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Global Jihad Monitor

September 28-October 4, 2005

The Big Picture

- Suicide bombers struck Bali, killing 26. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- Bangladesh made multiple arrests of wanted Islamic terrorists, and a new round of bomb attacks killed two and wounded ten. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- Hamas members clashed with Palestinian security officials after fairing poorly in the third round of municipal elections. [\[Full Story\]](#)

Regional Briefs

North America

U.S. Car Theft Rings Probed for Ties to Iraq Bombings ([Boston Globe](#)) - The FBI's counterterrorism unit has launched a broad investigation of US-based theft rings after discovering that some of the vehicles used in deadly car bombings in Iraq, including attacks that killed US troops and Iraqi civilians, were probably stolen in the United States, according to senior government officials.

Grand Jury Indicts Two N.Y. Mosque Leaders ([AP](#)) - A federal grand jury has handed up new indictments charging two leaders of an Albany area mosque with conspiring to support terrorists, the U.S. Attorney said Thursday (9/29). The superseding indictment returned Thursday also charges Yassin Aref and Mohammed Hossain with attempting to provide support to Jaish-e-Mohammed, an Islamic extremist group based in Pakistan that is on the State Department's list of designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Middle East

Israel Launches Air Strikes, Rounds Up Hamas Candidates ([AP](#)) - Israeli aircraft unleashed a barrage of missiles early Wednesday (9/28) and fired artillery into the Gaza Strip for the first time, expanding an offensive despite a pledge by Islamic militants to halt their recent rocket attacks against Israel.

Israeli Soldiers Kill Three Militants ([AP](#)) - Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian gunmen in arrest raids in the West Bank early Thursday (9/29). Palestinians identified the men as Islamic Jihad and al-Aksa Martyrs' Brigades militants.

Palestinian Militants Killed in Shootout ([AP](#)) - Israeli troops killed two Palestinian militants in a shootout Friday (9/30), while Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement made an unexpectedly strong showing against rival Hamas in local elections in dozens of West Bank towns and villages.

Terrorist Sentenced to Life for Killing 7-year-old ([Jerusalem Post](#)) - An Israeli military court on Sunday (10/2) sentenced Mohammed Mustafa Dara , 23, of Kakilya, to life plus an additional 10 years for his involvement in the murder of seven-year-old Noam Leibovitch on June 17, 2003. Noam was traveling with her parents along the Trans-Israel highway when Palestinian gunmen opened fire, killing her and wounding several other family members.

Palestinian Police Break Into Parliament ([AP](#)) - More than three dozen Palestinian police officers broke into the parliament building in Gaza City on Monday (10/3), firing in the air to protest a lack of bullets and equipment in what they said was a humiliating confrontation with Hamas. On Sunday, Hamas gunmen attacked a local police station with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. The deputy police chief of the Shati refugee camp was killed in the fighting, along with two civilians, and at least 50 people were wounded.

Hamas Claims Election Results Distorted ([AP](#)) - Hamas accused the Palestinian Election Committee on Saturday (10/1) of distorting the results of a round of municipal voting to make it appear that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party - which came out ahead -- had swept the poll.

Alleged Resort Town Bomber Dies in Gunfight ([AP](#)) - Egyptian police shot and killed one of the alleged leaders of the July terrorist attacks in Sharm el-Sheik during a gunfight Wednesday (9/28) in a mountainous area in the Sinai desert. Moussa Mohammed Salem Badran was shot after he opened fire on police ordering him to surrender, the Interior Ministry said.

Al-Qaeda "News Bulletin" on Jailed Journalist ([AKI \(Italy\)](#)) - Al-Qaeda has put out a special edition of its new weekly 'news program', which aired for the first time last week, dedicated to the jailing of Al Jazeera journalist Taysir Allouni. The program, called Sout al-Khalifa [Voice of the Caliphate], was broadcast over the Internet on Wednesday (9/28) night, two days after a Madrid court sentenced Syrian-born Allouni to seven years in prison for 'collaboration with a terrorist organization'.

Second Edition of Al-Qaeda News Bulletin Airs ([Ham/AKI \(Italy\)](#)) - The second edition of 'Sout al Khalifa', or Voice of the Caliphate, the 'news bulletin' produced by al-Qaeda mouthpiece the Global Islamic Media Front, has been broadcast on the Internet (10/4). The latest programme, which lasts around 19 minutes, opens with news from Palestine, and dedicates lengthy coverage to the kidnapping and killing of Sasson Nuriel, the Israeli businessman seized by a cell of the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

FBI Joins Probe of Latest Lebanon Bombing ([AP](#)) - FBI agents on Wednesday (9/28) joined the investigation into the latest of a spate of explosions in Lebanon, a move certain to unnerve Syria as it comes under stepped-up U.S. pressure to stay out of its neighbor's business.

Iraq

Female Suicide Bomber Kills 8 Others; 57 Are Hurt ([New York Times](#)) - A woman walked up to the gate of a new army and police recruitment center in Tal Afar on Wednesday (9/28) and blew herself up, killing 8 people in addition to herself and wounding 57. Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack in a posting on a Web site.

Car Bombs in Iraq Kill More Than 110 ([Reuters](#)) - Car bombs killed more than 110 people, 25 of them children, in a surge of violence in Iraq ahead of an October 15 referendum on a new constitution. One of the four car bombs ripped through a crowded market in the southern town of Hilla killing at least 12 people and wounding 47 on Friday (9/30). In the mainly Shi'ite town of Balad, north of Baghdad, the death toll from three huge car bombs on Thursday rose to 98 on Friday, hospital director Kassim Aboud said.

U.S. Military Says Little Evidence Marines Seized ([Reuters](#)) - The U.S. military said on Sunday (10/2) there was no indication to suggest that two Marines had been seized by militants in western Iraq, as earlier claimed by a militant group, but said checks were being made.

U.S. Steps Up Campaign on Syrian Border ([AP](#)) - A U.S. offensive aimed at al-Qaeda insurgents in western Iraq entered its third day Monday (10/3), with airstrikes in a town on the banks of the Euphrates River, witnesses said. At least 36 militants have died since the fighting began, officials said. No serious U.S. casualties have been reported in the "Iron Fist" offensive by 1,000 Marines, soldiers and sailors near the Syrian border.

U.S. Troops Mount New Big Attack on Qaeda in Iraq ([Reuters](#)) - U.S. Marines on Tuesday (10/4) launched their biggest offensive this year against al Qaeda guerrillas in western Iraq, the military saying 2,500 troops attacked militants around Haditha..

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Suicide Bomber on Motorbike Kills 9 ([New York Times](#)) - A suicide bomber on a motorbike drove into a convoy of Afghan soldiers boarding minibuses outside their training base on the edge of Kabul on Wednesday (9/28) afternoon and detonated his explosives, killing 9 people in addition to himself and wounding 28.

Afghan Bomb Wounds 4 U.S. Troops ([CNN](#)) - A roadside bomb wounded four U.S. service members near Asadabad in northeastern Afghanistan, the Coalition Press Information Center in Kabul said. The four were taken to Bagram Airfield near Kabul on Friday (9/30) where they were said to be in a stable condition.

Afghan Forces Kill 31 Suspected Militants ([AP](#)) - Afghan government forces killed 31 suspected Taliban militants near the eastern border with Pakistan, the Defense Ministry said Monday (10/3). Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammed Zaher Azimi said no U.S.-led coalition forces took part.

Pakistan Arrests "Major Wanted" Sunni Militant ([Reuters](#)) - Pakistani security forces have arrested a notorious Sunni Muslim militant accused of involvement in a series of attacks on minority Shi'ite Muslims, intelligence officials said on Wednesday (9/28).

Five Killed in Ambush on Troubled Pakistani Border ([Reuters](#)) - Gunmen killed four Pakistani paramilitary troops and a government official on Thursday (9/29) in a restive tribal region infested with al-Qaeda-linked militants, district officials said. The five men were traveling in a car when the unidentified attackers ambushed them on the outskirts of Wana, the main town in the South Waziristan tribal region, near the Afghan border.

Militants Attack Checkpoint in Pakistan ([AP](#)) - Suspected Islamic militants attacked a roadside security post in a northwestern tribal region of Pakistan with rockets and firearms, but soldiers repelled the assault, killing six militants, officials said Monday (10/3).

Four Sentenced to Death in Musharraf Life Attempt ([Reuters](#)) - A Pakistani military court on Tuesday (10/4) sentenced four men to death and two others to life in jail for involvement in an al Qaeda-inspired assassination attempt on President Pervez Musharraf in 2003. Musharraf, a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terrorism, narrowly escaped an attempt on December 14, 2003, to kill him when a bomb blew up a bridge in the garrison city of Rawalpindi minutes after his motorcade passed it.

Europe

Fresh Arrests in France and Britain ([AKI \(Italy\)](#)) - After the arrests of four suspected terrorists in swoops by armed police in northern France last week, French police arrest four more suspects on Monday (10/3) in a town 100 kilometres south of the capital, Paris, two of whom are French converts to Islam aged 25-30. Also on Monday, British anti-terror police detained five foreign nationals who are now facing deportations for "reasons of national security".

Al-Qaeda Group in Norway ([Aftenposten \(Norway\)](#)) - The Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group (GICM), linked to terrorist attacks in Madrid and Casablanca, has active members in Norway according to Italian intelligence sources. Sources at the Italian defense intelligence organization SISMI have warned that volunteers fighting against American-led forces in Iraq are returning to Italy to carry out attacks, and that investigation indicates active links with comrade cells throughout Europe.

Five Held in UK as Security Threat ([CNN](#)) - Five foreign nationals are facing expulsion from Britain after they were held in new detentions of people believed to be a threat to national security. The five -- all men -- were held Monday (10/3) under Home Secretary Charles Clarke's powers to deport individuals whose presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good.

Asia

Bali Police Seek Bomb Clues ([CBS/AP](#)) - Police have recovered pellets, batteries, cables and detonators from the bombs that blew up three restaurants on the Indonesian

resort island, officials said Tuesday (10/4). Investigators also found shreds of a black bag, scraps of jeans and two wallets, all believed to be used by the bombers, while their severed heads were found up to 20 yards from the scene. Tracking down the masterminds hinges on identifying the attackers, said Maj. Gen. I Made Mangku Pastika, the Bali police chief, who made another urgent public appeal for help.

Suicide Attacks Kill 26 in Bali ([AP](#)) - Police raised the alert level for Indonesia's capital and the president warned of more attacks Sunday (10/2) as a chilling video shot the day before showed a suspected bomber clutching a backpack and strolling past diners moments before one of three suicide bombings killed 26 people on Bali. The near-simultaneous bombings on the resort island also injured 101 people, including six Americans. The attacks apparently were planned by Southeast Asia's two most-wanted men, who are believed to be connected to an al-Qaeda-linked group, said Maj. Gen. Ansyad Mbai, a top Indonesian anti-terror official.

Bangladesh Police Arrest More Bomb Suspects ([Reuters](#)) - Bangladesh police arrested 10 more suspects in the hunt for militants involved in last month's serial bombings and confiscated assets of the leader of a banned Islamist group Wednesday (9/28).

Bangladeshis Rejoice Over Arrest of Militant Chief ([Reuters](#)) - Bangladeshis applauded police on Monday (10/3) for what appeared to be their first big breakthrough in a crackdown on Islamic militancy with the weekend arrest of a man long hunted as one of the country's top terrorists. Security officials said Mufti Abdul Hannan, accused of leading the Bangladesh chapter of the Islamist militant group Harkatul Jihad, was among the "top terrorists" they had been seeking for years.

Bombs Explode in Bangladesh Courts, at Least Two Killed ([Reuters](#)) - Simultaneous bomb explosions rocked three Bangladesh towns on Monday (10/3), killing at least two people and wounding 10, less than two months after hundreds of blasts went off across the country on a single day. Local reporters said suspects detained following the blasts admitted they were members of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, a banned Islamic militant group blamed for August's attacks.

Africa

Algerian Voters OK Plan to End Islamic Insurgency ([AP](#)) - Algerians overwhelmingly approved a peace plan that provides a broad amnesty for Islamic extremists but which critics denounced as a whitewash of crimes committed during a bloody internal war, official referendum results showed Friday (9/30).

Algerian Rebels Kill Three Civilians ([Reuters](#)) - Algerian Islamic militants have killed three civilians only days after a peace offer to end a long-running conflict was approved in a referendum, national newspapers reported on Sunday (10/2). But in a positive sign for the army, 10 armed members of the al-Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching

and Combat (GSPC) surrendered in Khemis Meliana on Thursday evening, some 100 km (60 miles) west of the capital Algiers.

This report was compiled by Jonathan L. Snow, Manager of Research at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies.