



TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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Graphic: New video featuring al-Qaeda ([Group Profile](#)) Number Two Ayman al-Zawahiri announced to be released soon



Orientation/Introduction:

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

Item 1: Upcoming Interview with Ayman al-Zawahiri announced

The *al-Firdaws* Jihadist Web site announced on November 18 that the al-Sahab Institute would soon release a new tape, featuring an interview with Ayman al-Zawahiri. The Al-Sahab Institute is the production company that has put out the most recent Zawahiri video taped speeches: two addressing the London bombings ([Terrorist Incident](#)) and one on the earthquake in Pakistan ([Country Profile](#)) ([WAR Report](#)). To back up the claim, the Web site posted a screen shot of the interview with what appears to be a not yet seen shot of Ayman al-Zawahiri. Judging by the screen shot, the video will be put out with English subtitles. The interview format is something novel; recent tapes have featured Zawahiri delivering speeches to the camera.

According to the screenshot of the title page, the interview was conducted during the Islamic month of Shaaban (September). The posting also announced that the video would be released on the *al-Firdaws* Web site. The process of announcing the upcoming video on the site and posting the film there may be designed to give *al-Firdaws* more credibility as a site that has direct connections to Jihadist groups and a first source for Jihadist media. The al-Sahab Institute posted their last video, featured in last week's [Terror Web Watch](#), on *al-Firdaws* also, making the same kind of pre-release announcement.

There has also been talk on another Jihadist forum of Osama bin Laden making an appearance. In a posting on *Tajdeed.org.uk*, a United Kingdom ([Country Profile](#))-based Web site, one member posted an announcement that he had received word that Osama bin Laden would be appearing "this month to address the Ummah." Unlike the announcement of the upcoming Zawahiri interview, however, there was no picture from the video or other such proof to support the claim. The member, who calls himself "Ayaf," is a frequent participant on the forum and has before shared information that he claims comes from contacts in Afghanistan ([Country Profile](#)).

Item 2: Algerian al-Qaeda affiliate GSPC ([Group Profile](#)) celebrates pressures on Bush to announce a timetable for Iraq ([Country Profile](#)) withdrawal

The spokesperson for GSPC, Abu Maysara al-Jiza'iri [Abu Maysara the Algerian], has posted a message on the *Al-Saf.net* Web site, celebrating "the request of Congress for Bush to establish a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq."

Although the recent Senate resolution did not include a request for a timetable, news reports covered the calls of a number of Democratic Congressman for Bush to set a specific timetable. Abu Maysara attributes the resolutions request for regular reports on Iraq to the success of the Mujahideen.

The text of the statement is as follows:

[begin translation]

Urgent News: Congress Requests Bush Set a Timetable for Withdrawal from Iraq.

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Praise God
Allahu Akbar, the enemies may be defeated
Allahu Akbar, victory may be completed
Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar

In urgent news, BBC has circulated that the American Congress has requested regular reports on operations in Iraq, and the establishment of a strategy for withdrawal from Iraq after the honorable Mujahideen have strengthened the Iraqi resistance and put pressure on [the Americans'] and cut off all of the paths to them and their helpers.



God give the Americans and their collaborators what they deserve and help the Mujahideen to victory.
God bless our Master, Mohammed, Allahu Akbar

Source: BBC

Abu Maysara al-Jiza'iri

[end translation]

Item 3: New bomb making videos in growing series show how to make mercury fulminate and PETN

A mysterious series of bomb-making instructional videos has included the following "how-to" installments so far:

Explosive of thunder: Anti-Personnel Explosive Charge ([Terror Web Watch](#))

Black Powder ([Terror Web Watch](#))

Homemade ["People's"] Detonator ([Terror Web Watch](#))

Explosive Charge from [a] Gas [Canister] ([Terror Web Watch](#))

Introduction to Explosives ([Terror Web Watch](#))

Nitric Acid ([Terror Web Watch](#))

These videos have been appearing online at a rate of about one a week over the past few weeks, and there is no group attribution. They have been referred to by a member of one Jihadist forum as "Lebanese Hizbollah" ([Group Profile](#)) tapes, but there has not been any conclusive evidence to back up that attribution. Two new tapes focus on the explosives PETN and mercury fulminate. PETN is a powerful high explosive and a key ingredient in Semtex, which was used to down the Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland ([Terrorist Incident](#)). Shoe bomber Richard Reid's shoes contained a mix of PETN and TATP ([Terrorist Incident](#)) ([source](#)). The PETN video depicts how to combine pentaerythritol, nitric acid, and acetone to make PETN that can be used, according to the video, in either a detonator or an explosive device.

Mercury fulminate is a highly sensitive explosive primarily used in blasting caps. It is so sensitive that accidents are relatively common when dealing with it ([source](#)), and as such, it is not in great use as a primary explosive, having been replaced by more stable, less toxic alternatives ([source](#)). It is, therefore, somewhat odd that it should be the topic of a video that is aimed to instruct amateurs. It may have been chosen because of the availability of the components needed to produce it.

As can be seen from the pictures, the videos are shot in a laboratory environment. Shots from PETN video:



Ingredients to make mercury fulminate listed on this screen:

Mercury,
Nitric Acid,
Ethyl Alcohol



Item 4: New book discusses Jihadist strategy

A new book of Jihadist strategy has been published online, posted on the *al-Firdaws* forum. The 415-page book, written by "Bassam Assili," lays out important cornerstones and considerations for fighting an "Islamic war." In addition to the theological guidelines governing the Jihad, the book contains the following sections on strategy:

The Art of Leadership

- The Unity of Leadership
- The Centralization of Power and Freedom of Action
- Leadership and Consultation
- Obedience and the Group
- The Muslim and Society

The Horizons of Strategy

- The [illegible] Strategy
- Launching from a Strong and Secure Base
- Showdown and the Definitive Battle
- Sea - Land Strategy

Foundations of War

- Surprise
- Initiative
- Security



Managing Provisions
Eyes (Espionage)
Reconnaissance and reconnaissance raids

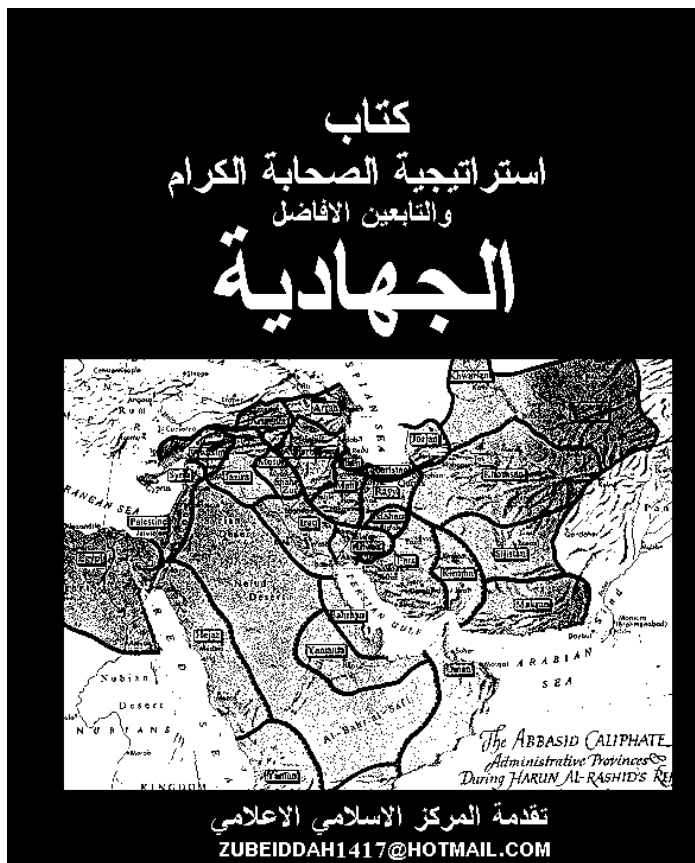
Researching the Jihad for the Sake of God
Violence in Islamic Wars
The Nationalism Question
The School of War and its Characteristics
Study of War in the School of War

Among the more unique ideas in the work is the argument that the Islamic world is in need of military schools that are more than just *madrassas* ([Intel Report](#)) but are schools for the study and development of military strategy associated with classic western military strategists. The author mentions as examples: Jomini, Clausewitz, Helmuth von Moltke, and John Frederick Charles Fuller. Assili suggests that the Jihad has its own characteristics and is, thus, in need of its own military strategists.

The idea is somewhat of a brave one and may be considered somewhat controversial. Strict Salafi Jihadists hold that all strategy that is needed to wage war can be found in the Koran and the *ahadith*, the actions and sayings of the Prophet Mohammed. The idea that men today could add something to this field may be seen by some as "bid'a," or "innovation:" adding something to religion, a concept that is considered a sin in Islam. This may be why the curriculum of madrassas and training camps has involved little more than religious indoctrination and tactical training. The idea of developing new schools specifically for the development and teaching of new military strategy is something that, as far as we know, has not yet been done. Assili suggests that: "the specifics of a

school of Islamic war would include: perseverance [a word used in Jihadist literature to describe Jihadists' willingness to stay in a fight for longer periods of time than western foes], diversity [in types of operations], resilience, geographic and demographic dimensions, and all else that would make them modern and developed schools." He also puts a great deal of emphasis on the importance of learning not only by studying the Prophet and his battles, but also from current experiences from the areas where modern Jihad is fought. He quotes Von Moltke (translated from the Arabic): "It was upon us, in preparing for war, to extract the lessons from our personal experiences, but it was also necessary to learn from the experiences of others, in order to not limit the horizon."

Another idea brought up by Assili is the need for the Mujahideen to have a sea presence. In his argument, he cites a number of examples from Islamic history in which "taking to the sea" was seen as "necessary to protect the Muslims and their lands." After examining historical case studies, he concludes, "it seems that the use of sea power, in coordination with land fighting operations, was one of the basic characteristics of the Islamic military school."



Cover depicts the Islamic Caliphate



Item 5: Video Available: Threat to the West from Indonesia **(Country Profile)**

In this video, the speakers' voices cannot be heard, and the subtitles are in Indonesian. The video appeared on the Jihadist Web site "*al-Saf-net*," on November 18, under the title of "a threat to the West from Indonesia." The video seems to address Australia ([Country Profile](#)), the United Kingdom, and the United States ([Country Profile](#)) -- these are the countries that appear in the subtitles, along with their leaders. Two Indonesian youth appear on screen before a masked man appears, pointing his finger at the camera while delivering the supposed threat.



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