said, the statement, which appeared on July 22 on a number of Jihadist Web sites, appears below:

[begin translation]

In the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate

We love death like you love life... and we are coming.

Praise God Lord of the Two Worlds and peace and blessings upon the leader of the Mujahideen, the Imam of all of creation.

The words of the brave Mujahideen still come with action and attacks, and one attack begets another. With our attack in the heart of the infidel British capital, we send a message to all the other European governments that we will not be pacified until you have pulled all of your infidel troops out of the Land of the Two Rivers [Iraq]. This is a warning to all who take part in the enmity, lining up behind the politics of the president of the capital of terrorism, the president of the country of the Infidels, America.

And thereby do we bless these attacks, and announce that our coming attacks will make a hell for the enemies of God, and will ignite a bloody war for whomever stands to help the Infidel America in the region. The next words will go into the hearts of the European capitals that obey their masters the Americans and the British, in Rome, in Amsterdam, and in Denmark, which still has its troops in Iraq.

This message we emphasize to Rome, and to you, Berlusconi, The Italian troops' stay in Iraq is nothing but a burial ground for them that they will dig with their own hands. The soldiers of Islam will not stop. The coming days will, as we promised, contain harsh strikes in places in which you will not expect them.

You will not see anything from us but blood as long as the Italian soldiers stay in the land of the country of the two rivers. And you will learn about the way the world turns on the oppressors, so that they get what they deserve.

Praise God, Lord of the Two Worlds.  
God is greatest; glory to Him and His messenger, and to the Mujahideen.

The Abu Hafs al-Masri brigades.  
Saturday [sic], 15/6/1426 or 7/22/2005.

[End translation]

Links: Denmark ([Country Profile](#)), Iraq ([Country Profile](#))

### **Item 3: A Message from Al-Qaeda in the "Land of Rabat" [Israel, the Palestinian Territories]**

Statements such of this have appeared sporadically on the Internet in 2005, alleging the existence of a nascent al-Qaeda presence in Israel and the Palestinian territories. However, the group has not been able to establish itself in area, although "the liberation of Palestine" remains an important pet cause and the Israelis a favorite scapegoat. The group loses credibility among its constituency with its inability to do anything to attack the Israelis, so attempts to set up in the country, even though they are likely to be unsuccessful, are probable.

This statement was posted on the Jihadist forum [www.al-saf.net](http://www.al-saf.net), which is the old site "al-m2sda," renamed and recycled.



[begin translation]

O Mujahideen, the Zionist oppression of the Muslims has surpassed every limit and crossed every line. The current period is among the most dangerous to befall our Muslim brothers in the Land of Rabat [Israel/Palestinian territories]. The enemy has attacked the resistance and stopped it finally with a wretched operation that has a façade of something that it is not. This is known as the pullout plan for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This is nothing but a deceptive plot of the enemy to enlist help in a traitorous operation from the sons of the Umma. It is done under the cover of the infidel state America and the surrounding Arab countries that are collaborating to cut off the resistance in the [Gaza] Strip.

It seems that the planned withdrawal from Gaza would help the resistance. But the goal of the enemy is not this, it is rather to choke off this land and continue the occupation of what remains of the land of West Bank....

Therefore, we call upon the Islamic resistance forces in Palestine to unite to stop this operation and prepare for the confrontation with the enemy, and to not trust this enemy. We have infiltrated intelligence cells inside the land of the Zionist enemy, and this enemy harbors a hidden intention to overrun the entire Gaza Strip in a wide, barbaric operation with many goals, among them is stopping Hamas and Islamic Jihad with the help of the collaborators. We have warned our brothers in Hamas and Islamic Jihad and we benefited also from sources that we have had inside since the beginning of the cursed ceasefire that say that the occupation forces have recruited hundreds of Palestinians to support their forces and to work with them.

O Mujahideen, we will not forget you O Palestine, and we will not abandon you O al-Aqsa, for right now there are lions from al-Qaeda that are turning their eyes upon the al-Aqsa mosque. Stopping the attacks will only bring on more attacks from this enemy. Therefore we are calling upon the cells of al-Qaeda and those who are passionate about occupied Palestine to quickly direct attacks and to help the Islamic resistance forces there. We are also calling upon elements of the al-Qaeda organization to head to the land of Rabat and to work to direct attacks against this enemy, to march to al-Aqsa, and to support the Palestinian resistance in this crisis. Every hand should be extended towards the brave resistance.

We will return to you, O al-Aqsa, and God will not help the People of Zion while you are held hostage.

Things will turn on the oppressors and they will get what they deserve...

The al-Qaeda organization in the Land of Rabat  
Tanzim Qaedat al-Jihad fi Ard ar-Rabat.

Source: Direct from al-Mujahidoon site, from Abu Abdullah al-Janubi who is the leader of al-Qaeda there [in Israel/Palestinian Territories]

[end translation]

From [www.al-saf.net](http://www.al-saf.net)

## **Item 4: Abu Musaab al-Suri's training camp lecture videos posted to the Internet**

Al-Qaeda trainer Abu Musaab al-Suri (see bio: [Intel Report](#)) apparently made video tapes of a number of lectures. These have been posted to a site to be downloaded, like a virtual terrorist training camp class. Most of the lectures are not on terrorist skills or tactics, however, but on ideology and history of the Jihadist movement. However, the concept demonstrates a new way in which terrorists are using the Internet. The site is: <http://www.fsboa.com/vw/index.php?subject=4&rec=2&tit=tit&pa=0#%DD%ED%CF%ED%E6> (The videos are in a table at the bottom of the page, numbered 1-28). The link was posted on the site [www.al-saf.net](http://www.al-saf.net).



## **Item 5: Mullah Krekar of Ansar al-Islam ([Group Profile](#)) interviewed by the Arabic newspaper *Al-Quds al-Arabi***

On July 22, Mullah Krekar, the former Ansar al-Islam leader, gave an interview with the London-based newspaper *Al-Quds al-Arabi*. In it, Krekar answers questions about the Kurdish extremist group. Ansar al-Islam is believed to have been recycled into Ansar al-Sunna, the Iraqi resistance group, although some believe Ansar al-Islam elements still exist in Europe and still present a threat.

Krekar also responds to accusations leveled against him – among them that he is an Osama Bin Laden associate and served, along with Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi, as the go-between between Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein.

Krekar is now in Norway ([Country Profile](#)), where he received political asylum after being imprisoned by Iran ([Country Profile](#)) for four months in 2002. He was re-imprisoned in Norway for a short time before the US invasion of Iraq.

The interview was published on the *al-Quds al-Arabi* newspaper's Web site on July 22 and re-posted on a Jihadist Web site called "Ana Muslim lil-Hiwar al-Islami" ([www.muslm.net](http://www.muslm.net)). Excerpts below:

[begin translation]

Q: You were the leader of Ansar al-Islam, until which time, exactly?

Krekar: Until the month of May, 2002. At that time, I had to stay in Norway for a long time because of family circumstances, and also, I was arrested there just before the Iraq war. So the brothers in al-Ansar announced that they were pledging their allegiance to Abu Abdullah [al-Shafa'i], in order to excuse my absence and eliminate hope of my return. I had been arrested on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, 2002, in Iran to which I had traveled with my real visa and passport. I crossed from Kurdistan, Iraq. The Iranians tried to haggle over me, and then ended up turning me over to Holland. It was natural that the sons of Ansar al-Islam would pledge their allegiance to a new leader. This is the Sharia ruling for when a Sheikh is imprisoned, especially because, though I was detained for only four months, it could have been years, or until death.

Q: But Ansar al-Islam announced that they were no longer pledging their allegiance to you in the month of February, 2003, but you had been freed in January.

Krekar: Yes, but I was not allowed to travel and I was under heavy observation which made my returning [to Kurdistan, Iraq] impossible. Also, communication between us was cut off to the degree that I only learned that they had pledged allegiance to Abu Abdullah al-Shafa'i when I read it in the newspaper "Asharq al-Awsat," in the spring of that year.

Q: Do you believe that Ansar al-Islam was corrupted after you left it?

Krekar: I do not know. But you must understand that the group, in truth, had changed itself. It has turned today into Ansar al-Sunna, which is a group that fights the occupation in Iraq. Western intelligence circles refuse to accept this truth, and so does the media.

Q: Why?

Krekar: So that they can justify targeted people without evidence.

Q: And you are one of these people?

Krekar: Of course.



Q: You believe that Jalal Talabani was behind the crack down on you, do you think that he was initiated the war on you all [in Ansar al-Islam], which has become a bloody conflict?

Krekar: Yes, he initiated it. We tried to all gather together in an Islamist movement, which included Jund al-Islam, and which wanted to avoid conflict with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [Talabani's party], but his attacks on us forced us to defend ourselves. See, there were 18 armed groups [in Kurdistan], but we did not fight one another. These groups included the Kurdish Democratic Party of al-Barzani, and the communist and socialist parties. You have to wonder if there would have been armed conflict in Kurdistan, if it were not for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan...

Q: Why did Jordan try to accuse of smuggling drugs during the time that you were also accused of being connected to terrorist cases?

Because Jordan had made an agreement that those who were involved in drug cases could be turned over to it, so that charge was made with falsified evidence to justify turning me over to Jordan, and then they could torture me to force me to confess that there was a relationship between Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden, and that I was the go-between for them.

Q: Do you mean that America leveled accusations against you to justify their invasion of Iraq?

The Americans took their cues from Jalal Talabani. It was up to Talabani to find this suspected relationship between Saddam Hussein and Bin Laden, just like it was up to Ahmed Chalabi to make up a story about weapons of mass destruction in Saddam's possession. This was in order to find convincing justifications for the war. That was exactly what happened.

Q: But you did meet Osama Bin Laden, did you not?

Krekar: That was in 1988, and it was by accident. I did not even know who that he was Osama Bin Laden at the time.

Q: How did you not know it was Osama Bin Laden?

You have to remember that Sheikh Osama was not famous at that time like he is today. The story is that I went with three Kurdish brothers to meet a Saudi prince. We wanted to ask him to help us in our Jihad against Saddam's regime.

Q: Who was the prince?

Krekar: Believe me, I do not remember his name.

Q: So where was Bin Laden?

Krekar: He was there listening to us, sitting in silence. The meeting lasted about an hour. When we left, the brothers informed me that he was the Sheikh of the Arabs in Afghanistan, and the his name was Osama Bin Laden.

Q: Why did you not try to contact him in order to ask for assistance? It was well known that he was generous to the Mujahideen.

Krekar: I tried. I asked the Sheikh Abdullah Azzam to talk to him about it, but he answered that he only gave money to the Afghan Mujahideen.

Q: You never met him again after that?

Krekar: No, I did not meet him again after that.





Q: You were, during this time, staying in Pakistan, were you not?

Krekar: I was studying in Karachi for four years. I was working towards a doctorate in Quranic studies, and the topic [of the dissertation] was "Witness and Martyrdom in the Quran." However, I did not finish it.

Q: Why did you not participate in the Jihad against the Soviets?

Krekar: Because I was busy learning, and also, as I saw it, my priority was the Jihad against oppression in my country of Kurdistan.

Q: Your presence in Pakistan and your contact with the Afghan [Arabs] there, in addition to your ideology, which is similar to the Salafi ideology, must have made you an expert on the milieu there to some extent. In your opinion, what were the reasons that the Taliban movement was able to obtain such power in such a short time?

Krekar: It is no secret that the Taliban movement turned into a political movement with Saudi and Pakistani help, and also with American help, all though not directly. What happened was that the religiosity of some [Saudi and Pakistani] men increased, and they needed to start an Islamic initiative without being broken up or transformed, and so they needed a third country, and the Afghan people had faith and trusted them and supported them.

Q: What about Saddam? It is said that, in the latter years of his rule, he hoped to get closer to the Islamist movement. It is also said that a person named Abu Wael was working for the Baathist regime inside of your organization.

Krekar: Saddam executed many Kurdish Islamist cadres, and many others were in his prisons until the final days of his regime, even after he already had let out all of the thieves. In 1991, the Baathist regime had tried to assassinate me twice in Pakistan. How could there be a relationship between us? These two [assassination] attempts are still in the archives of intelligence bodies.

Q: So who is Abu Wael?

Krekar: Abu Wael was a member of the Shura council of Ansar al-Islam, even though he is an Arab. He was a sound, upstanding man, and I deny that there was any relationship between him and Saddam's regime. They had failed to convince anyone that I was the link between Saddam and Sheikh Osama. So they picked out Abu Wael instead. When they found this to be also unconvincing, they made Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi the go-between.

[end translation]

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