



TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



September 30, 2005

© Terrorism Research Center, Inc.

www.terrorism.com

Item 1: Back to beheading in Iraq (Country Profile)

Item 2: Hamas (Group Profile) ends "period of calm" following pullout with the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli man.

Item 3: Al-Qaeda in Iraq (Group Profile) spokesman disputes claim that Coalition forces have killed Zarqawi's Number Two man

Item 4: Internet documents help amateur terrorists identify items available "from the markets of Europe" that can be used in explosive making

Item 5: Videos Available: Propaganda video released on the occasion of the beginning of Ramadan, and "Sout al-Khilafa" issues second news broadcast



Graphic: Hamas shows that Israel ([Country Profile](#))'s willingness to withdrawal from Gaza will have not quell its violence. The group killed an Israeli man kidnapped this week after airing a video of the hostage, from which this screen shot was taken, on the Arabic news station *Al-Jazeera*.



Orientation/Introduction:

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

Item 1: Back to beheading in Iraq ([Country Profile](#))

A new video featuring the beheading of a hostage has been posted on the Internet today, September 30, 2005. The video, issued by the Islamic Media Center, claims to depict the beheading of an American hostage. However, there is no real evidence confirming the unidentified man's nationality presented in the grainy footage.

The beheading is performed outside, in what appears to be a semi enclosed area typical of the courtyards of traditional Arab homes. Several men crowd around the hostage, who is seated in a chair. To identify him, they show a badge with the English word "Visitor" written on it; the name is illegible. Under a photograph hung around the man's neck like a bib, words in Arabic have been written describing him as an employee of the CIA. The man seems either drugged or barely alive, and he does not respond considerably to what goes on around him, even when the terrorists appear to heat up the large knife right in front of his face that they later use to behead him. He can barely respond to their orders in English that he open his eyes.

The video is atypical of the beheading videos issued by the organizations associated with Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi – Ansar al-Sunna ([Group Profile](#)) and al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers ([Group Profile](#)). It is blurrier, less organized, and less theatrical. There is no black flag in the background, and no dramatic speech preceding the main event. The group conducting the beheading is not identified, although the video is marked by the logo of the Islamic Media Center. The inconsistencies in the format may indicate that the men are not members of either of the organizations infamous for carrying out other videotaped beheadings in Iraq; perhaps the practice is now being copied by other insurgent groups.

There are problems with the claim that the man is American. In appearance, he could be western, but there are plenty of Arabs, Persians, Turks, Kurds, or a number of other ethnicities who have a similar appearance. The evidence proffered of his nationality is some sort of visitor pass (see picture). There is no badge to get into the Green Zone or any base, and it seems odd that an American would only have "visitor" pass access to such areas on his person, if indeed that is what the badge is. There is no passport displayed, nor identification cards from his wallet (as given as proof of identity in item 2, for example). No name is provided, and the hostage does not identify himself.

However, whatever the unknown victim's nationality, the video is a grim reminder that this horrible practice is still alive and well in Iraq.



Insurgents attempt to make the semi-conscious victim show signs of life.





The name on the badge is too blurry to read.



The terrorists sentence the hostage to death, holding up a copy of the Koran.



A large, heated knife is used to carry out the beheading.

Item 2: Hamas ([Group Profile](#)) ends “period of calm” following pullout with the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli man.

The military wing of Hamas, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam brigades, has killed Israeli hostage Sasson Nuriel. It has been some time since Hamas has used such a tactic. In 16 years, Nuriel, the owner of a candy factory, is the tenth Israeli to be kidnapped and killed by Hamas. The kidnapping and slaying of the hostage was referred to as “the first rain,” a reference to an IDF operation of the same name carried out in Gaza against Hamas. The name is also used to imply that more such kidnappings or killings are to come. With this statement, Hamas also introduced a subdivision of its military wing, which it refers to as “the prisoner liberation unit,” apparently dedicated to attempt to pressure or bargain with Israel to release Palestinian hostages. The press release announcing the murder of Nuriel appears below.

[begin translation]

Military statement from the Brigades of the Martyr Izz al-Din al-Qassam

Liberating prisoners is an obligation on all Muslims, either by fighting or by ransom.

The kidnapping of the Zionist Sasson Nuriel is only "the first rain."

By the blessing of God and his agreement, the prisoner liberation unit of the Brigades of the Martyr 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam announce their responsibility for the kidnapping of a member of the Zionist Shabak [Shin Bet] apparatus, Sasson Nuriel, who was a settler in the occupied city of al-Quds [Jerusalem], and whose identity number is 053246419, and whose age has reached fifty years and eight months. The Qassam hostage-freeing unit kidnapped him on Wednesday the 17th of Sha'aban, 1426 H, corresponding with 9/21/2005, in the occupied city of al-Quds. The Qassam unit was prepared to exchange the Zionist hostage for Palestinian hostages, but the occupation forces undertook a campaign of random detainment in the cities of the West Bank, compelling our Qassam unit to kill him [Nuriel].

The Brigades of the Martyr 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam thereby declare their responsibility for Operation First Rain, to free Palestinian hostages from the prisons of the enemy. They also declare the following:

1_ We assure the masses of our people and our heroic prisoners that we are determined to free them, and that this operation is nothing but the first rain, with God's permission.

2_ We gave the enemy, during a period of calm, the opportunity to release our prisoners, but the enemy continued, arresting even more.

3_ The occupation government, headed by the war criminal Sharon, carries the responsibility for this kidnapping operation and the killing of Sasson Nuriel because it undertook to increase its arrests and violated the rights of our people in the Jebaliya camp, in Tulkaram, and in Gaza.

Finally, it is upon the Zionist enemy to prepare for long battles in which the Zionist occupier will pay a great price, with God's permission. We will not allow the Zionist usurpers, or the soldiers of the oppressive occupation [to have] security nor rest in our occupied land. We promise our heroic prisoners that we will remain fighting for them until we have achieved their freedom...

The Brigades of the Martyr Izz ad-Din al-Qassam
Tuesday, 23 Sha'aban, 1426 H.
Corresponding with 9/27/2005.

[end translation]



The above IDs were posted with the statement, and a short clip of the hostage was aired on Al-Jazeera (see graphic).



Item 3: Al-Qaeda in Iraq ([Group Profile](#)) spokesman disputes claim that Coalition forces have killed Zarqawi's Number Two man

The following was circulated on a number of Jihadist Web sites, signed by the "official" al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers spokesman, Abu Maysara al-Iraqi.

[begin translation]

...In a sad and desperate attempt, the lying face of the Crusaders and their henchmen was turned to us, when they announced, once again, what they always repeat, that someone they have arrested or killed is an important leader in the al-Qaeda organization or a deputy to Sheikh Zarqawi, or his spiritual aide, or something like that. These theatrics are meant to raise the moral of their soldiers, in order to help them out of the depression in which they have sunk under the strikes of the Mujahideen, thanks to God.

The last of these desperate statements announced the killing of the "second man" in the al-Qaeda organization in the Land of the Two Rivers. We say to them that...these are lies...and that the Mujahid Abu Azzam al-Iraqi was just one of the soldiers of al-Qaeda, and the leader of one of the active brigades in Baghdad (may God liberate her)...

[end translation]

There was no real evidence provided by the Coalition to prove that Abu Azzam was actually Zarqawi's second-in-command. There have been a couple of names mentioned in the past by the group itself as important deputies of Zarqawi, as well as video or audio recorded statements made by alleged Zarqawi lieutenants. Abu Azzam has not been one of them. However, in this statement, Abu Maysara al-Iraqi does not identify an alternative personality as al-Qaeda's Number Two in charge.

Item 4: Internet documents help amateur terrorists identify items available "from the markets of Europe" that can be used in explosive making

Two documents downloadable in a file from the "Jihadist Forum" on the al-Saf Web site describe different materials that can be purchased to make explosives. One of the documents lists a number of materials, showing in some cases where they can be purchased and pictures of the products as they appear on open markets. Some of the materials of which photos are provided are shown below. The document specifies that all items pictured are "from the markets of Europe."





This document lists a number of materials and products for which no information is provided; the idea being for others on the site who may have more knowledge of where to come by such items to help the creator of the document fill in the blanks.

The second document in the file lists a table of dual use materials said to be useful in the construction of explosives, including where they can be found on the open market. Thirty such substances are listed, along with general descriptions of where they can be purchased: pharmacies, agricultural supply stores, certain kinds of factories, or other such generically labeled establishments. The materials range from common things like Vaseline, acetone, and paraffin wax to chemicals like ammonium nitrate, sodium carbonate, and nitric acid.

Although not extremely sophisticated documents on procurement, they are yet part of the effort to bring all levels of knowledge, from procuring explosive materials to bomb placement, onto the Internet. This effort seems to have intensified over the last several months, as a number members of this site, from an apparently wide variety of backgrounds, attempt to collect information into a cache detailed enough that groups with no prior training or direct al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) connections and support could garner sufficient knowledge from Internet study to carry off their own attacks.



Item 5: Videos Available: Propaganda video released on the occasion of the beginning of Ramadan, and “Sout al-Khilafa” issues second news broadcast

A 30-minute propaganda video has been released for the occasion of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. The video features the usual montages of IED attacks in Iraq, but also a number of scenes of desert training and horse back riding by black-clad Jihadists. It ends with several scenes depicting the execution of hostages.

The second video available is the second broadcast by the new Jihadist “news channel,” Sout al-Khilafa (“Voice of the Caliphate” - [Terror Web Watch](#)). This broadcast deals exclusively with the sentencing of *al-Jazeera* correspondent Taysir Allouni by a Spanish court for terrorism-related activities. Sout al-Khilafa condemns the sentence given to Allouni. The anchorman is without his rifle at the news desk this time, and he wears only a shirt and a red-checked kuffiya scarf wrapped around his head and face.

Terrorism Research Center grants you an exclusive, non-transferable licence to use the material within this Web site for your own professional purposes only. Except under amendment to contract, you may not reproduce, republish, post, transmit, or distribute any materials from the TRC-Premium Content Web site, in whole or in part, without the prior written permission of the TRC. Specifically, permission is not granted to store any text, graphics, or images on any remote server (or any other retrieval system) for distribution of any kind. The TRC cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage resulting from any information contained in this Web site. No endorsement is intended or made of any hypertext link, product, service, or information either by its inclusion or exclusion from this site. While all attempts are made to ensure the correctness and suitability of information under our control and to correct any errors brought to our attention, no representation or guarantee can be made as to the correctness or suitability of that information or any other linked information presented, referenced, or implied. Web site users should be aware that authors of content within this site have made every effort to ensure that the information presented is accurate and reliable. The TRC reserve the right, in every case at its own discretion and for whatever reason, to amend fees, and to alter or not offer services.

Email: Premium@terrorism.com
Online: www.terrorism.com

Toll free: 1-877-635-0816
Fax: 1-703-935-2666

