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Morocco Casablanca Bombings (MCB)

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NOTE:

THIS IS A DYNAMIC WORKING DOCUMENT AND SUBJECT TO FREQUENT CHANGE. IT IS BASED ON CURRENT INTELLIGENCE. NOT ALL INFORMATION HAS BEEN VERIFIED.

Questions or comments can be directed to Ben Venzke at bvenzke@intelcenter.com or bvenzke@leo.gov.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

- High likelihood of being a direct al-Qaeda operation or one executed by a local affiliate
- Targeting of US allies is consistent with al-Qaeda operations conducted during the fall of 2002 and earlier that year.
- Suicide bombings consistent with the manner in which al-Qaeda would conduct such an operation

BOMBING SUMMARY DETAILS

- At least 41 people were killed and about 100 injured, 10 suicide bombers were killed
 - One suicide bomber was injured but survived and is in custody
 - All sites were in downtown Casablanca
- ^a Devices detonated within 30 minutes of 2200 local time on 16 May 2003
- Three suspects of Moroccan nationality have been arrested in connection with the attacks

BOMBING – RESTAURANT NEAR BELGIAN CONSULATE

- Within 30 minutes of 2200 local time on 16 May 2003 two suicide bombers attempted to enter an Italian restaurant, whose owner is apparently Jewish, near the Belgian Consulate in downtown Casablanca. The two were denied entry and detonated their explosives in the street.
- A number of people were killed and injured.
- Two policemen outside the Belgian Consulate were killed, a security guard was hospitalized

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- The Belgian Consulate was damaged in the blast
- The blast caused a power cut in the surrounding neighborhood.

BOMBING –FARAH MAGHREB HOTEL (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS SAFIR HOTEL)

- At around 2130 local time on 16 May 2003 a man carrying or wearing an explosive device detonated it at the Farah Maghreb Hotel on Royal Army St. in downtown Casablanca. When the suicide bomber was stopped by a security guard, he stabbed the security guard to death and then proceeded into the hotel.
- The first suicide bomber was killed
- A second suicide bombers device did not detonate and he was captured by Moroccan security forces.
- At least eight killed and many injured

BOMBING – CASA D'ESPANGNE (SOCIAL CLUB AND RESTAURANT)

- Within 30 minutes of 2200 local time on 16 May three suicide bombers rushed the door and detonated their explosives in Casa D'Espangne on Lafayette St. in downtown Casablanca
- Casa D'Espangne is a Spanish social club and restaurant
- Around 20 people were killed

BOMBING – ISRAELI ALLIANCE CIRCLE CLUB

- Within 30 minutes of 2200 local time on 16 May a car bomb (may have been suicide bomber(s)) detonated at the Cercle de l'Alliance Israelite.
- The club was closed at the time of the attack.
- Three people were killed including two suicide bombers

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BOMBING – JEWISH CEMETARY

- Within 30 minutes of 2200 local time on 16 May a suicide bomber attempted to detonate a device at a Jewish cemetery but was chased away by a crowd and detonated his device some distance from the cemetery.

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