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Global Jihad Monitor

October 19-25, 2005

The Big Picture

- Al-Qaeda in Iraq attacked two Baghdad hotels housing foreign journalists, killing at least 17 people. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- Israel killed the head of Islamic Jihad's military wing in the West Bank. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- 10 people were killed in Algeria by the al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat. [\[Full Story\]](#)

Regional Briefs

North America

Judge Allows Statement by al-Qaeda Suspect ([Washington Post](#)) - A federal judge Monday (10/24) refused to throw out statements made by a Northern Virginia terrorism suspect who said he was tortured in a Saudi prison, meaning that Ahmed Omar Abu Ali will go on trial on charges of plotting to kill President Bush. Abu Ali's statements to his Saudi jailers, in which he admitted being part of an al-Qaeda plot, are central to the government's case.

Top Suspect in Drug Ring Is Extradited to the U.S. ([New York Times](#)) - An Afghan identified as one of the world's most wanted drug kingpins, who has been linked to the Taliban and once boasted that selling heroin to Americans was a form of jihad, has been extradited from Afghanistan to face drug smuggling and other charges, federal officials in New York announced Monday (10/24). Baz Mohammad is accused of using drug profits to support terrorism and the Taliban.

Dutch Prisoner Gave Tunnel Terror Tip ([CNN](#)) - The informant who told U.S. authorities about the purported plan to set off explosives in a Baltimore Harbor tunnel is a prisoner in the Netherlands, two federal officials confirmed to CNN on Wednesday (10/19). Authorities said the investigation into the terror tip continues, but that no plot has been uncovered.

Man Sentenced in Tennessee Alleged Terror Plot ([AP](#)) - A man who threatened "jihad" in Nashville was sentenced in federal court Monday (10/24) to nearly five years in prison for weapons charges. Ahmed Hassan al-Uqaily pleaded guilty to buying weapons and ammunition during a 2004 sting operation prompted by a tip the former Iraqi wanted to acquire weapons.

Middle East

Palestinians Rule Out al-Qaeda Presence in Gaza ([Reuters](#)) - The Palestinian Authority rejected on Thursday (10/20) a report from Israeli intelligence that foreign Islamists suspected of links to al-Qaeda had slipped into the Gaza Strip after Israel withdrew last month. Israel's military intelligence chief said that around 10 "global jihad operatives" entered Gaza during chaos at the border with Egypt following Israel's troop pullout to end 38 years of military rule. The border was later sealed.

Hamas Accuses Bush of Sowing Palestinian Discord ([Reuters](#)) - Hamas accused U.S. President George W. Bush on Thursday (10/20) of trying to bring war among Palestinians for urging President Mahmoud Abbas to confront and dismantle armed factions. Bush made the call after a meeting with Abbas at the White House to try to advance a long-stalled "road map" for peace with Israel following last month's Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Israel Bows to Pressure on Hamas Question ([AP](#)) - Israel has dropped its campaign to ban the violent Islamic Hamas from Palestinian parliamentary elections, a senior official said Sunday (10/23), acknowledging defeat after U.S. President George W. Bush pointedly skipped repeating the demand in a public appearance with the Palestinian leader last week.

Qureia Announces Plan to Disarm al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades ([AP](#)) - The Palestinians plan to begin disarming the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades in the coming weeks by setting up training camps and incorporating its members into the Palestinian security forces, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia announced Sunday (10/23). The disarmament plan does not affect Hamas, which has thousands of gunmen and has rejected Abbas' calls to lay down its weapons.

Two Palestinians Dead After West Bank Operation ([Canadian Press](#)) - Two Palestinian militants were killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli soldiers early Monday (10/24), and one of the dead was tentatively identified as the leader of the Islamic Jihad military wing in the West Bank. Islamic Jihad has carried out a series of attacks on Israelis during the ceasefire, including two suicide bombings that killed a total of 10 Israelis.

Jordan Jails 5 Islamists for Plot to Attack Tourists ([Reuters](#)) - Jordan jailed five Islamic militants on Sunday (10/23) for between three and five years each for plotting an attack on Israeli tourists in the Arab kingdom. The court found them guilty of "conspiring to carry out terrorist acts and plotting to perform illegal actions that could have jeopardized the kingdom's ties with foreign countries."

Saudi Arabia Arrests Terror Suspects ([AKI \(Italy\)](#)) - A thirteen-year-old boy was among 13 terror suspects arrested by the Saudi security forces in a residential area of the capital Riyadh. The men in the group are believed to be members of al-Qaeda. Saudi newspaper *al-Watan* said it was the first time a group mainly composed of young suspects under the age of 16 had been arrested.

Saudi Most-Wanted-List Terrorist Arrested ([UPI](#)) - Saudi authorities captured one of 36 most-wanted terrorists suspected of involvement in bombing attacks that rocked the kingdom. The daily *al-Yom* Monday (10/24) quoted interior ministry spokesman Mansour Turki as saying police seized the suspected terrorist Saturday in the Nazim neighborhood in eastern Riyadh after he left a mosque.

Iraq

26 Iraqis and 5 G.I.'s Killed ([New York Times](#)) - At least 26 Iraqis, 5 American soldiers and a British soldier were killed in attacks late Tuesday and Wednesday, officials reported Wednesday (10/19).

Al-Qaeda Admits Top Operative Abu Azzam "Martyred" ([Reuters](#)) - Al-Qaeda in Iraq conceded on Thursday (10/20) that senior operative Abu Azzam had been "martyred" almost a month after U.S. forces said they had killed him in Baghdad, according to an Internet audio statement.

U.S. Reports Killing 20 Iraq Insurgents ([AP](#)) - U.S. soldiers and warplanes killed 20 insurgents and destroyed five "safe houses" Saturday (10/22) during an operation against militants who shelter foreign fighters for al-Qaeda in Iraq near the Syrian border, the military said.

At Least 17 Iraqis Killed ([New York Times](#)) - A bomb exploded Sunday (10/23) in a residential neighborhood in the city of Tikrit, killing an Iraqi police colonel and four children on their way to school, a police official reported. It was the deadliest attack in a day of scattered violence around the country that killed at least 17 people and wounded at least 31.

Sniper Picks Off Deadly Bomber ([Herald Sun \(Australia\)](#)) - A US sniper shot the driver of a cement truck packed with explosives before it was able to destroy the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad, but the driver was still able to detonate the bomb, which killed at least 17 and injured 40. "The soldier had a clear line of vision to the truck, and he engaged it," US military spokesman Lt-Col Robert Whetstone said. "That's the reason the truck never made it to the hotel."

Al-Qaeda Claims Responsibility for Iraq Hotel Bombings ([AP](#)) - Al-Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility on Tuesday (10/25) for triple suicide bombings of Baghdad hotels that killed 17 people. Monday's bombings targeted central Baghdad's Palestine and Sheraton hotels, which house Western journalists and contractors.

Suicide Blasts Rock Iraq ([AP](#)) - A suicide car bomb exploded near a regional government ministry in a predominantly Kurdish province of Sulaimaniyah on Tuesday (10/25), killing at least nine people and wounding four, a security official said. It was one of two suicide attacks by insurgents on Tuesday in the generally peaceful province 160 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Iraq Terrorist Financier Held ([AFP](#)) - Iraqi officials on Tuesday (10/25) announced the arrest of what they called the "main terrorist financier" in the restive city of Fallujah.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Taliban Step Up Afghan Bombings and Suicide Attacks ([New York Times](#)) - Violence in southern Afghanistan has escalated in the last month as militants are increasingly taking a page from the insurgent playbook in Iraq and using more roadside bombs and suicide attacks, senior Afghan and American officials said Thursday (10/20).

Six Afghan Civilians Die in Attack Near Capital ([Reuters](#)) - Guerrillas in Afghanistan ambushed a U.S. military convoy with rocket-propelled grenades and six people traveling in a car nearby were killed, a government spokesman said on Tuesday (10/25).

Pakistan Terror Group Control Quake Relief ([UPI](#)) - Indian intelligence alerted the federal government saying terrorist outfits have taken over relief efforts in quake-affected areas of Pakistan held Kashmir. The country's secret agency, Indian Intelligence Bureau, said the dreaded terror group Lashkar-e-Toiba tops among the organizations controlling relief operations.

Europe

Suicide Bombers Held in Bosnia ([BBC](#)) - Security has been stepped up at embassies and foreign agencies in Bosnia following the arrest of two men accused of planning a suicide attack. One of them is said to have recorded a video reciting Islamic prayers which may have been intended to be found following his death. A third man, a Bosnian, was also arrested under anti-terrorism laws but is being held at separate facilities.

Terror Suspects Granted Bail in Britain ([AP](#)) - A British tribunal granted bail Thursday (10/20) to four Algerian terrorist suspects facing extradition, a ruling that was condemned by a government official who said the men represent a threat to national security. Five other suspects had their bail applications turned down. The only one of those five identified was Abu Qatada, a Jordanian cleric once described by a Spanish judge as Osama bin Laden's "spiritual ambassador in Europe."

Three Men Held in U.K. Terror Probe ([CNN](#)) - Three men in their early 20s were arrested in Britain in connection with an ongoing investigation into "suspected international terrorism," police said Saturday (10/22). The investigation is "separate" from the probe into the London bombings in July, police said.

British Police Arrest Suspect in Bombings ([AP](#)) - British police said Sunday (10/23) they arrested a suspect in connection with the July 7 bombings after a man reportedly told a newspaper he had been asked to join the suicide attackers who carried out the blasts.

Security Services Filmed London Bomber ([Reuters](#)) - Intelligence officials secretly filmed one of the four bombers who killed 52 people on London's transport network in

July the year before the attack, the BBC reported on Tuesday (10/25). Mohammed Sidique Khan, 30, featured in a 2004 surveillance operation speaking to a British-based terrorism suspect, according to the report, which cited a single, unnamed "well-placed source".

Asia

Islamists Threaten More Attacks in Bangladesh ([Reuters](#)) - Islamist militants, from the outlawed Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen group, blamed for a wave of bomb attacks across Bangladesh over the past two months, have threatened more attacks on government sites in the next fortnight, a government official said on Monday (10/24).

Manila Peace Deal Would 'Weaken Islamic Extremists' ([Financial Times \(U.K.\)](#)) - The U.S. believes a final peace deal between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Philippines' biggest Muslim separatist army, will help weaken Islamic extremists using the southern island of Mindanao as a regional base, Henry Crumpton, the US State Department's coordinator for counter-terrorism, told a news conference at the end of a tour of the region.

Indonesia Police Baffled in Bali Blast Probe ([Reuters](#)) - Indonesia's police chief in Bali on Tuesday (10/25) expressed frustration at the lack of progress finding those behind triple suicide bombings on the resort island this month that killed 20 people. Made Mangku Pastika, who led the successful investigation of the 2002 Bali nightclub attacks, said national distribution of leaflets showing the decapitated heads of the three bombers as well as electronically enhanced pictures had yielded little.

Seven Convicted in 2000 Attack at New Delhi's Red Fort ([AP](#)) - A Pakistani national and six Indians were convicted on Monday (10/24) of a 2000 attack at the 17th century Red Fort in India's capital that killed two soldiers and a civilian. Pakistani Mohammed Arif, who police said is a member of the outlawed Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, was found guilty of waging war against India - a crime punishable with a death sentence, *Press Trust of India* reported.

Africa

Islamic Rebels Kill 10 People in Algeria ([Reuters](#)) - Algerian Islamic militants have killed 10 people, including four soldiers, as violence rises during the holy month of Ramadan, newspapers said on Wednesday (10/19).

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