



TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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Item 1: Full transcription of al-Qaeda (Group Profile) video regarding the 7/7 London bombings (Full Coverage) that appeared on *al-Jazeera*

Item 2: Jihadist video alleges an IED training camp in southern Sweden (Country Profile)

Item 3: The Rise of e-Jihad

Item 4: Hamas (Group Profile) shows off the training of its first all-female terrorist cell

Item 5: Hurricane Katrina appropriated by Jihadists



Graphic: Ayman al-Zawahiri appears in a video in which, according to al-Jazeera reportage, he claims responsibility for the 7/7 London attacks (Item 1).



Orientation/Introduction:

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

Item 1: Full transcription of al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) video regarding the 7/7 London bombings ([Full Coverage](#)) that appeared on *al-Jazeera*

A downloadable recording of the clip from *al-Jazeera* was made available by the administrator of the al-Ansar site, "Irhaabi 007," soon after it was aired on al-Jazeera.

[begin statement by London bomber Mohammed Siddiq Khan: in English, with some Arabic phrases and Arabic subtitles]

I'm going to keep this short and to the point because its all been said before by far more eloquent people than me. Our words have no impact upon you; therefore, I'm going to talk to you in a language you understand. Our words are dead until we give them life with our blood. I'm sure by now the media's painted a suitable picture of me. It's a predictable propaganda machine. It's natural it would try to put a spin on things to suit the government and to scare the masses to conform to their power and worth-obsessed agendas. I and thousands like me have forsaken everything for what we believe. Our drive and motivation doesn't come from tangible commodities that this world has to offer. Our religion is Islam, obedience to the one, true God, Allah. We follow the footsteps of the final Prophet and Messenger, Mohammed (upon him, Peace and Blessings). This is how our ethical stances are dictated.

Your democratically elected governments continues [sic] to perpetuate atrocities against my people all over the world. And your support makes you directly responsible, just as I am responsible for protecting and avenging my Muslim brothers and sisters. Until we feel security, you will be our targets, and until you stop the bombing, gassing, imprisonment, and torture we will not stop this fight. We are at war, and I'm a soldier, and now you too will taste the reality of this situation...

[broadcaster breaks in with commentary, then tape continues]

I myself, offer *Dawa* [supplication] to Allah, glory to him, to raise me up amongst those whom I love, like the prophets, the messengers, the martyrs, and today's heroes, like our beloved Shiekh Osama bin Laden, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, and Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi, and all of the other brothers and sisters who are fighting in Allah's cause. With this I leave you to make up your own minds, and I ask you to offer prayer to Allah Almighty to accept my and my brothers' work and let us enter into gardens of paradise.

[broadcaster breaks in, then tape resumes with Osama bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, on the screen. He speaks Arabic. At times, English subtitles are visible, but they are most often covered by al-Jazeera's Arabic commentary at the bottom of the screen]

[Zawahiri:] I am speaking to you today about the blessed London raid, which came as a slap in the face to the arrogant, Crusader British hegemony. It forced it to sip from the cup from which it has long made the Muslims drink. Like previous great raids in New York, Washington, and Madrid, this raid has moved the battle to the land of the enemy after [the enemy] has for ages moved the battle to our land and after its armies and forces occupied our land in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine and after it continued to occupy our land for ages while it remained safe on its land. Behold, O people of the Crusader alliance, at the catastrophes that the policies of Bush, Blair, and their followers have brought you, and will bring you more of, God willing. O people of the Crusader alliance, we have warned you repeatedly, but it seems that you want us to make you taste the horrors of death. So taste some of what you have made us taste.

[broadcaster breaks in to comment, recording of Zawahiri resumes]



Did the lion of Islam, Sheikh Osama bin Laden, may God keep him, not offer you a truce if you left the land of Islam? However, you demonstrated stubborn positions and pride made you commit sin. Your Foreign Minister Jack Straw said that these proposals [of the truce] were worthy of contempt. So taste the consequences of the arrogance of your governments. Blair has brought his people destruction in central London and will bring more destruction, God willing, because he continues to take his people lightly and insists on treating them like idiots incapable of understanding. He continues to tell them what took place in London has no connection to the crimes he committed in Palestine, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Nations of the Crusader alliance, Blair is not only undervaluing the Muslims' blood in Iraq, Palestine, Chechnya, and Afghanistan, but he is also undervaluing your blood because he is sending you to the inferno in Iraq and letting you face death in the heart of your country because of his Crusader war on Islam. Let Bush, Blair, and those who are under their Crusader-Zionist banner know that the proud Mujahideen of Islam have pledged to their God to fight them until victory or martyrdom.

[broadcaster breaks in to comment, then recording of Zawahiri speaking continues]

As for the scholars of beggary, who gathered in front of the British Parliament and expressed their support for Blair and attacked the martyrdom-seeking Mujahideen, I say to them: Why did you not gather in front of the British Parliament when the embargo killed a million children in Iraq? Why did you not gather in front of the British Parliament when the mosques in Afghanistan were bombarded while the worshippers were not inside? Why did you not gather in front of the British Parliament when the Zionist missiles killed Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, may God have mercy on him? Why did you not gather in front of the British Parliament when the Crusader bombers bombarded women and children in Fallujah? Why did you not gather in front of the British Parliament when America offended the holy Koran?

The scholars of beggary from the school of the head of the Church of England say that the response to the crimes committed by Bush and Blair is not to strike civilians. We tell them that treatment in kind is just. We also tell them that these civilians are the ones who pay taxes to Bush and Blair to equip their armies and assist Israel. They are also the ones who serve in their forces and security agencies, and they are the ones who elected them. Even those who did not vote for them consider them to be legitimate rulers who have the right to order them and [think that] they should obey them and [think that] they have the right to order strikes on us and the killing of our sons and daughters to launch war in their name and to kill Muslims on their behalf. They even consider the disobedience of their orders a crime punishable by law.

[broadcaster comments. Recording of Zawahiri resumes:]

We have warned over and over. We are warning, once again, that we will respond in kind to all those who took part in the aggression against Iraq, Afghanistan, and Palestine. As they caused rivers of blood to flow in our countries, we will, God willing, explode volcanoes of anger in their countries. The lands and interests of the countries that took part in the aggression against Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan are targets for us. Let anyone who wants safety remain away from these targets. He who warned is excused.

[end translation]

Links: Afghanistan ([Country Profile](#)), Iraq ([Country Profile](#)), Israel ([Country Profile](#)), Pakistan ([Country Profile](#))

Al-Jazeera has edited videos in the past, and it is possible that the footage shown was only excerpts. According to the broadcaster, in addition to the appearances by the London bomber Siddiq Khan and Ayman al-Zawahiri, the videotape included various images edited to depict a link between the London attacks and current events in a number of Islamic countries, such as Iraq, the Palestinian territories, Afghanistan, and the section of Pakistan known as Waziristan.

A graphic in the corner of the video indicated that it was put out by the al-Sahab Institute, which has been characterized as an al-Qaeda production company. It is likely based in Afghanistan, as most of its videos exhibit footage from there. The al-Sahab Institute placed English subtitles on the video, though they were often covered



up by *al-Jazeera*. Still, this firmly demonstrates the extent to which this video is meant to be a direct communication with the people of England and other western countries.

Item 2: Jihadist video alleges an IED training camp in southern Sweden ([Country Profile](#))

The opening screen in English introduces the video, which alleges to show terrorists from the Iraqi insurgent group Ansar al-Sunnah ([Group Profile](#)), testing IEDs at a camp in southern Sweden.



As the opening frame explains, the IEDs are filled with gas rather than explosive material. Here, a Jihadist with his face obscured tests an anti-personnel IED.



Two devices are tested against a vehicle. One is planted in the center of the road, the other off to one side.



Sweden is slightly larger than California in land size, but it contains only eight million people. There are large, scarcely inhabited tracts of land and forest throughout the country where, in theory, it may be possible to hide such a camp. The deciduous foliage could indicate a northern climate, although there is no evidence in the film to support the claim that the video was actually filmed in Sweden.

The group, Ansar al-Sunnah, is a dangerous part of the Iraqi insurgency and is closely linked to the al-Qaeda network ([Group Profile](#)) that is headed up by Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi and, thus far, has been confined to Iraq ([Country Profile](#)). If this video was made in northern Europe, it could foreshadow an attempt by the group to move the battle over Iraq into Europe.

It is likely that this video, with its opening screen in English, was created to be found by western governments. Its purpose seems to be to demonstrate that the Iraqi insurgency has a presence in Europe and that the group has the ability to carry out IED attacks there. The video seems designed to frighten European governments and their allies with the threat that violence could bleed out from the Iraq conflict into their countries.

Item 3: The Rise of e-Jihad

In the aftermath of 9/11 and the subsequent loss of Afghanistan as a physical sanctuary, evidence has shown that al-Qaeda has used the Internet to disseminate propaganda, wage psychological warfare, recruit operatives, raise funds, train operatives, and exercise command and control. However, recent evidence gathered online indicates that al-Qaeda and its affiliates are also focused on using the Internet as vector to attack critical infrastructure or, possibly, to attack the Internet itself.

First, the al-Farouq Web site, launched last month, contains instructions on how to use a number of hacking technologies. For example, the site contained instruction on how to acquire and use keylogging software. Keylogging software enables an attacker to monitor all the keystrokes on a compromised computer and can, therefore, gather passwords and other sensitive information. Additionally, the al-Farouq site instructed readers how to acquire and use IP Spoofing. Users of this type of software are able to fake their IP address, effectively erasing their digital fingerprint, and browse the Web anonymously. Instructions on where to acquire and how to use utilities designed to erase and corrupt data also appear on the site. There is also information on how to carry out a denial of service attack. These attacks, when effective, can knock targeted Web sites off the Internet. Finally, a member of the al-Farouq forum proposed the creation of the 'Jaish al-Hacker al-Islami', or Islamic Hackers Army, to pool resources and potentially organize coordinated and distributed cyber attacks.

Another Islamist forum contained links to download an Arabic virus making book with instructions from the author, "Aziz Asaad," for creating a virus. In essence, these instructions detailed how to write a batch file that would delete sensitive operating system files and render a machine unusable.

On the surface, these trends may seem threatening, but it is important to note two important details. The instructions provided on the al-Farouq Web site and other Jihadist message forums are freely available from hundreds of other 'hacker' oriented Web sites, in English and other languages. Therefore, interested Jihadists



have had many prior opportunities to acquire information on cyber attack methodologies. The presence of the Al-Farouq Web site merely announces the Jihadist interest in pursuing a cyber terror capability. It also is demonstrative of an increase in Arabic language hacking instructions.

More importantly, instructions on various vectors for attack are not provided, nor are details on how to seize remote control of a server. Information on how to use keylogging software is only a concern when it is coupled with information on how to install this software on a targeted machine. Assuming members of the al-Farouq forum and other al-Qaeda sympathizers do not have physical access to a targeted server, they would need to defeat network defenses surreptitiously. Moreover, instructions on how to create a virus are useless if information on how to distribute the virus is not included. The above 'book maker virus' did not appear to provide any instructions on how to proliferate the virus and, therefore, does not seem very threatening.

It, therefore, appears that al-Qaeda and its affiliates may have the will to carry out cyber attacks but not the way. The evidence gathered indicates that while al-Qaeda may have a desire to carry out cyber attacks, it does not appear that it has garnered the expertise necessary to conduct a digital assault against a critical piece of infrastructure.

However, it must be noted that the gap in capabilities required to carry out a cyber attack, specifically the ability to penetrate and seize control of a remote server, can be closed rather quickly. The arrest of Farid Essebar, an 18-year-old Moroccan and the purported author of the "Zotob" virus illustrates that individuals with expertise in remote penetration may be within al-Qaeda's sphere of influence (WAR Report). Essebar may have been plied with wares for a criminal syndicate and may have been motivated by money. It is, however, not unreasonable to expect that some of Essebar's contemporary Moroccans with similar skills may instead be motivated by religion or ideology or may have connections to al-Qaeda cells operating throughout the region.

Al-Farouq digital forensic analysis:

Registration Date	July 27, 2005
Hosting Facility	District Of Columbia Lomag Internet Services LLC
Registrant	Alraid raid alenezi alraidiah@hotmail.com +966.96655175272 Fax: +966.n/a ksa ksa alkhafji, 0000 ZA

Item 4: Hamas ([Group Profile](#)) shows off the training of its first all-female terrorist cell

This coverage was published by the Arabic-language Palestinian paper, *al-Watan Voice*, on the newspaper's Web site. (www.alwatanvoice.com). Although this is a newspaper, rather than a strict Jihadist Web site, it is still in an example of a terrorist group using the Internet to get out its propaganda and message. The story was also subsequently reposted on the Jihadist Web site Al-Saf.

The intended message here, coming from Hamas, is that they have complete societal mobilization. Although Palestinians have used female suicide bombers in the past, for this Islamist group to show publicly in such a traditional society that it is mobilizing a whole group of women for fighting is a rather startling development. It is possible that the shots accompanying the article were a show for photographers, but, nonetheless, it is clear that Hamas is trying to send a strong message about the depth of its recruitment and mobilization.

According to the article, published on August 18, the cell of women depicted in these pictures are part of Hamas' military wing: the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam brigades. They are trained to fire machine guns, to use grenades, and to



launch Hamas's Qassam missiles. They are also trained in planting IEDs, according to the unnamed author of the article. The article also says that this is the first all-female cell in the history of Hamas' military wing.

"We have one goal. Our goal is Jihad and the resistance to free the land," was the response given by an unnamed member of the cell to the question: "What goal were you trying to achieve in joining a military organization?"

"Don't you think it's better to concern yourselves with raising the next generation of believers?" asked the interviewer.

The answer: "We watch over our children and we do our housework, and we pray. But, in addition to all those affairs of our lives, at the head of them, at the pinnacle of them, is the Jihad in the way of God."

The cell member also explained that the group's purpose was not to compete with the men, but to relieve them of some of the burden of fighting. The article included pictures of the women, clad head to toe in traditional long tunics and skirts similar to those worn by other Muslim women everywhere, except these have an all-over camouflage print. The women were shown practicing launching Qassam missiles and firing machine guns. Because of the rights reserved on the alwatan.com page, TWW cannot reprint them here, but the images can be viewed at the original story link: <http://www.alwatanvoice.com/articles.php?go=articles&id=2686>

Item 5: Hurricane Katrina appropriated by Jihadists

The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina seemed to provide an enormous morale lift on the "Terror Web." The catastrophic destruction, particularly the state of the city of New Orleans, was taken as a strong signal from God that he was on the side of the Mujahideen and that he was punishing the United States ([Country Profile](#)) for their many injustices in the world. One unnamed writer on the *Al-Saf* Web site claimed that "Katrina is the newest soldier of God." On the Jihadist Web site *Al-Saha*, more than 50 pictures of the destruction were posted. Words from the Koran underlined that God had warned America of such a consequence to its actions:

"When we decide to destroy a population, we (first) send a definite order to those among them who are given the good things of this life and yet transgress; so that the word is proved true against them: then (it is) we who destroy them utterly."

Exultations of "Allahu Akbar!" were numerous on message boards, as were supplications such as "Praise He who has His soldiers in the sky as well as on the land." Rather than "Hurricane Katrina," the storm was referred to as: "the soldier, Katrina." Some pointed out that losses would exceed those of the September 11 attacks.

As early as September 30, 2005, clips of news coverage of the disaster were compiled into a propaganda video by the Islamic Media Center, an al-Qaeda affiliated mouth piece. The following picture is the opening screen of the video. It reads, "Allahu Akbar, the Strikes of the Lord of the Two Worlds. New Orleans is destroyed, burned, and sunk into the water."





In addition to rejoicing in the destruction and taking it as a clear sign of divine punishment, there were certain aspects of the disaster that received more focus than others. English language reportage on New Orleans' police participating in the looting was used to support impressions of the absolute corruption of American society and its authority figures. Also, the numbers of troops and amount of equipment being funneled to the disaster raised hopes among members of these sites that these were men and resources that were being diverted from Iraq. The economic impact of the disaster was also a point of focus. This is unsurprising, as past comments and analyses posted on these sites express the predominant view that the US will eventually be forced to leave Iraq because of the pressure put on its economy. This event was especially viewed as a positive development because of the anticipation that it would put further pressure on the American economy.

Islam as a religion, even moderate Islam, lends itself particularly well to seeing such an event as a sign from God. Islam teaches that evidence of God should be sought in the natural world, as opposed to seeking it in miracles carried out by saints and prophets. The system of nature, its order and beauty and the mathematical and scientific laws that govern it, is seen by Muslims to be a far stronger sign of the presence of God than the minor miracles of prophets, like walking on water.

Because nature is something in which to seek evidence of the divine, rather than something that men should have control or domain over, then viewing such a disaster through the lens of Islam may lend more easily to conclusions of divine wrath. While moderate Muslims may not come to this conclusion, allowing other Islamic ideas –that tragedy can be randomly written into the lives of good people – to trump this conclusion, radicals or anti-American Muslims may seize on the opportunity to see God's anger toward American policies written on this disaster. It, thus, has great power as a propaganda tool, a very strong indication for the Salafists that God is striking out at the superpower for its arrogance, in demonstrating that all of the US' power and technology is useless in the face of divine power. This is something that the extremists have been saying for years: God will punish America, no matter how strong it thinks it is. They see this disaster as vindication of that promise.

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