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Global Jihad Monitor

March 8-14, 2006

The Big Picture

- Terrorists in Iraq detonated six car bombs in the Shia neighborhood of Sadr City, killing at least 46 people and wounding more than two hundred in another attempt to ignite sectarian violence. [[Full Story](#)]
- Jordan executed two al-Qaeda members for the 2002 assassination of U.S. diplomat Laurence Foley. [[Full Story](#)]
- Israeli troops surrounded a West Bank jail, demanding the surrender of various prisoners, including Ahmed Saadat, the head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, after British and American monitors were removed from the facility. [[Full Story](#)]

Regional Briefs

[North America](#), [Middle East](#), [Iraq](#), [Afghanistan and Pakistan](#), [Europe](#), [Asia](#), [Africa](#)

North America

Moussaoui Testifies Against Himself ([AP](#)) - A bizarre legal misstep by confessed al-Qaeda conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui came back to haunt him Wednesday (3/8) as he helped confirm for jurors that he had said Osama bin Laden ordered him to fly a plane into the White House. Moussaoui's action emerged on a poor quality videotape shown in federal court.

Judge Puts Moussaoui Trial on Hold ([AP](#)) - An angry federal judge considered Monday (3/13) whether to dismiss the government's death penalty case against confessed al-Qaeda conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui after a federal attorney coached witnesses in violation of her rules.

Top al-Qaeda Figure Lived in California, Witness Says ([Sacramento Bee](#)) - An FBI informant testified Monday (3/13) in Sacramento federal court that al-Qaeda's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahri, lived in Lodi, California during parts of 1998 and 1999. Naseem Khan, who is a critical prosecution witness in the trials of two Lodi men charged with having terrorist ties, testified he was living in Lodi in 1998 and 1999 and "every time I would go to the mosque (al-Zawahri) would be coming or going."

FBI Warns of Possible Terror Threat at Sporting Events ([ABC](#)) - The FBI has warned stadium operators of a possible suicide bomb attack at sporting events. In a directive issued Friday (3/10), the FBI said a posting on an extremist message board "advocated suicide attacks against sporting events as a cost-effective means of killing

thousands of Americans." The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security said they cannot confirm the credibility of the threat or whether the message is affiliated with al-Qaeda.

Middle East

Jordan Executes Killers of U.S. Envoy ([CNN](#)) - The Jordanian government Saturday (3/11) executed two al-Qaeda-linked terrorists convicted in the 2002 assassination of a U.S. diplomat, according to Jordan's *Petra* news agency. Salem Sa'ed Salem bin Suweid, a Libyan national, and Yasser Fathi Ibraheem, a Jordanian, were hanged at the Siwaqa Correctional and Rehabilitation Center for the killing of U.S. diplomat Laurence Foley.

Jordanian Court Convicts Five Militants ([AP](#)) - Five Islamic militants were convicted Sunday (3/12) of plotting terrorist attacks on Jordanian intelligence agents, foreign tourists and upscale hotels and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 years to life. The plot's mastermind, fugitive Mohammad Rateb Qteishat, received a life sentence in absentia. He is believed to be in neighboring Iraq.

Islamic Jihad Threatens to Target Israeli Leaders ([Reuters](#)) - Islamic Jihad threatened on Wednesday (3/8) to target Israeli leaders after a series of Israeli air strikes and raids killed key members of the Palestinian militant group. "Leaders of the enemy should know that they personally are targets," Islamic Jihad said in a statement faxed to the *Reuters* office in Gaza. The statement said the group had ordered all its cells to launch attacks inside Israel.

Hamas Says Gets Saudi Promise on Continued Aid ([Reuters](#)) - Hamas said on Saturday (3/11) that Saudi Arabia had vowed to remain one of the biggest financial backers of the Palestinians, despite U.S. and European threats to cut aid. Hamas leaders were in Saudi Arabia on a tour of Arab and other countries seeking support after their surprise win in parliamentary elections.

Fatah Faces U.S. Cutoff If It Joins Hamas Government ([Reuters](#)) - Washington plans to curtail contacts with President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction and other parties if they join a Palestinian government led by the militant group Hamas, Western diplomatic sources said on Monday (3/13). The warning came as Fatah officials held another round of inconclusive coalition talks in Gaza with Hamas.

Palestinian Prisoners Surrender to Israeli Troops ([CNN](#)) - Six Palestinian inmates surrendered Tuesday (3/14) after holing up for hours in a Palestinian prison surrounded by Israeli troops. The Israel Defense Forces operation comes a week after Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said he was prepared to free one of the six, Ahmed Saadat, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who allegedly ordered the 2001 killing of Israeli tourism minister Rehavam Ze'evi.

Wave of Kidnappings After Israeli Jail Raid ([MSNBC](#)) - Palestinian militants swept through Gaza and the West Bank on Tuesday (3/14), taking several foreigners hostage,

including an American university professor, hours after an Israeli army raid of a West Bank prison. Angry Palestinians accused Britain and the U.S. of complicity in the raid.

Bomb Kills 3 in Turkey ([AP](#)) - A bomb set off by suspected Kurdish guerrillas killed three people and injured 14 others on Thursday (3/9) in Turkey's Kurdish-dominated southeast, the *Anatolia* news agency reported. Authorities were investigating whether a suicide bomber carried out the attack.

Iraq

29 Bodies Found in Baghdad ([New York Times](#)) - 29 bodies were found around Baghdad overnight Wednesday (3/8). The victims included 18 men who had been handcuffed, hanged and left in a minivan by the side of a road, American and Iraqi officials said.

Iraqis Hang 13 Insurgents; Blasts Kill 11 ([AP](#)) - Iraqi authorities hanged 13 insurgents Thursday (3/9), marking the first time militants have been executed in the country since Saddam Hussein was ousted, the government said. Explosions killed 11 civilians and wounded 19 as a dust storm enveloped the capital.

Iraqi Police: U.S. Hostage Shot, Tortured ([CNN](#)) - Slain American hostage Tom Fox was shot in the head and his body showed signs of torture, Iraqi emergency police told CNN on Saturday (3/11). Fox and three other members of Christian Peacemaker Teams were abducted on November 26, 2005. Fox's body was found Thursday in the Daoudi neighborhood in western Baghdad.

Al-Qaeda Group Claims Killing of Iraq TV Editor ([Reuters](#)) - An Iraqi militant group affiliated with al-Qaeda said in a statement posted on the Internet on Sunday (3/12) that it was behind Saturday's killing of a senior editor for Iraq's state television. It said the station was "the mouthpiece of the apostate government."

Car Bombs Kill at Least 46 in Sadr City ([CNN](#)) - Six car bombs killed at least 46 people and wounded 204 others in Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood Sunday (3/12), Baghdad emergency police said. A seventh car bomb was found and defused in the same Sadr City neighborhood.

Iraqi Leaders Call for National Unity After al-Qaeda Attacks ([Guardian \(U.K.\)](#)) - Iraqi leaders on all sides Monday (3/13) blamed al-Qaeda for attempting to foment civil war by launching Sunday's bloody attack on a market. Muqtada al-Sadr, the radical Shia cleric, refused to blame Sunni rivals for the attack in his stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad and called for "national unity" in the face of al-Qaeda action. Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Sunni leader Sheik Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al-Samaraie also insisted that terrorists were behind the attack.

Shiite Vigilantes in Baghdad Beat and Kill 4 Men Accused of Attacks ([New York Times](#)) - Shiite vigilantes seized four men suspected of terrorist attacks, interrogated

them, beat them, killed them and left their bodies dangling from lampposts on Monday (3/13) morning, witnesses and government officials said.

At Least 56 Bodies Found ([Washington Post](#)) - The gruesome civilian body count continued Tuesday (3/14) with police discovering a total of 56 dead in and around Baghdad, many of them bearing the marks of torture and execution. Authorities took the killings to be a continuation of the sectarian killings that have shaken the country since the Feb. 22 bombing of a revered Shiite shrine in the city of Samarra.

Al-Qaeda Plotted to Take Embassy Hostages ([AP](#)) - Security officials foiled an al-Qaeda plot that would have put hundreds of its men at critical guard posts around Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, home to the U.S. and other foreign embassies as well as the Iraqi government, the interior minister told *The Associated Press* on Tuesday (3/14). A senior Defense Ministry official said the 421 al-Qaeda fighters were recruited to storm the U.S. and British embassies and take hostages.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Pakistani Forces Shell Militants After Ambush ([Reuters](#)) - Pakistani forces shelled suspected Islamist militant hideouts near the Afghan border on Wednesday (3/8) after a senior government official survived an ambush on his convoy.

26 Die in Hideout Strike ([CNN](#)) - At least 26 people, including some foreigners, were killed late Friday (3/10) in an assault by the Pakistani army on a tribal region near the Afghan border where it was believed terrorists were gathered, the military said Saturday.

U.S. Hunts Militants After Attack ([BBC](#)) - U.S. forces detained 11 suspected militants in Afghanistan's Kunar province following an attack Sunday (3/12) in which four U.S. marines were killed. The marines were on patrol in the Pech Valley when a roadside blast ripped through their convoy. It was the deadliest attack on U.S. forces in a month.

Afghanistan Demands Pakistani Cooperation ([AP](#)) - Afghanistan's president demanded greater cooperation from Pakistan in the fight against terrorism Tuesday (3/14) following claims the neighboring country has been supporting militant attacks in Afghanistan. Islamabad criticized the remarks and said Afghanistan must do more to battle terrorism.

Europe

Dutch Jail Terror Group Muslims ([BBC](#)) - A court Friday (3/10) convicted nine Muslims of belonging to a terrorist group and planning to attack Dutch politicians. Two men in the so-called Hofstad group were jailed for 15 and 13 years for using a hand grenade against police. The trial has been treated as a test of the Netherlands' tough new anti-terror legislation.

Madrid Bombings Show No bin Laden Ties ([AP](#)) - A two-year probe into the Madrid train bombings concludes the Islamic terrorists who carried out the blasts were

homegrown radicals acting on their own rather than at the behest of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, two senior intelligence officials said Thursday (3/9). While the plotters of the Madrid attack were likely motivated by bin Laden's October 2003 call for attacks on European countries that supported the invasion of Iraq, there is no evidence they were in contact with the al-Qaeda leader's inner circle.

Spain Remembers Madrid Bomb Dead ([CNN](#)) - Two schoolchildren laid a wreath Saturday (3/11) in a Madrid park while victims of the Madrid train bombings looked on in a silent ceremony as the nation marked the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed 191 people and wounded 1,741 others.

E.U. Threatens to Cut Off Palestinian Aid ([AP](#)) - The European Union on Friday (3/10) threatened to cut off aid to a Hamas-led Palestinian government "unless it seeks peace by peaceful means" -- its strongest signal to the new leadership.

Asia

Suspected Militant, Family Die in Bangladesh Blast ([Reuters](#)) - A suspected militant, his wife and two children were killed in a bomb blast after Bangladesh security forces besieged a house while searching for fugitive Islamist radicals, security officials said. Police said two militants were arrested at the badly damaged house, including the son of previously captured top militant Shayek Abdur Rahman.

Philippines Plans to Tighten Southern Border ([Reuters](#)) - The Philippines plans to force all vessels to use designated sea lanes along the borders with Malaysia and Indonesia to deny Islamic militants easy access to its restive Muslim areas, the defense secretary said on Monday (3/13). At more than 36,000 km (22,300 miles) long, the Philippine coastline is seen as a weak link in the Asian war on terror with militants exploiting a multitude of private inlets and the navy's lack of equipment to evade capture.

Kashmiri Group Claims India Blasts ([CNN](#)) - A previously unknown militant group claimed responsibility for bombings in the holy Indian city of Varanasi that killed 14 people, and threatened additional violence. The claim was made in a Wednesday (3/8) phone call to a news agency in Indian-controlled Kashmir. In the call, a man said he was the spokesman for Lashkar-E-Kahar, which translates to Army of Destroyers.

Bomb Found at Indian Train Station ([AFP](#)) - Police found a bomb at a railway station in Mumbai, India's financial hub, four days after a series of deadly blasts in a holy Hindu city blamed on Islamic militants.

Africa

Al-Qaeda Claims Responsibility for Operations Against Foreign Oil Companies ([AKI \(Italy\)](#)) - Internet forums close to the al-Qaeda network have claimed responsibility for guerilla operations against foreign oil companies in the Niger Delta in Nigeria. In an apparent link between international jihadi groups and the ongoing unrest in the oil-rich

African nation, the websites have published photos of nine employees of the U.S. petrol company Willbros, kidnapped on 18 February.

Ethiopia Says Eritrea Behind Bombings ([Reuters](#)) - Ethiopia said on Sunday (3/12) explosives used in a series of attacks in Addis Ababa last week were smuggled from Eritrea and Eritrean-backed terrorists were behind the blasts.

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