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Global Jihad Monitor

December 7-13, 2005

The Big Picture

- Another anti-Syrian Lebanese politician was assassinated in a car bombing. Gibran Tueni was killed on the same day that U.N. investigators released their latest report tying Syria to the death of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- France arrested 20 suspected Jihadists in one of Europe's largest anti-terror raids since an Italian raid in January 2003. [\[Full Story\]](#)
- In Bangladesh, a suicide bomber killed 8 people and wounded more than 50, marking the fourth attack believe to have been carried out in recent weeks by the Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh terrorist organization. [\[Full Story\]](#)

Regional Briefs

North America

Al-Qaeda-Iraq Link U.S. Cited Is Tied to Coercion Claim ([New York Times](#)) - The Bush administration based a crucial prewar assertion about ties between Iraq and al-Qaeda on detailed statements made by a prisoner while in Egyptian custody who later said he had fabricated them to escape harsh treatment, according to current and former government officials.

Before 9/11, Warnings on bin Laden ([New York Times](#)) - More than three years before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, American diplomats warned Saudi officials that Osama bin Laden might target civilian aircraft, according to a newly declassified State Department cable.

Judith Miller to Testify in U.S Trial of Alleged Hamas Member ([AP](#)) - Attorneys defending a man charged with laundering millions of dollars for Hamas said they want more information about a journalist's claim she watched Israeli authorities interrogate their client. Muhammad Salah's attorneys insist he was tortured and that his statements to Israeli authorities should be barred from evidence in American courts.

Middle East

Hezbollah Official Escapes Lebanon Stronghold Blast ([Reuters](#)) - Hezbollah accused Israel of carrying out a failed attempt to kill one of its officials on Friday (12/9) and said it would do "what is necessary" to defend itself. The blast destroyed the official's car seconds after he left the vehicle and went into the house of a senior leader

of the group in eastern Lebanon. Israeli officials denied any Israeli military involvement in the incident.

Car Bomb Kills Anti-Syrian Lawmaker in Beirut ([New York Times](#)) - A car bomb exploded in Beirut Monday (12/12), killing a Lebanese lawmaker who was also the general manager of the independent daily newspaper An Nahar and a vocal critic of Syria. The legislator, Gibran Tueni, was killed along with his driver, bodyguard, and another person.

U.N.: Evidence Solidifies Hariri Report ([AP](#)) - New evidence has only reinforced investigators' belief that the Syrian and Lebanese intelligence services were likely involved in the assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister, a U.N. probe said Monday (12/12). German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis' team again accused Syria of trying to obstruct his probe into the Feb. 14 death of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri when it demanded that he revise his findings after a crucial witness recanted his testimony.

Israel Nabs Palestinian Who was Allegedly Paid by Hezbollah ([AP](#)) - Israel's Shin Bet security service has arrested a Palestinian militant in the West Bank city of Nablus suspected of being paid up to \$3,000 by Hezbollah to carry out attacks on Israelis, security officials said Monday (12/12). The militant, Majdi Amar, belongs to the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a Palestinian armed group with links to the ruling Fatah party.

Palestinians Crackdown on Islamic Jihad ([AP](#)) - Masked Palestinian security forces have arrested dozens of Islamic Jihad activists in a series of overnight raids across the West Bank in recent days - an operation the Palestinian Authority says is aimed at bringing those behind attacks on Israel to justice. However, the biggest crackdown on militants since Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas took office a year ago has netted only low-level operatives, and some suspect the goal is to appease the United States and Israel rather than crush the militant group.

Airstrike Kills Senior Palestinian Militant ([CNN](#)) - An Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza killed three members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, including a senior militant, according to Israeli security sources. Israeli security sources said the three were involved in attempted suicide attacks, rocket attacks, and planting explosives.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Slams E.U. Talks with Hezbollah, Hamas ([Haaretz \(Israel\)](#)) - The Israeli Foreign Ministry believes that the European Union has violated international law by talking to Hezbollah and by planning to make contact with Hamas. An internal ministry document obtained by *Haaretz* states that contact with representatives of these two groups is contrary to international law. The writers of the document based their comments on resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council, which outlaw active or passive support for bodies or individuals involved in terrorism.

Gunmen Storm Gaza Election Office, Spark Gunbattle ([Reuters](#)) - Palestinian gunmen from President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party stormed election offices in Gaza on Tuesday (12/13), sparking a gunbattle with police in a flare-up of violence that could

disrupt next month's parliamentary ballot. About 100 al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades gunmen fired in the air as they burst into the election headquarters in Gaza City shortly before rival Hamas militants were expected to register their candidate lists for the vote.

'Militants Killed' in Syria Clash ([BBC](#)) - Eight militants were killed in a clash with security forces at a farmhouse in north-western Syria, the state news agency Sana reported. The agency said five of the Islamic militants were shot dead and three others blew up themselves in the incident near Maarrat al-Numan town.

Yemen Tries Two Accused for Failed U.S. Envoy Attack ([Reuters](#)) - A Yemeni court began on Monday (12/12) the trial of two men accused of trying to assassinate the U.S. ambassador to the Arab country with a hand grenade last year. Houzam al-Maas pleaded guilty to attempting to kill the ambassador, but told the state security court he was psychologically ill. Khalid al-Halilah, a taxi driver, pleaded not guilty, saying he only drove Maas to a weapons market.

Iraq

Gunmen Attack Iraq Hospital, Free Suspected Insurgent ([CNN](#)) - Gunmen attacked a hospital Wednesday (12/7) in the northern city of Kirkuk, killing three Iraqi police officers and freeing a wounded suspected insurgent, the city's police chief said. The assault at the Kirkuk General Hospital also wounded seven others.

Iraq Kidnappers Extend Deadline, Issue Video ([AP](#)) - Kidnappers Wednesday (12/7) extended a deadline until Saturday in their threat to kill four captive peace activists and posted a video of two of the hostages wearing orange jumpsuits and shackled with chains.

Al-Qaeda No. 2 Calls on Insurgents to Fill 'Gap' in Iraq ([AP](#)) - In a full-length version of a tape previously broadcast, al-Qaeda's deputy leader called for attacks against Gulf oil facilities and urged insurgent groups in Iraq to unite to drive out American forces, according to a videotape posted on the Internet Wednesday (12/7). The posting was a full version of a video by Ayman al-Zawahri that was issued on Sept. 19, excerpts of which were broadcast by the Arab television network al-Jazeera at the time. The network aired more excerpts Wednesday, originally presenting them as newly issued footage.

Iraq Insurgents Claim Killing of American ([AP](#)) - A statement signed by an Iraqi insurgent group said Thursday (12/8) in an Internet posting that it killed a kidnapped U.S. security consultant. The White House said it could not confirm the death. It was the first time in more than a year that a group from the Sunni-led insurgency announced the slaying of an American hostage.

Suicide Bombing at Baghdad's Main Bus Terminal Kills 30 ([New York Times](#)) - A suicide bomber shoved aside a fare collector at Baghdad's main bus terminal on Thursday (12/8), forced himself onto a crowded bus and blew himself up, causing an enormous explosion that killed at least 30 people, witnesses and police officials said.

Seven al-Qaeda Men in Iraq Given Long Jail Terms ([Reuters](#)) - An Iraqi court has handed down long jail terms to seven men, including four foreigners, for belonging to al-Qaeda in Iraq and taking part in attacks in Baghdad and Mosul, the Justice Ministry said on Saturday (12/10). U.S. lawyers said this was probably the first prosecution for membership of al-Qaeda in Iraq.

Iraq Insurgents Reject al-Qaeda Election Threat ([Reuters](#)) - Secular Iraqi insurgents warned al-Qaeda and other militant groups on Monday (12/12) not to mount attacks to disrupt this week's parliamentary election after the militants said anyone who voted would be an "apostate". The position contrasted sharply with the bloody run-up to January polls, when Sunni Arab nationalist insurgents issued their own threats of violence against voters.

Insurgents Kill Sunni Candidate ([AP](#)) - Gunmen killed a Sunni Arab candidate for parliament and militants tried to blow up a leading Shiite politician in separate attacks Tuesday (12/13), the last day of campaigning for Iraq's election. More than 1,000 Sunni clerics, meanwhile, issued a fatwa, urging Sunni Arabs to vote in Thursday's balloting.

Four U.S. Soldiers Killed Near Baghdad ([CNN](#)) - A homemade bomb killed four Task Force Baghdad soldiers Tuesday (12/13), the U.S. military said. The four died while on patrol northwest of the capital, the military said.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Taliban Issue Decree Urging Death for Karzai ([Reuters](#)) - Taliban guerrillas have issued a fatwa calling for President Hamid Karzai to be killed for serving American and British "infidels". The fatwa came in a 12-page, Pashto-language booklet distributed in the Afghan south. It reiterated a call for jihad against infidels and their slaves.

Pakistani Militants Clash with Bandits, 15 dead ([Reuters](#)) - Islamic militants in Pakistan strung up bodies of bandits and displayed the head of one on a pole on Wednesday (12/7) after clashes in a troubled region bordering Afghanistan in which 15 people were killed.

Europe

France Arrests 20 in Terrorism Sweep ([AP](#)) - French counterterrorism agents raided homes and Internet cafes on Monday (12/12) in a sweep against a suspected Islamic network, arresting more than 20 suspects, authorities said. Those arrested Monday included Tunisians, Moroccans, Algerians and French nationals, one official said.

Spain Arrests Men with Militant Links ([Reuters](#)) - Spanish police arrested seven people suspected of funding an Algerian Islamist group linked to al-Qaeda Friday (12/9). The seven, seized on Spain's Costa del Sol, allegedly provided money - obtained from theft, smuggling and credit card fraud - and logistical support to Algeria's largest outlawed militant organization, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat.

Danish Muslim Group Charged with Funding Terrorism ([Reuters](#)) - Denmark charged a Muslim organization, the Danish al-Aqsa Association, on Wednesday (12/7) with funding terrorism by channeling funds to Hamas, the prosecutor said.

Britain Bars Evidence Gained by Torture ([AP](#)) - Evidence obtained through torture in other countries cannot be used in British courts, the nation's top judges said Thursday (12/8), ruling in favor of eight terror suspects who said they were detained on evidence elicited by torture in U.S. camps. The government said it did not use evidence suspected of being obtained through torture and that the ruling would have no effect on its anti-terrorism efforts.

Asia

Bangladesh Suicide Bombing Kills 8 ([CNN](#)) - A suicide bomber killed eight people and wounded 50 others in the central Bangladeshi town of Netrokona Thursday (12/8), officials said.

Islamists Demand Bangladeshi Women Wear Veil ([Reuters](#)) - A banned Islamist militant group blamed for a series of bombings in Bangladesh has threatened to kill women, including non-Muslims, if they do not wear the veil, a statement said. The statement by the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen came hours after Thursday's (12/8) suicide bomb attack, the latest of a series of blasts blamed on militant groups.

Japanese Police Warn of Islamic Extremist Attacks ([Reuters](#)) - Japanese police warned on Tuesday (12/13) that Islamic extremists may tempt Muslim communities in Japan to turn radical and attack Japan, whose government has been a staunch backer of the U.S.-led war on Iraq. In an annual report released on Tuesday, the National Police Agency said it would work closely with other Japanese authorities and foreign security authorities to bar terrorists from entering the country.

Fresh Clashes in South Philippines, 2 Troops Die ([Reuters](#)) - Two Philippine soldiers were killed and 11 wounded in fresh fighting on the remote southwestern island of Jolo with Islamic militants suspected to be linked to al-Qaeda, an army general said on Tuesday (12/13). The troops were hunting down Radullan Sahiron, the Abu Sayyaf chief on Jolo, after receiving reports the rebels were planning an attack on nearby army camp.

Nations Agree to Joint Terror Patrols ([AP](#)) - The Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei agreed Sunday (12/11) to regularly hold joint patrols in border areas frequently hit with attacks by kidnappers and Islamic militants. The joint patrols were proposed by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during a meeting with her counterparts from the other three countries in Kuala Lumpur before a regional summit.

Australia

Australia Warns of Christmas Attacks in Indonesia ([Reuters](#)) - Australia warned of possible terrorist attacks in Indonesia over the Christmas-New Year period, saying on

Monday (12/12) it had received reports militants were in the advanced stages of planning attacks against Western targets.

Australian at Guantanamo Seeks to be British ([AP](#)) - An Australian being held at the U.S. prison camp in Guantanamo Bay won a court battle Tuesday (12/13) to be registered as a British citizen - a step he hopes will secure his release. David Hicks, a former kangaroo skinner and Muslim convert from the southern city of Adelaide, was caught in Afghanistan in December 2001, allegedly fighting with the ousted Taliban regime.

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