



# TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



November 4, 2005

© Terrorism Research Center, Inc.

[www.terrorism.com](http://www.terrorism.com)

Item 1: Sophisticated new explosives videos said to originate with Hizbollah (Group Profile) in Lebanon (Country Profile).

Item 2: Bomb making instructional video shows how to make nitric acid

Item 3: Rise in interest in acetone peroxide in the months following the London bombings (Terrorist Incident)

Item 4: Anonymous threat forecasts attacks in Europe over the Christmas season

Item 5: Video Available: Juba, the Sniper of Baghdad



**Graphic:** New Bomb making video shows how to make Nitric Acid (Item 2). Some members of Jihadist forums are attributing a series of such videos to Hizbollah (Item 1).



**Orientation/Introduction:**

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

**Item 1: Sophisticated new explosives videos said to originate with Hizbollah ([Group Profile](#)) in Lebanon ([Country Profile](#)).**

Over the past few months, detailed instructional videos have been widely circulated on Salafi Web sites. One video takes the viewer step-by-step through the construction and testing of "an explosive of thunder," a shaped charge with ball bearing shrapnel. Another shows how to construct a homemade detonator, yet another film demonstrates how to make explosive black powder. The latest video – described in Item 2 – teaches the viewer how to manufacture nitric acid.

Pictures from "an explosive of thunder"



So far, there has been no indication as to the origin of the films. They are surprisingly devoid of the religious propagandizing or organizational self-promotion seen on almost all other Jihadist videos. They lack a group logo or seal that typically brand nearly all other Jihadist videos. These videos are also more sophisticated than the Iraqi videos in terms of production quality.



A couple of weeks ago, on the "military affairs" forum of the *Mojahedon* site, a member of the forum referred to these videos as "the Lebanese Hizbollah videos." Statements posted in response supported that other members of the forum shared the belief that the videos had originated with Hizbollah. Though not solid evidence of the origin of the videos, the attribution to Hizbollah on this forum is of interest in light of the dearth of any other evidence.

The sophistication of the videos would be consistent with a group with the resources and explosives expertise like Hizbollah – a group that not only puts out many videos, but that broadcasts its own television station and has created its own video game. Also, the lack of any group attribution on the videos is highly inconsistent with Iraqi groups, who do not miss a chance for self promotion. Though Hizbollah is also interested in self-marketing, their current operating environment could encourage restraint from attaching their name to such provocative materials – especially when these materials are ending up on Salafi Jihadist sites. The same would apply to other groups or sects in the Levant region.

Though Hizbollah's ideology of Shia empowerment is completely opposed to the Salafi ideology of radical Sunni supremacy, the Jihadists have not shown discrimination in the sources of their tactical and training information. Information attributed to non-Salafi Hamas ([Group Profile](#)) is circulated, as well as recipes for poisons that originate on English language anarchist sites.

The voice that slowly and clearly reads off instructions on the sound track speaks in Modern Standard Arabic rather than a regional dialect. However, on the latest tape, certain aspects of pronunciation and other vocal characteristics are consistent with a speaker from the Levant area.

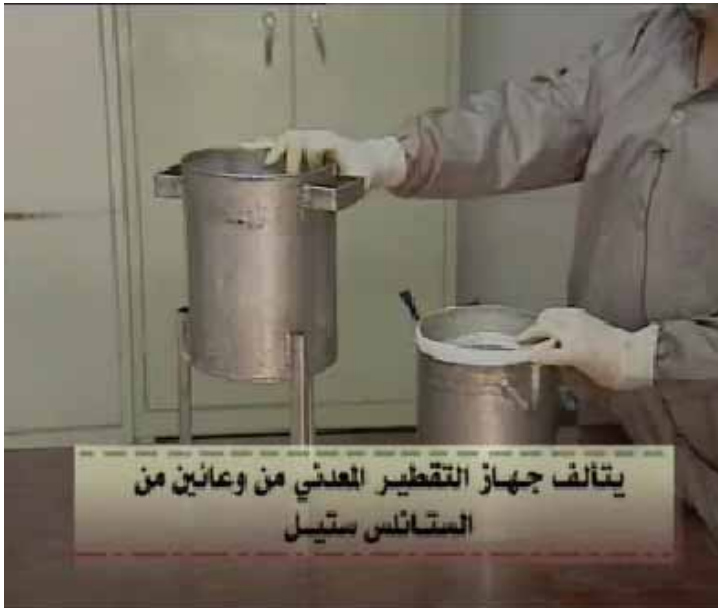
## **Item 2: Bomb making instructional video shows how to make nitric acid**

This is another video in the series described in Item 1 that includes "explosive of thunder" ([Intel Report](#)), making black powder ([Intel Report](#)), and "a homemade detonator" ([Intel Report](#)). The videos in this series represent the most advanced explosive instructional materials available on Jihadist Web sites in terms of their detail and the instructional benefit of the step-by-step video format.

This video describes in detail how to make nitric acid, a key ingredient in the manufacture of explosive substances nitroglycerin, nitrocellulose, and TNT. A man in a lab coat and gloves prepares the substance from readily available materials, describing what to ask for in a marketplace to obtain the needed chemicals. Screen shots from the video appear below.







يتألف جهاز التقطير العنقي من وعائين من  
الستانلس ستيل

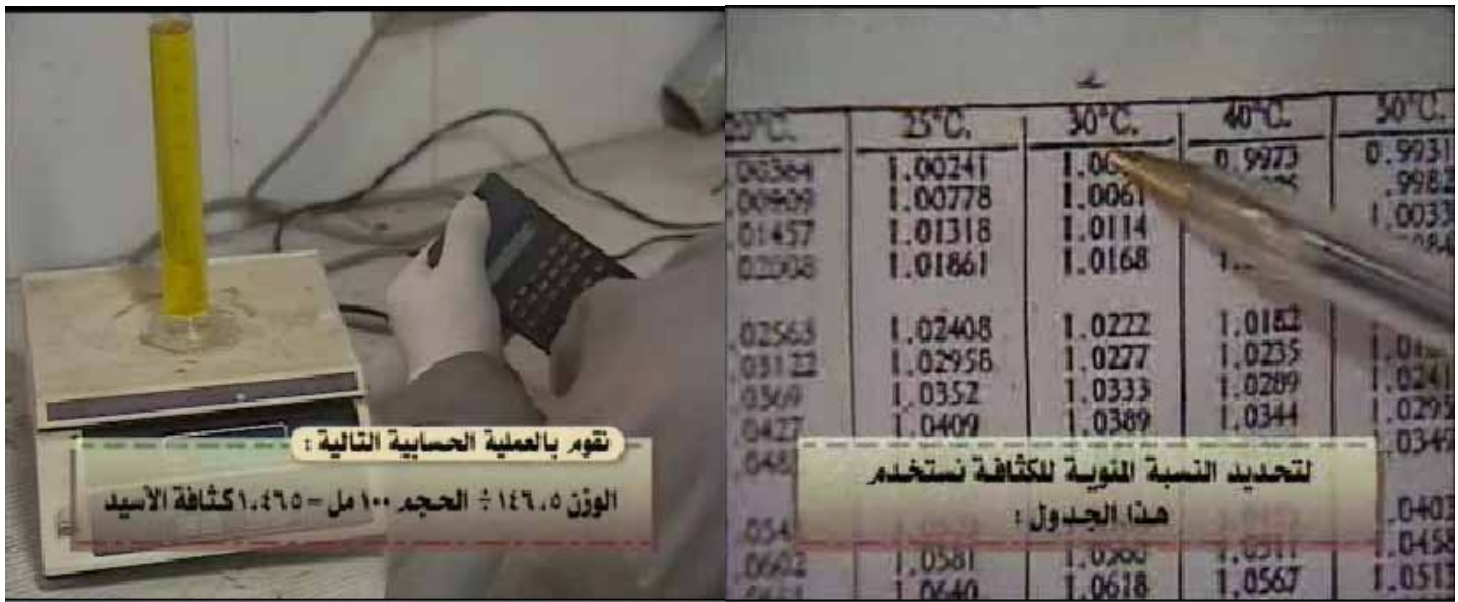


هذه النترات متوفرة بالأسواق تحت اسم  
سماد زراعي



الماء والثلج الذي يذوب تدريجياً نتيجة التسخين  
الذي يحصل في الأسفل





### **Item 3: Rise in interest in acetone peroxide in the months following the London bombings ([Terrorist Incident](#))**

The post-attack investigation of the London bombings has now shown that the July 7 bombers obtained information on how to construct explosive devices from acetone peroxide on the Internet. In the months following the bombings on 7/7, instructions in Arabic describing how to prepare the substance for an explosives operation have proliferated, including that it can be obtained from hair dye.

The matter is concerning because of the success of the London bombers' application of such instructions. However, it is yet unknown whether the Internet instructions were their sole source of bomb making education. Cell leader Mohammed Siddiq Khan may have obtained more hands-on instruction while attending a madrassa ([Intel Report](#)) in Pakistan ([Country Profile](#)). Also, different sets of instructions contain some variations, which may lead to less confidence in the manuals.

The substance has been called "the Mother of Satan" for its explosive power. Now, because of the success in the London bombings, it is now being called "the Mother of the Believer."

### **Item 4: Anonymous threat forecasts attacks in Europe over the Christmas season**

The following was posted by a member of the *Bayt al-Maqdes* forum calling himself "Saif al-Adl from Peshawar." His message was entitled: "Glad tidings coming from the land of the Christians soon, with God's permission." Italy ([Country Profile](#)) is mentioned specifically as a target for attacks. No group affiliation was offered by the writer, who claims to know of Osama bin Laden's whereabouts, condition, and future plans.

[begin translation]

To all those who say that Osama bin Laden...died in the Pakistani earthquake or was arrested or is sick – this is only part of a media war. I say to you that the Sheikh Osama bin Laden, may God grant him honor, is in good health in a safe place, and we will be seeing him soon during the Christmas holidays in the land of the Christians after the coming strike in Europe, with Italy at the lead. You will see fatal attacks from the Brigades of the Martyr, or those of Hafs al-Masri, in their homeland. Our brothers there assure us that their brigades have surface to air missiles from Chechnya, and that these missiles were going to be used last year in attacks on the airports in Britain. Also, they have obtained poisonous materials in order to make poisonous bombs, to establish that there is no security there in the land of the Christians. I say that the war will be long, God willing, and there will be good



news coming in these days, with God's cooperation. We bless our dear brothers and our beloved Sheikh Suleiman Abu Ghaith...

Your brother,  
Saif al-Adl

[end translation]

Links: United Kingdom ([Country Profile](#)), Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades ([Group Profile](#))

The posting deserves attention because it describes a specific threat. However, divulging so much information for a future attack might be an indication that there is no real threat, just a desire to frighten. Al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) and its known affiliates, with their concern for operational success necessitating planning secrecy, have never before given hints of such specificity to upcoming attack plans.

## **Item 5: Video Available: Juba, the Sniper of Baghdad**

This video claims to depict the attacks of the somewhat legendary "Juba," a name given to a sniper operating in the Baghdad area. The video was put out by the Islamic Army in Iraq ([Country Profile](#)). It shows several scenes, from the shooter's point of view, of US soldiers being sniped. These shots are interspersed with quotes from the American press and soldiers speaking in the press about Juba and the sniping incidents around Baghdad, translated into Arabic. The video is available from TRC upon request.

---

*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](mailto:Premium@terrorism.com)  
Online: [www.terrorism.com](http://www.terrorism.com)

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

