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Global Jihad Monitor

November 2-8, 2005

The Big Picture

- Days after Prime Minister Howard warned of an imminent terrorist threat, Australian authorities arrested seventeen suspects believed to be plotting a catastrophic attack. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- Canadian counter-terrorism officials broke up a terrorist cell in Toronto that included an explosives expert trained at an al-Qaeda camp. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- Moroccan Islamic scholars declared al-Qaeda members to be “aggressor apostates” after the kidnapping of two Moroccans in Iraq. [\[Full Story\]](#)

Regional Briefs

North America

CIA Holds Captives in Secret Prisons Abroad: Report ([Reuters](#)) - The CIA has been hiding and interrogating al-Qaeda captives at a secret facility in Eastern Europe, part of a covert global prison system that has included sites in eight countries and was set up after the September 11, 2001, attacks, *The Washington Post* reported on Wednesday (11/2).

Army Translator Suspected of Helping al-Qaeda ([AP](#)) - An Arabic translator for the Army may have secretly helped Iraqi insurgents by taking classified documents home from Iraq to Brooklyn, where he made a series of calls to numbers linked to the insurgency, a federal prosecutor said Monday (11/7).

Five al-Qaeda Suspects to Face Military Tribunals ([AP](#)) - Five suspected al-Qaeda terrorists, including one accused of killing a U.S. Special Forces medic, are the latest Guantanamo Bay detainees headed for the kind of military trials that now face a Supreme Court review. The high court agreed Monday (11/7) to consider a constitutional challenge to military trials for foreign terror suspects.

Prosecutor: Al-Arian 'Crime Boss' for Palestinian Islamic Jihad ([AP](#)) - A fired college professor acted as a "crime boss" for Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a murderous gang that operated like the Mafia, a federal prosecutor told a jury Monday (11/7). Although Sami Al-Arian and three co-defendants are not charged with killing anyone, they conspired to bring about attacks and are just as guilty under the law as the homicide bombers who carried them out, prosecutor Cherie Krigsman said in closing arguments.

Canadian Terror Cell Busted ([National Post \(Canada\)](#)) - Canadian counter- terrorism investigators have dismantled a suspected terrorist cell in Toronto whose members included an al-Qaeda-trained explosives expert, the *National Post* reported Thursday (11/3). The cell consisted of four Algerian refugee claimants who had lived in Canada for as long as six years and were alleged members of a radical Islamic terror faction called the Salafist Group for Call and Combat.

Middle East

Kuwait Appeal Court Jails Guantanamo Returnee ([Reuters](#)) - A Kuwaiti appeals court has sentenced a former Guantanamo Bay detainee to five years in prison for crimes committed before his arrest by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, judicial sources said on Wednesday (11/2). Nasser al-Mutairi was found guilty of "participating in hostile activities against a friendly country" -- a reference to the United States -- and "weapons and ammunitions training and possession, and hurting Kuwait's political position".

Palestinian Gunmen Kill Israeli Soldier ([Reuters](#)) - Palestinian gunmen shot dead an Israeli soldier on a raid in the West Bank on Wednesday (11/2).

Hamas Sets Conditions for Renewing Truce ([Reuters](#)) – Hamas will only renew a truce that expires at the end of the year if Israel halts attacks and frees Palestinian prisoners, a leader of the most powerful Palestinian faction said on Thursday (11/3).

Hamas Eyes New Host Country ([AKI \(Italy\)](#)) - Hamas has reportedly asked Egypt and Jordan if either would be prepared to host the organization's headquarters, Tel-Aviv based daily *Haaretz* reported on Friday (11/4). Hamas fears that Syria - where it and rival Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad's political leadership are currently based - may force the groups to leave, in an effort to ease international pressure on Damascus.

Iraq

Baghdad Attacks Kill 11, US Airstrikes Target al-Qaeda ([Reuters](#)) - Eleven Iraqis were killed in three separate attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday (11/2) and U.S. airstrikes destroyed three houses the military said were used by al-Qaeda militants in western Iraq near the Syrian border.

Vehicle Bomb Kills 20 South of Baghdad ([CNN](#)) - A suicide vehicle bomb exploded Wednesday (11/2) outside a Shiite mosque and shopping area in Babil province, south of the Iraqi capital, killing 20 people and wounding 60, a police official said.

Al-Qaeda Claim Iraq Helicopter Crash ([Reuters](#)) - The al-Qaeda group in Iraq said on Thursday (11/3) it shot down a U.S. helicopter in Ramadi on Wednesday, according to an Internet statement. Two U.S. Marines were killed when their Super Cobra helicopter crashed around Ramadi west of Baghdad on Wednesday, the U.S. military said.

Al-Qaeda Renews Threat Against Envoys in Iraq ([Reuters](#)) - Al-Qaeda's military wing in Iraq renewed its threat to kill foreign envoys in Baghdad on Friday (11/4), a day after it said it would kill two Moroccan embassy hostages.

9 Iraqi Police Killed In Checkpoint Attack ([Washington Post](#)) - Nine Iraqi police officers were killed Friday (11/4) in a mortar-and-gun attack by insurgents at a checkpoint north of Baghdad, and at least a dozen people died in violence elsewhere in the country.

Four U.S. Soldiers Die in Iraq Checkpoint Suicide Bombing ([New York Times](#)) - A suicide bomber plowed a car loaded with explosives into a U.S. checkpoint Monday (11/7) evening, killing four GIs in the deadliest suicide bombing against a U.S. target in more than four months.

Marine Killed in Iraq Offensive ([AP](#)) - U.S. and Iraqi troops battled insurgents house-to-house on Monday (11/7), the third day of an assault against al-Qaeda-led insurgents in a town near the Syrian border. The U.S. command reported the first American death in the operation.

U.S. Marines Kill Five Insurgents in Iraq ([AP](#)) - U.S. Marines killed five insurgents and captured 10 others in a city west of Baghdad as American forces there stepped up their campaign to suppress deadly roadside bombs, the U.S. military said Tuesday (11/8).

Another Lawyer in Hussein's Trial Is Slain ([AP](#)) - Three gunmen in a speeding car killed a lawyer for a co-defendant in Saddam Hussein's trial and wounded another Tuesday (11/8) in Baghdad, a member of the defense team and police said. It was the second assassination of a Saddam defense team lawyer in less than a month.

Iraq al-Qaeda Posts Video of 'Downed' U.S. Helicopter ([Reuters](#)) - Al-Qaeda in Iraq on Tuesday (11/8) posted an Internet video apparently showing the bodies of two U.S. Marines killed in a military helicopter which the group said it had shot down.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Pakistan Kills al-Qaeda Suspect, Arrests Others ([AP](#)) - Pakistani agents killed an al-Qaeda suspect in a shootout and are investigating whether another man arrested in the same raid is a Syrian believed to be a key figure in Osama bin Laden's terror network in Europe, the government and intelligence officials said Thursday (11/3). Intelligence officials said a third suspect from a Pakistani militant group was also captured in the raid this week in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province.

Six Foreign al-Qaeda Suspects Killed in Pakistan Blast ([AFP](#)) - Six foreign al-Qaeda suspects, including a woman, were killed when a bomb they were making exploded in Pakistan's restive tribal region near the Afghan border, the military said Saturday (11/5). All are believed to be foreigners although their exact nationalities are still being investigated.

Europe

Belgium Opens Trial Linked to Madrid Bombings ([Reuters](#)) - Belgium opened one of Europe's biggest terrorism trials on Thursday (11/3), putting on the stand suspected members of an Islamic militant group blamed for the deadly bombings in Madrid and Casablanca.

Further Terror Attacks Thwarted in Britain Since July: Police ([AFP](#)) - British forces have thwarted attempts to carry out more terror attacks since the July 7 London bombings and a botched bid to repeat them on July 21, the capital's police chief said Wednesday (11/2).

U.K. Police Charge 3 With Terror Offenses ([AP](#)) - Police said Friday (11/4) they have charged three men arrested last month for alleged involvement with terrorism. Waseem Mughal and Younis Tsouli, both 22, were charged with conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to cause an explosion, among other offenses. The third man, Tariq Al-Daour, 19, was charged with conspiracy to obtain money by deception, fundraising and possession of money for terrorist purposes.

Dutch Militants May Have Plotted EI Al Attack ([Reuters](#)) - An unnamed source has told Dutch police that a group of suspected Islamic militants plotted to shoot down a plane belonging to the Israeli airline EI Al in August, Dutch television reported. The public television news program NOVA based its report, aired on Friday (11/4) evening, on a prosecutor's dossier that it said had led to the arrest last month of seven people, aged 18 to 30, on suspicion of plotting attacks against Dutch politicians and government buildings.

Asia

Top al-Qaeda Suspect Escapes ([AP](#)) - A suspected top al-Qaeda operative who escaped from a U.S.-run detention facility in Afghanistan poses a serious threat to Southeast Asian security, anti-terror officials said Wednesday (11/2). Indonesian and Thai intelligence officials said Wednesday that Washington had not informed them of Omar al-Farouq's escape - even though he had been planning terrorist strikes in the region, including their own countries.

Powerful Bomb Blacks Out Central Narathiwat ([The Nation \(Thailand\)](#)) - A bomb blast blacked out the center of Narathiwat, Thailand for three hours Wednesday (11/2) night as Muslims prepared to mark the end of Ramadan. Security troops also found bombs at seven other spots in the troubled southern border province but were able to successfully defuse them. Police blamed the attacks on Islamic insurgents, who have been waging a renewed separatist campaign in the deep South since early last year.

Africa

Moroccan Scholars Say Al-Qaeda Hostages to be Martyrs if Killed ([Reuters](#)) - Al-Qaeda members in Iraq will suffer the "horrors of hell" if they kill two Moroccan hostages and the victims will die as martyrs, Morocco's influential Islamic scholars organization

said on Saturday (11/5). The umbrella organization, known as the High Council of the Ulema (Islamic scholars) and the Councils of Ulema in the Moroccan Kingdom, called the Iraqi al-Qaeda hostage-takers "aggressor apostates".

Moroccans Slam Iraq al-Qaeda Threat ([Al-Jazeera](#)) - Thousands marched through Morocco's biggest city to protest against al-Qaeda's decision to kill two Moroccan hostages in Iraq. Holding banners and chanting "Muslims are brothers. A Muslim does not kill his brother" and "Yes to freedom, No to terrorism and barbarity", the protesters on Sunday (11/6) marched through Casablanca, a city of six million and Morocco's financial capital.

Australia

Australian Leader Puts Nation on Terror Alert ([New York Times](#)) - Prime Minister John Howard went on television Wednesday (11/2) afternoon to warn of a potential terrorist attack, just as he was preparing to introduce legislation to give the police and intelligence agencies broad powers to detain and monitor terrorism suspects. "The government has received specific intelligence and police information this week that gives cause for serious concern about a potential terrorist threat," he said.

Australian Police Arrest 17 Terror Suspects ([AP](#)) - Police arrested 17 terror suspects in Australia's two biggest cities Tuesday (11/8) in raids authorities said foiled a plot to carry out a catastrophic terror attack. A radical Muslim cleric known for praising Osama bin Laden was charged with masterminding the plot.

Australian Muslims Called to Arms ([Sunday Herald Sun \(Australia\)](#)) - An inflammatory pamphlet urging Muslims to oppose Western governments was handed out at a major Islamic festival in Melbourne Saturday (11/5). The flyer, distributed at a family carnival to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan in Preston, bore the name of the fundamentalist group Hizb ut-Tahrir - which is banned in Britain and Germany. It claimed new terror laws were part of a conspiracy to eradicate Islam in Western countries.

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

The Global Jihad Monitor will be on a brief hiatus. It will return November 16th, 2005.