



# TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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**Graphic:** (Left) Ayman al-Zawahiri as a young man, in an Egyptian prison. (Right) Zawahiri threatened the US and Britain with terrorist attacks in a tape aired on Al-Jazeera on Thursday, August 4.



## Orientation/Introduction:

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

## **Item 1: Members of the Jihadist forum "The Jihad Cell," discuss a possible attack**

[start translation]

August 3:

[Title]: I need help carrying out an operation against Allah's enemies.

Abu Zubair: ...My brothers under God, I would like assistance from you and agreement from God, as I intend to carry out what is my religious duty. In brief, I intend to carry out an ambush using an explosive charge against a convoy of Allah's enemies that drive through our country, taking the resources of the Muslims. I want to prepare [explosive] material strong enough for this operation, and I need an explanation from someone with some experience because the matter, as you see, does not leave room for error. I have already performed surveillance on the scoundrels for almost a month in order to learn their movements. I am now ready to carry out the operation. I ask God to reward me and all of the virtuous Muslims.

I have prepared a 7.5 kilogram explosive charge made from acetone peroxide and ammonium nitrate, at a 1/1 ratio, or 50 percent and 50 percent. What are your opinions my brothers under God?

[Some of the responses:]

Abu Obaydah al-Gharib: My generous brother, the peroxide material of this amount – around 7 kilograms – is equal to only about 5 kilograms of TNT. It will be enough to work in this kind of operation if you are targeting something like a small jeep. If you want to make it larger, as ammonium nitrate is readily available, make sure to keep mixing at the 50/50 ratio – perhaps 7 kilograms of peroxide and 7 kilograms of the nitrate. Then make a detonator of 500 grams of the peroxide...this will make the mixture more destructive...

Abu Hamdan al-Salafi: I recommend that you gather together a cell so that you can have your own Jihad combat group to assist you in the Jihad. Have them carry out Jihad operations in the Arabian Peninsula every five months. Prepare with your brothers car bombs to strike their bases or their embassies or economic facilities, as these are more powerful than other targets. Do not be in a hurry, because the hand of God will be with the group. So think about it a little.

Abu Zubair [author of the post]: Peace to you. Praise God, I have a group, brother Abu Hamdan! But we have limited ourselves to a small number of individual Mujahideen for security purposes, because of the hypocrites [term for Muslims who do not support terrorism] from the intelligence services...

Abu Hamdan al-Salafi: Abu Zubair, may God keep you. Please tell us, your brothers, how to make the acetone peroxide so that we may benefit from your experience.

Abu Zubair: [provides lengthy recipe for peroxide acetone]

[end translation]

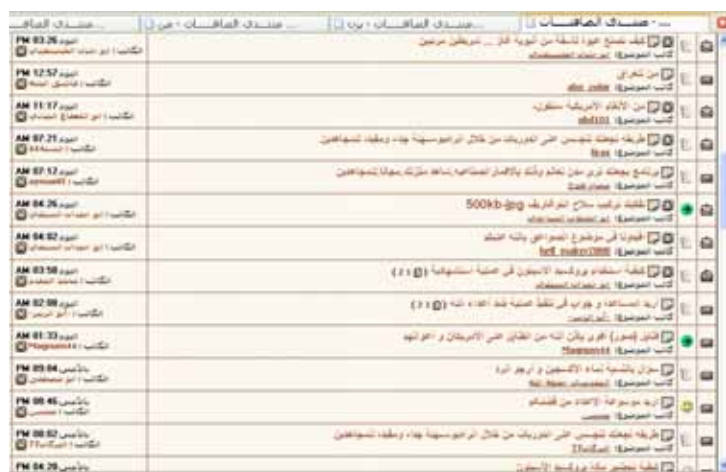
If a guess had to be ventured of where Abu Zubair is located, it would probably be the Arabian Peninsula, as Abu Hamdan suggested and was not corrected. This is also the area in which the western presence is seen to be for the purpose of "stealing resources," referring to oil. It is also one of very few places besides Iraq ([Country Profile](#)) in which convoys of American or western vehicles would be regularly traveling. Because of the anonymity of these Web sites, it is impossible to do much about this discussion. As far as Terror Web Watch is aware, there is no way to track where people are posting from through legal means.



Although it does not appear that Abu Zubair received the kind of guidance that he was looking for specifically, it is more than possible that anyone who wanted to help him could have contacted him easily using the private messaging feature available with these forums. Or, Abu Zubair could have looked back at the many different explosives recipes and tips available on this forum, called "the Jihad Cell" (See Item 2). Although the attack he seems to be planning seems small-scale and perhaps amateurish, the process is what is important here. Something like September 11 ([Terrorist Incident](#)) or the Madrid attacks ([Terrorist Incident](#)) may be well beyond his reach, but a move toward operations carried out by small, spontaneously-forming groups who can make and place small, homemade devices would also be dangerous, as such groups need no reach-back to the al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) leadership and can receive directions in explosives making and surveillance on the Internet. The proliferation of these entrepreneurial groups would be incredibly hard to guard against, as most of these men probably have little or no history in Jihadist movements and are not communicating or meeting with known al-Qaeda elements, making it easy for them to slip under the radar of different intelligence agencies. It also highlights how vulnerable western ex-pats in the Arabian Gulf truly are to these kinds of machinations.

## Item 2: Recipes like those used by the London bombers for homemade explosives available on Jihadist web forums

The revelation that the London bombers did not use military grade explosives to carry out the attacks of July 7 ([Full Coverage](#)) confirms fears that terrorists may begin using easily-obtainable chemicals to make lethal explosive devices.



It has been suggested in the investigation, although not confirmed, that the terrorists could have accessed this information over the Internet. The forum "the Jihad Cell," on the [www.al-saf.net](http://www.al-saf.net) site provides insight into the types of materials that are available online. What may be just as useful is that people can discuss attack methods with like-minded individuals, finding a community of moral support as well as technical assistance for their plans. An example appears above in Item 1, as well as in other Terror Web Watches (May 20, 2005 [Intel Report](#), June 3 [Intel Report](#), and June 10 [Intel Report](#)).

The London bombers used an explosive material using the peroxide from hair dye. Indeed, a topic

on July 23 on the "Jihadist Cell Forum" is entitled "Is hair dye a good material from which to make explosives?" A discussion on the merits and drawbacks follows by members of the forum follows. A screen shot of the forum accompanies this report.

Below is a list of the items available on the forum on August 5, 2005.

How to make an explosive charge from gasoline canisters – including two [instructional] videos.

Posted by: Abu Jundel al-Filistini

About American land mines.

Posted by: Abd101

How to spy on American patrols over the radio – very easy – used by the Mujahideen

Posted by: Firas

A program that allows you to see the cities of the world over satellite.

Posted by: Against the traitors

This is beneficial on the topic of detonators

Posted by: hell\_maker 2000



How to use acetone peroxide in suicide operations.  
Posted by: Abu Hamdan al-Salafi

How to make acetone peroxide.  
Posted by: Volcano77

The entire archives of the forum contain information on all aspects of explosive construction and placement. However, posts are of varying degrees of accuracy, detail, and sophistication. That is perhaps the reason why more people have not taken advantage of the information on these sites yet. The anonymity that makes these sites attractive also makes the postings suspect. It would be very hard for an amateur to tell whether the recipes for chemicals that a user posts are going to work at all, or, worse, if the whole mixture might explode in his face while he is preparing it (ie. either disinformation or a dearth of knowledge in explosives making). Though it is likely only a matter of time before someone acts on the advice, instructions, and recipes provided in this forum, it remains to be seen whether such a level of trust can develop among aspiring Jihadists so that they rely on information posted on these forums in preparing destructive materials.

### **Item 3: Another, chilling threat to the United Arab Emirates** **(Country Profile)**

The threat to the United Arab Emirates that was discussed in last week's Terror Web Watch ([Intel Report](#)) has been disregarded by Emirati authorities and others. The London-based paper *Asharq Alawsat* pointed out that, though the statement threatening attacks on the UAE within 10 days if it did not expel all westerners from its borders was posted on July 19, it was dated March 18, 2005. The date was in Hijra date format, which is why Bloomberg.com missed it (TWW did not obtain a copy of the original threat, as it was pulled down from the site almost immediately).

Now, a new threat against the Emirates is circulating Jihadist Web sites, explicitly dated July 30, 2005. The threat reads:

[start translation]

"...the Mujahideen who crushed the head of the American non-belief and struck them in their homeland are not unable to strike the sons of the cross and the Jewish pigs in your country. We gave you 10 days to kick the Jews and the Christians out of your country, and to break apart their establishments, seeing as your country contains 20,000 Americans and 100,000 British and other foreign [western] citizens. You did not pay attention to what we told you. You allow the American carrier the USS Kitty Hawk, to land in the Jebel Ali harbor in Dubai. A surveillance cell is there and has taken pictures and video of the American military materials that are in this port from the northeast side. We also conducted surveillance on the tourist village, Wild Oasis, and what kind of entertainment is there for the soldiers of the sons of the Cross.

You allow the American carriers the USS Harry S. Truman and the USS John F. Kennedy to move from this port to go bombard the Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan. This will not occur without punishment. You have decided that the United Arab Emirates is far from the strikes of the Mujahideen. However, we announce that the time for the battle has begun. The period of preparation has gone on for five years, which has allowed us to arm ourselves very well, with God's permission, and to prepare cells in the United Arab Emirates that have learned from the experience of the mistakes of the Mujahideen in Saudi Arabia and to obtain expertise by way of our brothers there...

We also direct a warning to our Muslim brothers in the United [Arab] Emirates to stay away from the following places so as to not hinder the work of the Mujahideen and to not be around the targets – we want to avoid targeting Muslims:

- 1) The Jebel Ali port in the area of Dubai...
- 2) Dubai International Airport
- 3) Dubai investment complex ...



[end translation]

The statement is signed, "the Military Wing – Qaidat al-Jihad in the United [Arab] Emirates and Oman ([Country Profile](#))."

## **Item 4: A complete translation of al-Qaeda's Number Two man as shown on Al-Jazeera**

Ayman al-Zawahiri appeared on al-Jazeera the morning of August 4, 2005 to direct new warnings to the governments of the United States ([Country Profile](#)) and Britain ([Country Profile](#)). Al-Qaeda's Number Two, believed to be Osama bin Laden's spiritual leader, warned of more, large attacks directed against both countries. Many believe that the tape is meant to be a "call to arms" for Mujahideen to carry out attacks against the two countries. It may be an assertion of priorities for all who wish to carry out violence in the name of al-Qaeda. The tape may serve to remind extremists what the two main targets are. This would be a realignment from the guidance provided by Osama Bin Laden in December, in which the priority appeared to be attacking the Saudi regime.

Analysts have pointed out a correlation between Zawahiri appearances and terrorist attacks. A number of times, Zawahiri's appearances have been followed within a couple weeks by a terrorist attack or attempted attack. Other analysts dismiss this pattern. However, if Zawahiri does mean for there to be a correlation between his appearances and terrorist attacks, the possibility exists that the tape was supposed to arrive at *al-Jazeera* before July 21, the date of the failed attack in London, or July 23, the date of the Sinai attacks. Whatever network is passing tapes from Zawahiri's hideout – believed to be in Afghanistan or Pakistan -- to the Al-Jazeera news headquarters in Qatar cannot be completely reliable. Further, since there is no mention of the attacks in the Sinai Peninsula and Zawahiri is himself an Egyptian that strongly suggests the tape was recorded beforehand.

Below is a complete translation of the Zawahiri clip as shown on *al-Jazeera*.

[begin translation]

To the British, I say that Blair has brought you destruction in the middle of London and, God willing, there will be more. O nations of the Crusader alliance, we proposed that you stop your hostility towards the Muslims. The lion of Islam, the Sheikh Osama Bin Laden, may God keep him, offered a hudna for you until you left the lands of Islam. Sheikh Osama bin Laden informed you that you will not dream of security until we live it in reality in Palestine and before all infidel armies leave the land of Mohammed, peace and blessing upon him. In spite of that, you spill rivers of blood in our land, and so we exploded volcanoes of anger in yours.

Our message to you is very clear: your salvation will only come when you withdraw from our land, stop stealing our oil and resources, and stop supporting the corrupt and corrupting leaders.

[clip breaks to comments from Al- Jazeera correspondent, then resumes]

The truth which Bush, Rice, and Rumsfeld hide from you is that the only way out of Iraq is immediate withdrawal. Any delay on this decision will mean only more killed and losses. If you do not leave today, then you will inevitably be leaving tomorrow, but after scores of thousands of deaths and double that number wounded. They are repeating about Iraq the same claims and lies they spoke about Vietnam. Did they not tell you that they would train the Vietnamese people so that they could run things on their own, and also that they were defending freedom in Vietnam?"

[more clips of the tape were shown on the Al-Jazeera program "Behind the News," on the evening of August 4. In them, Zawahiri says that following.]

The Secretary of State of America, who desecrates the holy Quran, came to give a lecture at the American University of Cairo about people's freedoms. But Rice came to the wrong place. Her real audience was not at the



American University of Cairo, her real audience was 500 meters to the east of AUC, at the location of the state security police, where the real soldiers for America are found. There are the soldiers who defend its interests and those of Israel in Egypt. The people who reap the greatest benefit from it [the US'] aid and those who receive training at the hands of its experts are gathered there.

[Al-Jazeera flashes back to the show, a second excerpt follows later:]

I call upon the Umma's leaders in giving opinions – the scientists, writers, intellectuals, craftsmen, merchants, and officers – to come together and discuss the ways to get rid of these corrupt and corrupting regimes that weigh upon the Umma's chest. I call upon them to begin the preparations for change no matter how much time or effort is needed. I call upon them to spread the call for change among all the peoples of the Umma, and to know that victory always has a price. A dark fate is in store for us if we do not resist [the regimes].

[More of the "Behind the News" show, followed by this]:

Our message to you is very clear: Your salvation will only come with your withdrawal from our land, stopping stealing our oil and resources and stopping your support for the corrupt and corrupting leaders. Those who collaborate with America in Iraq and Afghanistan will, God willing, feel the consequences of their treachery soon.

[end translation]

## **Item 5: A statement and video are released announcing the formation of "al-Qaeda in Palestine"**

Although statements like this have been issued before, announcing the presence of al-Qaeda in Israel ([Country Profile](#)) and the Palestinian Territories, this is the first to be accompanied with an alleged video of an operation in the Gaza Strip. The statement is entitled "The mandate of Jihad in the Land of Rabat" [Rabat a historical term that refers to the area of Israel and the Territories]. It lays out all the usual Jihadist justifications for attacking Jews in Israel. It is then signed, "The military wing of al-Qaeda – Palestine, July 29."

The video shows well-outfitted terrorists with guns reading the statement in front of black flags. It then shows them allegedly launching rockets as Jews in the Gaza Strip.

## **Item 6: Video Available**

The video of an ambush that killed six US Marines this week - five of whom were from Brook Park, Ohio and one from San Antonio, Texas – has been put on the Internet. The video showed grainy imagery of the soldiers and then footage of the body of one of the Marines. It also shows "the spoils of war" taken from the Marines – all of their gear and guns, including some sniper rifles, laid out for the camera. The video is available upon request.

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