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Graphic: This poster, published on an Islamist site for French Muslim women, is meant to serve as a guide for the women to recognize which "Jewish and American companies" they are to boycott when shopping.



Orientation/Introduction:

Please review the introduction to the Terror Web Watch at Intel Report.

<u>Item 1</u>: Alleged "secret soldier" of al-Qaeda (<u>Group Profile</u>) in Italy (<u>Country Profile</u>) claims he has prepared a kidnap-and-kill plot for Berlusconi, threatens other leaders

"Rakan ben Willyamz" was introduced earlier this fall in a statement as "the next al-Qaeda soldier," which introduced Rakan as representative of the newest generation of al-Qaeda terrorists, drawn from among Europe's Muslim communities. Rakan provides a model for al-Qaeda's new target population for recruitment, according to a paper written on the statement by Reuven Paz. Rakan was "born and raised in the West; has studied in its educational system; prayed in their churches; drank alcoholic beverage; ate pork, and hated Muslims. But then he secretly became a devoted Muslim, adopted the philosophy of Al-Qaeda, and now he and his alike are wandering in Europe and the United States, gathering information and planning their next attacks. 'Is the West ready for them?' asks Rakan Ben Wilyamz from Europe, who is 'thirsty for martyrdom," writes Paz (paper here).

Now, Rakan has revealed his alleged location and his plan to target Silvio Berlusconi. He also threatens Italian citizens and hints that, in a strategy mimicking the Madrid attacks (<u>Terrorist Incident</u>), attacks in Italy will come around the April 2006 elections in an effort to oust Berlusconi.

As for the credibility of the statement, it was circulated around Jihadist websites but was probably first posted on the *al-firdaws* and *al-saf.net* sites by *ilaam al-islaami*, the correspondent for the Global Islamic Media Center (GIMC) to those sites. GIMC is responsible for circulating a wide variety of propaganda, some of which may have emanated directly from al-Qaeda or associated groups. As for the credibility of the threat, however, it is highly unusual that terrorists would give such an explicit and detailed threat prior to a real operation, as revealing attack intentions could compromise operational success. It seems that the statement may be a scare tactic and propaganda to convince the readership of these sites of al-Qaeda's growing ability to attack in Europe, making the organization seem all the more organized, omnipresent, and powerful.

Though the statement begins by threatening all the leaders mentioned in the title, most of it is devoted to Berlusconi's demise:

[begin translation]

Berlusconi, John Howard, Koizumi, Blair, Bush Your slaughter is approaching, O scoundrels!

Your armies will not be effective, nor your planes, nor your weapons, nor your intelligence agencies! You will meet the monsters by yourselves. You are nothing but shoes worn by the Jews and cast off!...You believe that you are safe from punishment...but how are you safe from punishment? Do you think that the lion of al-Qaeda is blind to you?...

We will slaughter you at the appropriate time and in the appropriate place, in a manner that is appropriate....

The Tyrant (Silvio Berlusconi) The Dirty President of Italy

I may say to you that our appointment with you will begin in the coming April (Nissan)! I think that you know what we mean when we give this date! We do not lie to you when we say to you: The kidnapping plan is ready, and the place to slaughter you has been prepared. There is only one thing that remains to be set up! Do you know what that is?

It is the way that you will be slaughtered, you conceited old man!



As for me, I prefer Zarqawi's method. It will make our chests light [tr. Note: make us happy].

When the appointment arrives, I will call you to hear the following words:

O, conceited old man, you have placed your country in the mouth of the volcano because of only 2900 soldiers! Can you say that these soldiers have had any impact compared to the deaths of nearly 200,000 from America and the United Kingdom? Just for the purpose of projecting legitimacy onto the raid of Iraq, and to save the American master?

And for what benefit was your insistence that [the soldiers] stay [in Iraq], and your opposition of Romano Prodi, the leader of the center left, who said that he would withdraw Italian troops from Iraq if he were elected? Why did he announce that? Is it not evidence of the lack of desire on the part of the people to stay in Iraq? Do not go against the desire of your people, you idiot...

This insistence [to remain in Iraq] will earn you two things: Your dirty blood will spill, and the troops will be pulled out at the hand of Romano...

As for you, people of Italy, know that al-Qaeda is not hindered in striking you in the streets of Rome. [Al-Qaeda] is waiting to see what will be set off by the coming elections. If you nominate those who agree with the war in Iraq and who support it, like Silvio Berlusconi, then do not blame anyone but yourselves!...

Brigade of those thirsty for the blood of the Crusaders A Secret Soldier of al-Qaeda Rakan ben Willyamz Italy (the Vatican)

[end translation]

Links: United Kingdom (Country Profile), United States (Country Profile), Iraq (Country Profile)

<u>Item 2</u>: Statement from Abu Musaab al-Suri: "Let every sleeper cell awake now"

Abu Musaab al-Suri, a key al-Qaeda ideologue, who was recently captured in Afghanistan (Country Profile) has been suspected of involvement in attacks or attack planning in a number of European countries, including the Madrid attacks (Terrorist Incident) and the London attacks (Terrorist Incident) (For a biography of al-Suri see: Terror Web Watch). Though he has been arrested, his opinion may yet yield influence in the European network of Jihadists in which he was once a key figure.

A letter allegedly penned by al-Suri in August has been published on Jihadist websites. In it, al-Suri discusses his approval for the bombings in London, where he once lived, putting them in the context of the British government's betrayal of an agreement struck with Jihadists during the 1990s.

Al-Suri describes the situation in which he and other Islamists used to live in Britain as "living in the mouth of a wolf, not knowing when he would shut his mouth on those who were trapped inside." He describes this delicate situation developed because of understandings and informal agreements between the British authorities and the Islamists that the latter would be able to remain in Britain carrying out their activities and "enjoying British rights and freedoms" in exchange for not attacking there. This was something that the British authorities, al-Suri said, "made us understand." He also says that they wanted to "make sure that their unleashing the intelligence agencies from our countries and others upon us in Britain would not constitute a reason for us to attack." He referred to a letter sent in reply to the British authorities from "our side," agreeing to the conditions. Al-Suri described that the fragile truce struck between the terrorists and the UK government worked.

"Our activities back then were not in response to the stupidity of the policies of the conservatives in Britain at the time, and they were not because of weakness in the intelligence agencies, which interrupted many of our days. Rather, it was the opposite. Britain benefited from this truce ["hudna"], which indirectly served British interests and the peace in Britain...I believe that the Jihadists were pardoned by Britain, and they in turn let Britain know the nature of their work and its limits...Their interests in Britain required that they not target it...and so the Jihadists pardoned Britain, and al-Qaeda pardoned Britain..."

Al-Suri says that when the government of Tony Blair came in, things changed, and in 1998, he says that the government announced a "face-off" with the Islamists. By then, he was back in Afghanistan, but he claims that the London attacks were the Jihadists' response to that challenge issued by the Blair government in 1998. "Maybe people did not know about Operation 'Face-Off', but we in Afghanistan understood it. We accepted the "face-off" and began our response to it. It was delayed eight years until this past July, 2005, because of the collapsing of September upon us. We still remain in this face-off which they announced, and which we accepted."

Al-Suri also responds to allegations that he gave the "green light" for the GIA (<u>Group Profile</u>) to carry out the Paris subway attacks in 1995 (<u>Terrorist Incident</u>, <u>Terrorist Incident</u>, <u>Terrorist Incident</u>, and <u>Terrorist Incident</u>), the Madrid attacks of 2004, and the London attacks of 2005. He concedes that he urged the leader of the GIA to strike in the heart of France (<u>Country Profile</u>). He also encouraged Mujahideen to attack France now:

"I call upon every Mujahid today from among the people of Syria [Country Profile] and Lebanon [Country Profile] and the rest of the Levant and in other places to strike France and target both its homeland and its interests everywhere. It cooperates economically with what is happening in Iraq and Palestine. We will strike it for its interference in Lebanon and Syria, for the issuing of the imperialist decision 1559 which is the beginning of an occupation of Syria and Lebanon, as Iraq was occupied by way of similar decisions." Al-Suri also says France will be targeted for giving weapons to the Israelis in the occupation of Lebanon, for classifying Hamas (Group Profile) and Islamic Jihad (Group Profile) as terrorist organizations, for participating in "massacres of Muslims in Bosnia [Country Profile]," for participating in NATO, for helping to occupy Afghanistan, for "effectively" participating in the Iraq occupation, and for its ban on the hijab.

In addition to France, al-Suri also calls on "Mujahideen dispersed in Europe" to attack Britain, Italy, the Netherlands (Country Profile), and Germany (Country Profile). He also calls for attacks in Japan (Country Profile), Australia (Country Profile), and Russia (Country Profile), as well as "any country that has a military presence in Iraq, Afghanistan, or the Arabian Peninsula."

"Let every sleeper cell awake now," he says.

Al-Suri, who gained Spanish citizenship by marrying a Spanish woman, denies any involvement in the Madrid attacks, saying that he considered the majority of Spanish people to have "honorable stances with regards to Arab and Islamic causes." He wrote that he was "sorry for the victims in Spain and elsewhere who had nothing to do with the crimes of the Bush-Blair-Aznar alliance," but affirmed that "the Mujahideen have a right to target any country that participates in a war against Muslims."

He urges Spain (<u>Country Profile</u>), which "lies at a historical and geographical location close to the Arab world," to spearhead an effort within the EU to get Osama bin Laden's offering of a truce with Europe accepted.

<u>Item 3</u>: Statement from Tawhid and Jihad in Morocco (<u>Country</u> <u>Profile</u>) threatens "dirty, homosexual King" Mohammed VI

Just three weeks ago, Moroccan Tawhid and Jihad issued a statement threatening government officials in Morocco (<u>Terror Web Watch</u>). Now it has released another, longer statement, this one focused on the King. Excerpts from this newest statement by the group, dated November 24, appear below.

[begin translation]

The terrible conditions and despicableness we face have not escaped any clear-minded Muslim. The great corruption in Islamic countries that attacks their roots and hinders the way of God is also not concealed. The lying speeches, clouds of corruption, and the bullying ways of disbelief are multiplying...The imperialist infidels have sown all kinds of corruption in our country, like removing Sharia laws, putting into place infidel laws, corrupting education, and spreading prostitution, alcohol, and usury, resulting in the raising of a generation of apostates which protects the infidel colonization.

There is no doubt that this apostate group that has appointed itself the protectors of infidels is more dangerous than the infidel colonization, because this group is from our skin, they speak our language, and hide from the public their affairs. Further, being an infidel after turning away from Islam is worse than being born an infidel...

In the midst of this dark time, we want to announce that, based upon our knowledge and beliefs, we are asking God to grant us martyrdom for His sake, to reveal the path, to help in distinguishing between a friend and an enemy, and to give each what he deserves. In Morocco, as in all Islamic countries, a clan of infidel apostates rules over the people, with the oppression of thieves, criminals, and filthy people in the absence of the Sharia laws of God. Instead, they rule based on the philosophies of Jews, Crusaders, and atheists...

The leadership of Morocco and its government are the worst apostate group of this era. At the top of the list is a dirty homosexual king whose path is controlled by the infidel West. For years he has carried out their plans until he has become more Jewish than the Jews and more of a Crusader than the worshippers of the cross. This dirty criminal has declared an obvious war against Islam by banishing the Sharia and persecuting, imprisoning, and torturing those who follow it...

That dirty homosexual and his soldiers should know that there are young men in Morocco today who are seeking martyrdom like they seek to continue living. This bloodthirsty man and his peers should know that we, with the help of God, do not fear him nor those behind him. These criminals should know that we will ignite the earth beneath their feet...and they should know that we will make them taste days of sorrow in revenge for our brothers that have been murdered by the whips of those who come from their same skin...

This is our message to the Moroccan people:

...we in the Islamic group for Tawhid and Jihad in Morocco have presented blessed steps for liberating you from this corrupted bunch and returning you to your lord, and expelling these cowards who get between you and the worship of your lord...

An important note:

We have just learned while writing this statement that the Moroccan tyrant went crazy when he heard of the birth of this blessed organization and has sicced his dogs on us in a harsh campaign of arrests of people who do not have anything to do with the group. In an issue of the newspaper "al-Sabah," published on 22/11/2005, the news circulated of the arrests of 19 people accused of involvement in the Islamic group for Tawhid and Jihad...We thereby condemn this ridiculous behavior. There is no actual evidence here except evidence of the stupidity of the authorities.

And we say to the dogs of the Americans, the helpers of Bush, and the servants of Sharon:

We defy you, you pigs, to bring one shred of evidence against these people...and we call upon you, you cowards, if you really consider yourselves a counter-Islamic group, to break up this organization. Your day is nearing; await it...we will soon release the flames of our blessed Jihad and you will learn of the lions of Islam...

Abu Zubair al-Maghrebi

Amir of the Islamic Group for Tawhid and Jihad

Abu Mohammed al-Maghrebi

Media Division of the Islamic Group for Tawhid and Jihad

21 Shawwal 1426 - 11/24/2005

[end translation]

Item 4: Video Available: "Badr Baghdad"

This video is the al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers' (<u>Group Profile</u>) coverage of the suicide attacks on the Palestine and Sheraton hotels in Baghdad on October 24, 2005 (<u>Terrorist Incident</u>). The coverage depicts different stages of the attacks, including target selection, the "martyrs" wills, their drives to their targets, and the attacks. It is available from TRC upon request.

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Email: Premium@terrorism.com
Online: www.terrorism.com
Fax: 1-703-935-2666