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al-Qaeda Threat to Oil Industry
and US Allies
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Page 1 of 13 - v1.0 - 16 October 2002
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Table of Contents

<i>ASSESSMENT</i> _____	3
Note on Dual-Purpose Targeting: _____	4
Note on Afghanistan and Pakistan: _____	4
<i>ATTACKS AGAINST US ALLIES</i> _____	5
Australia _____	5
Germany _____	5
France _____	5
<i>STATEMENT FROM AL-QAEDA'S POLITICAL BUREAU – DRAFT ENGLISH</i> _	7
<i>STATEMENT FROM AL-QAEDA'S POLITICAL BUREAU – ARABIC</i> _____	10
<i>AL-QAEDA'S NEXT ATTACK WITHIN CONUS</i> _____	12
Assessment _____	12
Time Frame _____	12
Targets _____	13
Tactics _____	13

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ASSESSMENT

Attacks during the past seven months against the Germans in Tunisia; French in Pakistan and Yemen and Australians in Indonesia have illustrated al-Qaeda's current primary focus on targeting the major allies of the United States (US) in its campaign in Afghanistan. While there have been attacks against US forces in Kuwait and the Philippines, it is our opinion that the current primary focus is US allies.

On 9 Oct. 2002, Ayman al-Zawahiri said in a newly released video, "We have sent some messages to the allies of American so that they may stop their involvement in its Crusade. The mujahideen youth have issued messages to Germany and another one to France. So if this is not enough, then we are prepared to increase it by the help of Allah." This current focus does not, however, alleviate the threat against US interests either within US borders or abroad.

It is our strong opinion that long-term pre-9-11 plans for another major attack designed to match or supersede the 9-11 attack will be executed when al-Qaeda believes it is most advantageous to do so. An assessment on the most likely window for such an attack within the continental US (CONUS) is included at the end of this report.

Without addressing threats to US targets, we believe there exists a significant threat of additional attacks against the oil industry as well as US allies. Specifically:

- 1) Tankers transiting oil shipping lanes, particularly the Arabian Gulf and Horn of Africa areas, are under a high risk of attack. The threat from al-Qaeda is not limited to shipping lanes but also includes ports, loading/off-loading facilities and even support infrastructure located inland. This is emphasized in the 13 Oct. 2002 statement from al-Qaeda's Political Bureau which said, "The operation of attacking the French oil tanker is not merely an attack against a tanker - it is an attack against international oil transport lines and all its various connotations."
- 2) German, French and Australian interests both within and outside their geographical borders will remain threatened. However, we believe that an even greater risk exists to US allies not previously attacked, such as the United Kingdom (UK) and Canada. While arguments within the Islamic extremist community exist against targeting countries such as the UK, it

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cannot be presumed that this position will dominate the debate. There also exists a significant threat to Saudi and Jordanian interests.

Note on Dual-Purpose Targeting:

The three attacks against US allies have all served dual targeting interests (i.e. Germany/synagogue, France/oil, Australia/tourism). It can be expected that al-Qaeda will continue to seek dual-purpose targets whenever possible.

Note on Afghanistan and Pakistan:

Over the course of the past 10 months there has been a steady stream of al-Qaeda-affiliated attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan against US and allied interests. Due to the political environment in these two countries, those operations have been excluded from consideration in this assessment. However, the 8 May 2002 bombing operation in Karachi, Pakistan, which resulted in the death of a number of French nationals, may be considered as another significant operation against a US ally if it is concluded that the prime target was the group of French nationals, rather than the Sheraton Hotel.

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ATTACKS AGAINST US ALLIES

Australia

- Around 2330 local time on 12 Oct. 2002, two suspected car bombs detonated next to the Sari club and other nightlife establishments on Kuta Beach in Bali, Indonesia. At least 187 people were killed and at least 300 injured. The majority of the victims were Australians and other foreign nationals.

Germany

- On 11 April 2002, al-Qaeda member Nizar Sayf-al-Din crashed a fuel tanker into the Ghriba Synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia. Nineteen people were killed, including 14 German tourists.

France

- On 8 May 2002, a car bomb in Karachi, Pakistan detonated next to a bus carrying French naval engineers. Fifteen people were killed, including 11 of the French engineers. Al-Qaeda is suspected of being involved in the attack.

- On 6 Oct. 2002, a boat packed with explosives rammed into the French-owned tanker Limburg as it headed into the port of Ash Shihr at Mukallah, Yemen to bring on more oil. The crew abandoned ship at 1200 local time [0900 GMT] when they were unable to put out the ensuing fire after the blast. The ship is managed by the French Ship Management company and owned by Euronav. France Ship Managing Director Peter Raes: "A junior officer saw a craft approaching the Limburg. He was of the opinion that we touched that craft and then there was an explosion." Raes went on to say that the ship, which was built in 2000, is a double-hulled tanker that was barely moving at the time of the explosion. He said the blast/impact penetrated through both hulls and 7-8 meters into the cargo hold filled with crude oil. One member of the crew was killed. The ship lost 90,000 gallons of oil after the blast. According to a 10 Oct. 2002 report in Asharq al-Awsat, the newspaper received a statement from the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army claiming responsibility for the attack. On 14 Oct. 2002, a 4-page Arabic statement from Osama bin Laden dated 12 Oct. began circulating in jihadi circles. In the statement, bin Laden refers to the 8 Oct. attack on US Marines in Kuwait and the attack on the Limburg. He says, "We congratulate our Islamic nation for heroic and brave jihadi operations that were undertaken by its justified mujahideen sons in Yemen against the crusader oil tanker and in Kuwait against the invading forces and the American occupation. By hitting the oil tanker in Yemen, the

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mujahideen hit the secret line, the provision line and the feeding to the artery of the life of the crusader's nation. They reminded the enemies of the heaviness of the blood bill and the enormity of losses, that they will pay a high price for the continuation of their aggression on our nation and their plunder of our good and our wealth.”

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STATEMENT FROM AL-QAEDA'S POLITICAL BUREAU – DRAFT ENGLISH

(dated 13 Oct. 2002, released in wide circulation on 15 Oct.)

Translated by Aimee Ibrahim

“Statement from the al-Qaeda organization regarding the explosion of the Christian oil tanker in Yemen”

After the United States and its Christian allies had assumed that they had suppressed the hazard of the mujahideen and secured their strategic, military and commercial interests in the region and deluded themselves and their people domestically, and the world, internationally; and after giving deception and treachery to the regime in Yemen and everything was done to catch, pursue and detain the Muslim mujahid youth in Yemen; and we have experienced the passage of a complete full year since the Christian world war against the jihad of the mujahideen throughout the world, and the passage of two full years since the attack on the American destroyer, the USS Cole, in the Yemeni port of Aden.

At this time, and in Yemen specifically, close to where the destroyer exploded at Aden and at a close distance to Bab al-Mandab which is of strategic importance, the mujahideen attacked anew at a strategic Christian target. Attacking a commercial target of this size, at this time, under these circumstances, and in this way has more significance and meaning. For it means:

1) All the military, security and political, etc. efforts that America and its allies have done to protect their strategic interests in this area have been futile.

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2) The mujahideen by the grace of God, no longer have restraints on action and are capable of surprising their enemy and [carrying out] attacks that are decisive, lethal and strategic and in the appropriate time and place they determine.

If al-Qaeda were the entity that carried out that attack or if it were another of the mujahideen bases that adhere to the same ideology, thought and methodology, both assumptions are disfavorable with respect to the Americans and their Christian allies. Because, the assumption that al-Qaeda is the one that carried out the attacks means, first, that al-Qaeda remains strong, and is able to attack in the same place in which it attacked before, [translation uncertain: and all the international horrors the Americans are known for in what they call their "war on terrorism" and their unusual successes in "uprooting terrorism, its leaders, its bases and its roots" is merely (propaganda) and their deceptive words will go up in the first cloud of smoke rising from the ship.]

And if it were mujahideen other than al-Qaeda that carried out the attack, then the situation is graver because that simply means that the Qaeda that is led by Sheikh Osama bin Laden is only one base of the many bases that are prevalent in this Ummah. So America and its Christian allies should strongly heed this.

So that we don't grant a complimentary security consultation to the enemy, we won't specify which assumption is the correct one, but we leave [the enemy] to drown in all the assumptions and possibilities that have arisen in the two years without arriving at anything in the case of the attack against the destroyer, the USS Cole.

3) Likewise, the operation revealed the true danger the mujahideen pose to the strategic, commercial and military interests of the enemy.

If a boat that didn't cost US\$1,000 previously managed to ruin a destroyer worth over US\$1 billion, and its symbolic value cannot be measured, and a similar boat managed to devastate an oil tanker of that magnitude, so imagine the extent of the danger that threatens the West's commercial lifeline which is petrol. This region sits on the largest [oil] reserves, owns the largest quantities and contains [the industry's] most important passages and lanes.

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The operation of attacking the French oil tanker is not merely an attack against a tanker - it is an attack against international oil transport lines and all its various connotations.

4) And beyond the security, military and commercial significance, the attack carried a strong political message to the alliance of Washington and its enemies in their war against the Islamic nation - that they will never be far away from the hand of God's retaliation through the mujahideen.

[Additional text praises Yemenis for their bravery and courage.]

[Signed]

Political Bureau of the Organization of al-Qaeda al-Jihad

Sunday 6 Sha`ban 1423h

13 October 2002m

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STATEMENT FROM AL-QAEDA'S POLITICAL BUREAU – ARABIC

بعد أن ظنت الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية وحلفاؤها الصليبيون أنهم قد قضوا على خطر المجاهدين ، وأمنوا مصالحهم الاستراتيجية العسكرية والاقتصادية في المنطقة ، وأوهموا أنفسهم وشعوبهم في الداخل، وحلفاءهم والعالم في الخارج بذلك.

وبعد أن بذل نظام حكم الخيانة والعمالة في اليمن كل مايسنطيع وما لايسنطيع في ملاحقة ومطاردة واعتقال الشباب المسلم المجاهد في اليمن.

وتزامنا مع مرورعام كامل على الحرب العالمية الصليبية على الجهاد والمجاهدين في العالم ، ومرور حولين كاملين على تدمير المدمرة الأمريكية (يو أس أس كول) في ميناء عدن اليمنى.

في هذا الوقت بالذات ، وفي اليمن بالتحديد ، وبمقره من المكان الذي دمرت فيه المدمرة في عدن، وعلى مسافة ليست بعيدة من باب المنذب ذي الأهمية الاستراتيجية ، ضرب المجاهدون من جديد في هدف استراتيجي صليبي هو ناقلة بتروك تحمل علما فرنسيا في الشواطئ اليمنية.

وضرب هدف اقتصادي بهذا الحجم ، وفي هذا الوقت، وفي مثل هذه الظروف، وبهذه الطريقة ، له أكثر من دلالة ومعنى ؛ فهو يعني فيما يعني:

أولا: أن كل الجهود العسكرية ، والأمنية ، والسياسية وغيرها مما بذلته أمريكا وحلفاؤها لتأمين مصالحهم الاستراتيجية في المنطقة ذهبت كلها أدراج الرياح .

ثانيا: أن المجاهدين – بفضل الله – لازالوا يملكون زمام المبادرة ، والقدرة على مباغنة العدو ، وضرب مفاصله ومقاتله الاستراتيجية، وفي الزمان والمكان المناسبين اللذين يحددهما.

وسواء كانت القاعدة (القاعدة) هي التي قامت بهذه الضربة ، او كان غيرها من (قواعد المجاهدين) ، الذين ينتمون لنفس العقيدة والفكرة والمنهج، فكلنا الغرضيتين سيئة بالنسبة للأمريكيين وحلفائهم من الصليبيين، لأن فرضية أن القاعدة هي التي قامت بالهجوم تعني اول ما تعني أن القاعدة مازالت قوية، وقادرة على الضرب في نفس المكان الذي ضربت فيه من قبل، وأن كل الهالة الإعلامية التي أحاط بها الامريكان ما يسمونه (الحرب على الإرهاب) ، ونيحاحاتهم الخارقة في (استئصال الإرهاب والقضاء على رؤوسه وقواعده وجذوره) مجرد دجل إعلامي ، وتضليل كلامي تبيخر مع أول سحب الدخان المتصاعدة من السفينة .

وإذا كان غير القاعدة من المجاهدين الذين على منهجها هم من قام بالهجوم ، فالأمر اخطر، لأنه يعني بيساطة أن القاعدة التي يتزعمها الشيخ أسامة بن لادن ليس إلا قاعدة من (قواعد) عديدة منتشرة في هذه الأمة ، على امريكا وحلفائها الصليبيين أن يحسبوا لها ألف حساب.

وحتى لا نقدم استشارة أمنية مجانية للعدو ، فلن نحدد له أي الغرضيتين هي الصواب، ونتركه يفرق في كل الفرضيات والاحتمالات التي تحاصره منذ سنتين دون أن يصل إلى شيء في قضية تدمير المدمرة (يو أس أس كول) .

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ثالثا: كما كشفت العملية عن جانب من الخطر الحقيقي الذي يمثله المجاهدون للمصالح الاستراتيجية الاقتصادية والعسكرية للعدو الصليبي، فإذا كان زورق بحري لايساوي ألف دولار قد استنطاق من قبل أن يدمر مدمر قيمتها المادية فوق المليار دولار، وقيمتها المعنوية لا تقدر بمقدار، وكان زورق مماثل قد استنطاق الفئك بناقلة بتروك بهذا الحجم، فلنا أن نتصور حجم المخاطر التي تهدد عصب الحياة الاقتصادية العربية وهو البترول الذي ترفد المنطقة على أكبر احتياطاته، وتنتج أكبر كميته، وتضم أهم معابره وممراته .

إن عملية ضرب ناقله البترول الفرنسية ليست ضربة عابرة لناقلة عابرة، بل هي ضربة لخط نقل البترول الدولي بكل ما تحمل الكلمة من معنى.

رابعا: وفوق الدلالات الأمنية، والعسكرية، والاقتصادية، حملت العملية رسالة سياسية قوية لحلفاء واشنطن في حربها وعدوانها ضد الأمة الإسلامية بأنهم لن يبقوا إلى الأبد بمنأى عن يد انتقام الله ثم المجاهدين، وأن عليهم إذا تمادوا في هذا التحالف أن يستعدوا لدفع ثمن ذلك فاتورة ثقيلة من دمايتهم ومصالحهم.

وهذه رسالة حملتها عملية ناقله البترول هذه للفرنسيين، كما حملتها للألمان عملية ضرب المعبد اليهودي في تونس التي قتل فيها بضعة عشر ألمانيا يهوديا.

فعلى الذين لم يفهموا رسالة تحجب المجاهدين للبدء باستهدافهم، أن يفهموا الرسالة المقابلة، ولإزالة خط الرجعة مفتوحا لمن أراد إعادة النظر في موقفه قبل فوات الأوان.

وفي الختام:

فإننا نبارك للشعب اليمني البطل هذه العملية البطولية الرجولية التي يضيفها لرصيده المليء بالأمجاد والجهاد والاستشهاد، الزاخر بالبذل والعطاء، والتضحية والفداء؛ فقد كان أهل اليمن عبر تاريخ الإسلام أخف الناس إلى الثغور، وأسرعهم لميادين الجهاد .

وقبور شهداء اليمن المتناثرة في جبال أفغانستان، ووديان الشيشان، وقرى البوسنة وغيرها من بلاد الإسلام شاهد بهذه الحقيقة.

ونحن إذ نبارك هذه العملية، ونهنئ بها الأمة، فإننا ندعو الشباب المسلم في كل مكان للسير على هذا الطريق، والمضي في هذا الدرب، درب العزة والكرامة والشهامة، والبطولة والرجولة، والجهاد والاستشهاد "حتى لا تكون فتنة ويكون الدين كله لله". الأنفال،

والله أكبر" والله العزة ولرسوله وللمؤمنين ولكن المنافقين لا يعلمون".

(المكتب السياسي لتنظيم قاعدة الجهاد)

الأحد 6 شعبان 1423هـ

الموافق 13 أكتوبر 2002م

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AL-QAEDA'S NEXT ATTACK WITHIN CONUS

Assessment

The below assessment reflects what IntelCenter currently views as the most likely scenario for the next attack by al-Qaeda within the continental US (CONUS). The below points are by no means concrete rules that al-Qaeda will necessarily abide by and consequently need to be viewed in their appropriate context. Al-Qaeda's tactical and targeting options are numerous and varied, and security planning must therefore remain flexible.

The assessment is based on our analysis of previous al-Qaeda operations, statements and other information.

Time Frame

- 08:00 - 21:00 ET
- Monday - Friday
- August - December

Notes:

- Major al-Qaeda operations have historically occurred between August and December, and on average have been spaced apart by about one year.
- The exception for the time frame would be for attacks aimed at special events or other circumstances which would necessitate a variation, such as an attack against a military housing facility (where an evening attack would be more effective).



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Targets

- Financial institutions or targets against which a successful attack would have a perceived financial impact
- Government facilities, especially those with a high-profile or those serving a critical function

Notes:

- The most likely targets will be those that allow for flexibility in attack execution. One-time events or events for which there is a small window of opportunity are less likely to be hit than targets that can be hit any day of the week with equal effect.

Tactics

- Piloted vehicular assault like the 9-11 operation (may utilize planes, boats, trucks or other vehicles)
- Large vehicular bombing

Notes:

- There is a high probability that either tactic will involve multiple, simultaneous attacks against geographically-separated targets.
- If al-Qaeda has successfully obtained chemical or biological weapons, a dirty device or a nuclear weapon, there is a high probability it will attempt to use it.

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Page 13 of 13 - v1.0 - 16 October 2002
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