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al-Qaeda Targeting Guidance – v1.0  
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

New targeting guidance for al-Qaeda members and jihadis around the world focused on urban targets. The three primary target classes identified are religious, economic and human targets. Future attacks against these targets by al-Qaeda and affiliates can be expected.

**BACKGROUND/CONTEXT**

Around 29 March 2004, al-Qaeda released new targeting guidance to its members and other jihadis around the world. The guidance appears in a 9-page article called "The Targets Inside the Cities". The article is in the 7th issue of al-Qaeda's training publication, "Camp al-Battar Magazine". The article was written by Abdul Aziz al-Moqrin, who has taken over as the leader of al-Qaeda operations in Saudi Arabia and possibly the Gulf.

The targeting guidance serves as an indicator of where al-Qaeda is focusing its attention. Future attacks both in the Middle East and elsewhere around the world can be expected along these lines.

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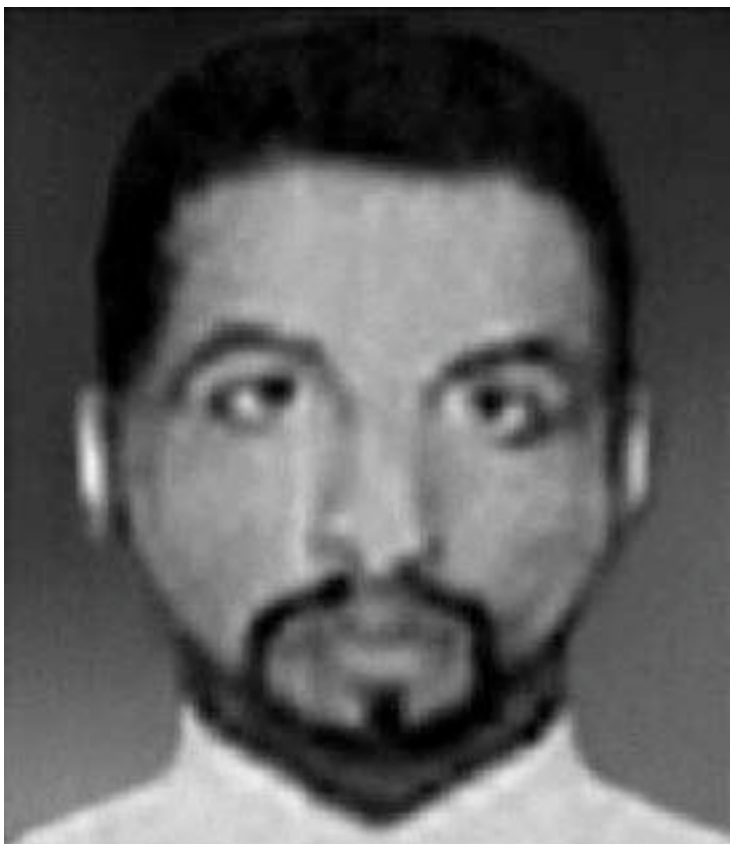
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## ABDUL AZIZ AL-MOQRIN



- Abu Hajir Abdul Aziz al-Moqrin is the new leader of al-Qaeda operations in Saudi Arabia and possibly the region.
- His first major appearance was in al-Qaeda's "Badr al-Riyadh" video, which was released on 4 Feb. 2004. The cover page still is from that video. In the video he is identified as an al-Qaeda field commander.
- Believed to be the mastermind behind the November 2003 bombing of the al-Muhaya housing compound in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- He is on Saudi Arabia's most wanted list.

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## CAMP AL-BATTAR MAGAZINE



- Al-Qaeda training publication written for its members and other jihadis around the world. Contains information on everything from small arms skills, physical fitness, targeting, tactics and secure communications.
- Seven issues have been released to date. The cover pictured above is from the 7<sup>th</sup> issue which contains “The Targets Inside Cities” by Abdul Aziz al-Moqrin.
- Issues typically run between 30-40 pages.

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## **“THE TARGETS INSIDE CITIES” – ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

### **Preface**

Targets inside the cities are considered a sort of military diplomacy. Normally, this kind of diplomacy is written with blood and decorated with body parts and the smell of guns. It carries a political meaning that relates to the nature of the faith's struggle. The intent is to send messages to different directions. Therefore, it is very important to choose accurate targets (similar to al-Qaeda explosions). One of the good examples is what four heroic brothers did with their successful choice of target. (Khaled al-Saeed, Riyadh al-Hajeri, Abdul Aziz al-Muthem, Moslih al-Shamrani). God bless their souls. Their choice for the target was well chosen as it was a building used by the CIA. This operation was the beginning and was a wake up call that awakened our young fighters and opened the eyes of the nation for the presence of the Zio-crusaders presence on the land of Mohammad.

The operation in Eastern Riyadh in the year 1424 H [2003] had a big meaning and a message to the enemy that you cannot hide. We attacked Vinnell Corp in the year 1416 H [1995] and again in 1424 H [2003]. “Our message is clear. The enemy will never have peace in the land of Mohammad.”

Also, the operation that targeted al-Muhaya compound (used for intelligence) that was performed by our brothers Ali al-Maabidi and Nasser al-Sayari “God Bless their souls” means that military operations are diplomatic messages mixed with blood, body parts and decorated with guns and bullets.

### **Types of Targets Inside Cities**

#### **First: Faith Targets**

At the beginning of any Jihad military operation, it is not advisable to target religious places unless it is used for:

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1. Missionaries in Islamic countries, where they try to convert Muslims to Christians such as what happened in Yemen and as what is going on in Iraq as well as what was going on in the land of the two Holy Mosques (Saudi Arabia) where they were distributing bibles to homes. In this case hunting those people is good and we know who they are.
2. Covert intelligence operations. Any Muslim religious scholar who cooperates with the enemy. Targeting those is glorified and makes them as symbols for God's anger.
3. Reverends, priests, rabbis and any religious personality that attack Islam or Muslims such as an American reverend that cursed the prophet, we hope to God that we will get his neck. Also as what Mr. Sayed Nosair did when he killed Rabbi Kahana who cursed the prophet.
4. Any (Jewish or Christian) personality that provides financial, military, or moral support against Muslims as with what happened with the crusades in the past.

## **Second: Economic Targets**

The purpose of these targets is to destabilize the situation and not allow the economic recovery such as hitting oil wells and pipelines that will scare foreign companies from working there and stealing Muslim treasures. Another purpose is to have foreign investment withdrawn from local markets. Some of the benefits of those operations are the effect it has on the economic powers like the one that had happened recently in Madrid where the whole European economy was affected. Such attacks have dual economic effects on the crusaders, Jewish and renegade Islamic countries.

These are practical examples:

1. Targeting of Jewish and crusader's investments in the Muslim lands.
2. Targeting international companies.
3. Targeting international economic consultants and experts.
4. Targeting investments coming from enemy countries using either military methods such as the blowing up of American restaurants (franchises) or using political means such as boycotts.

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5. Targeting stolen natural resources from the Muslim lands such as the attack on the French oil tanker and Iraqi pipelines. The leadership should decide the selection of such economic targets because it can choose the right time.
6. Assassinating Jewish businessmen and teach lessons to those who cooperate with them, but after you warn them. You only assassinate those who have been proven to deal with them.

## Third: Human Targets

We have to target Jews and Christians. We have to let anybody that fights God, his prophet or the believers know that we will be killing them. There should be no limits and no geographical borders. We have to turn the land of the infidels into hell as they have done to the land of the Muslims. Therefore, all the cells all over the world should not look to geographic borders but should try to make the infidel countries theaters of operations and get them busy with that and themselves. They have made the Muslim lands, experiment fields for their weapons and inventions, we must turn their places into hell and destruction and the sons of the Islamic nation are capable of that.

The primary targets should be Jews and Christians who have important status in the Islamic countries. The purpose is not to allow them to settle in the lands of the Muslims. Our advice is to start with unprotected soft targets and the individuals from countries that support the local renegades.

For example, In the Holy Land (Saudi Arabia), the primary target should be Americans, then the British. In Iraq, the Americans first, in Afghanistan, the Americans first, and in Algiers, the French and in Indonesia the Australians and so on.

The importance of the targets should be as follows:

1. Jews: They are at different levels. American and Israeli Jews first, the British Jews and then French Jews and so on.
2. Christians: Their importance is as follows:
  - Americans

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- British
- Spanish
- Australians
- Canadians
- Italians

These groups are divided according to their importance:

- Businessmen, bankers, and economists, because money is very important in this age.
- Diplomats, politicians, scholars, analysts, and diplomatic missions.
- Scientists, associates and experts.
- Military commanders and soldiers.
- Tourists and entertainment missions and anybody that was warned by mujahideen not to go or step in the lands of Moslems.

2. Renegades: Their importance is as follows:

- Anybody close to the Jewish and Christian governments such as Hosni Mubarak (Egypt's President) and the rulers of the Arabian Peninsula and their consultants.
- Seculars and those who spread evil between the believers and those who mock the faith.
- Intelligence agents and detectives. These are the protectors of Jewish and Christian tourists and they are used as the quelling instruments for the rulers.

## **The Purpose for Human Targets**

1. To stress the struggle of the faiths. Targeting Jews and Christians is a proof that it is a religious struggle.
2. To show who the main enemy is.

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3. To get rid of the renegades and to purify the land and to use them as examples for others.
4. To spread fear in enemy lines. This is a requirement from God as a Holy Koran says, "Verse from the Koran".
5. To lift the morale of the Islamic nation.
6. To destroy the image and stature of the targeted government. America's nose was smeared in the soil after the attacks on New York and Washington.
7. To obstruct political projects for the infidels and the renegades. Italy decided not to send soldiers to Iraq after exploding Italians in Baghdad as well as the promise made by opponents of the Spanish Prime Minister to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq because of the Madrid explosions.
8. Punishment for killing Muslims. God says, "Punish them in the same way they punished you."

## **Advantages of Operations Against Cities**

1. To lift the morale of the nation and mujahideen and lower rather destroy the morale of the enemy.
2. Having targets and operations inside the cities proves the truthfulness of the group. People can see it and will not allow the news media to fool them.
3. To punish the ruling government and put limits to its power.
4. To show the meaning of "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his messenger." And to achieve the belief in one God.
5. To have those governments and its main figures lose their popular support.
6. To effect the economies of these countries.
7. To help mujahedeen to gain experience and qualifications to lead their nations later on.
8. Study and analyze mistakes to be avoided in future operations.
9. To prepare the nation and group's members for future battles that the prophet spoke about.
10. To gain support every time there is a successful operation and to increase their popularity.
11. To force governments to change their policies.

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12. To shake the confidence of the governments and have the military establishment turn against the political establishment or have political parties fight each other. The more infighting, the less people trust their government.

## **Disadvantages of Operations Against Cities**

1. The killing of the mujahideen and their leaders when such operations are discovered.
2. Big material and human losses.
3. Low morale of mujahideen if operations fail. Good leaders should always keep morale high no matter what happens.
4. It gives government an excuse for actions against innocent citizens
5. It can lift the morale of the government and its supporters if they win against mujahideen in any battle.
6. The arrest of some of the group's members may help the enemy learn some of the operations' secrets.
7. Loss of confidence of the people or even group's members if they have several failed operations.

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