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# Jihadist World Weekly

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Counterterrorism Bureau  
Terrorism Threat Analysis Group  
Online Jihadist Media Roundup  
May 2 - 6, 2011



## Al-Qaeda 'Confirms bin Laden Dead' (AFP)

“The Al-Qaeda terror network confirmed the death of its leader Osama bin Laden Friday and swore revenge for his killing by elite US commandos, the SITE monitoring group reported. In a statement posted on jihadist Internet forums, the Islamist group behind the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States said it would release an audio tape made by its Saudi-born founder a week before his death... ‘We in Al-Qaeda organization pledge to Allah the Almighty and ask his help, support and steadfastness to continue on the path of jihad, the path walked upon by our leaders, and on top of them, Sheikh Osama,’ SITE said, quoting the statement. It said that ‘the blood of the mujahid Sheikh Osama bin Laden, may Allah have mercy upon him, weighs more to us and is more precious to us and to every Muslim than to be wasted in vain’... The statement specified the location of bin Laden's death and those responsible, and so is likely [the] end to fringe conspiracy theories that were beginning to form about his demise, while it directly threatened Pakistan's leaders, ‘We call upon our Muslim people in Pakistan, on whose land Sheikh Osama was killed, to rise up and revolt to cleanse this shame that has been attached to them by a clique of traitors and thieves who sold everything to the enemies.’ It is not yet clear how far bin Laden's death is likely to affect Al-Qaeda's operational capabilities and its ability to follow through on its threats. Intelligence found in bin Laden's compound revealed Al-Qaeda was considering a possible train attack at an unspecified location in the United States as a grim marker of this year's 10th anniversary of 9/11. US officials played down any imminent threat, describing the plot as ‘aspirational,’ but it may indicate that bin Laden remained more integral to the everyday running of Al-Qaeda than previously thought. Some Islamists have claimed that his death would rally Muslims to his cause, but while protests were held in parts of the Islamic world following Friday prayers, they were limited in scale...”

## User Declares ‘State of Alert,’ Suggests Confirmation of OBL’s Death Be ‘Signal’ for Attacks

On May 3, 2011, *Abu Suleiman Al-Nasir* initiated a post in the Shumukh Al-Islam forum entitled “Urgent... a Declaration of a State of Alert in the Ranks of the Partisans of the Jihad.”

In the ‘declaration,’ *Abu Suleiman Al-Nasir* states, “We direct the brother partisans of international jihad to announce a state of maximum alert and preparation to undertake jihadist operations against the Zionist-Crusader alliance. We advise the partisans of jihad to the necessity of immediate mobilization with seriousness and efficacy in the organizing and preparing for jihadist raids targeting, in the first phase, America, the standard bearer of the cross... and whoever is allied to it and stands behind it from the NATO countries.”

In terms of targeting, the announcements states, “We declare that all American interests, no matter where they be... are legitimate targets for the mujahideen and, likewise, NATO interests for they are one alliance and are together accountable. We call upon the Muslims in the world, especially in America and Europe, to participate in the anticipated jihadist raids, God willing. We warn Muslims in the Islamic countries from getting too close to the institutions, embassies, and all the interests of the countries that are included on the mujahideen targeting list.” It goes on to say, “And if a statement is published by the mujahideen confirming

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the martyrdom of Sheikh Osama Ibn Laden, this will be a signal for the launching of armed operations, God willing....”

The following day, *Abu Suleiman Al-Nasir* posted a link to an audio statement announcing this ‘alert’ to the Shumukh Al-Islam forum. The recording appears to be an almost complete verbatim reading of the same message whereby the speaker identifies himself as *Abu Suleiman Al-Nasir*. While the declaration has received some praise from forum members, and some vaguely expressed their desire to participate in such a campaign and called for others to take action, no specific planning has apparently been discussed openly in the forum.

However, one user suggested that the ‘war’ will be fought with “unconventional weapons.” Another, *Ghareeb07*, proclaimed, “It is upon you [our brothers], to slaughter, slaughter American embassies and their infidel citizens, and nothing else from now on.”

Before an ‘official’ statement was issued confirming bin Laden’s death, one user, *Islam algo*, suggested to another respondent, *Abu ‘Awad Al-‘Aamiri*, who proclaimed his allegiance to *Abu Suleiman Al-Nasir* and expressed aspirations of “a great victory,” “My brother... do not post again, for you’ll irritate your brothers...it has still not yet been feasible to confirm the news [of bin Laden’s death] from an independent source.” Meanwhile, *Salafi Min Al-Sahra* suggested that such a rush to action might be counterproductive.

**Comment:** *Al-Nasir*’s apparent desire for an official statement announcing bin Laden’s death to serve as a signal for the launching of attacks is worth noting, considering that such a statement was later issued on May 6. Note that “Abu Suleiman Al-Nasser” (a different transliteration of the same Arabic name) was an alias employed by the war minister for the Islamic State of Iraq’s until he was killed in February 2011 (see [“Al Qaeda Iraq ‘war minister’ killed in raid”](#)). However, the user *Abu Suleiman Al-Nasir* explicitly denied being this figure in an online post, describing himself as a supporter. This is the same user who posted the ‘exclusive’ photo of the Stockholm bomber, Taymour Abdulwahab, the day after the failed December 2010 attack (see JWW 49 – 2010). This user has also claimed to have corresponded with the bomb-making forum figure Abu Hamdan Al-Salafi, who was alleged to be the Al-Qa’ida operative Abu ‘Atah Al-Kuwaiti killed this past fall in Afghanistan (see JWW 40/41 - 2010). It’s possible that *Al-Nasir* posted the audio recording in order to provide the ‘alert’ to users in a downloadable format that can be saved, referred to, and disseminated. While there is no apparent connection between this user and current plots, his activity suggests that retaliatory attacks may be organized by individuals at the grassroots level with no connection to recognized Al-Qa’ida-affiliated groups.

### Jihadist, Yemeni Users Report on Suspected US Strike in Yemen

*Qatil Al-Murtadeen*, a commentator on developments in Yemen reported on the recent suspected US air strike targeting Al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) elements in Yemen. According to *Qatil Al-Murtadeen*, one individual was able to escape the strike, which occurred between Al-Nisaab and ‘Ataq in Shabwah province, while two others from the Daghari family of the Awaliq tribe were killed as they got out of a vehicle.

The original source of *Qatil Al-Murtadeen*’s information appears to be a local Yemeni forum that caters to an audience from the Shabwah regions, the Al-Awaliq forum. Members of this forum provided additional details about the incident. According to one user, *Wadi ‘Abdan*, the two were brothers from the Daghari family, had no ties to Al-Qa’ida, and were on their way to welcome their uncle who was coming from Saudi Arabia. This user later added that a younger brother of the two individuals, who he claims were aged 26 and 20, did belong to Al-Qa’ida, had rarely been at home for the past six months, and was suspected of

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being in hiding. When asked, *Wadi 'Abdan* specified the time of the attack as occurring “around or shortly after” Fajr prayer, which would have been 4:11 a.m. in nearby ‘Ataq. This user later contested initial media reports as being false, claiming that, although the Dagharis are religious, Abdullah Mubarak Al-Harad was in the military and his younger brother, Musaa’d Mubarak Al-Harad, was a an “upright and athletic” youth.

According to *Qatil Al-Murtadeen*’s posts in Shumukh Al-Islam, the two were not high-level AQAP figures as described by the Yemeni government, but rather just “two lions” from among the “lions of tawheed.” This is also consistent with some mainstream reporting by the AFP that suggests a third individual, a Saudi, was the intended target of the strike. *Qatil Al-Murtadeen* also speculated that the way the attack was carried out, allegedly involving both aircraft and a drone, confirms that a homing device was planted on the targeted vehicle.

**Comment:** Although speculative, based on information from various sources the intended target who escaped the strike could have been a wanted family member who was either a Saudi national, or traveling to Yemen from Saudi Arabia. News of this strike came as another user in the Shumukh Al-Islam forum, *Al-Raheeq*, reported the following ‘positive’ developments in Yemen: The areas now under the control of ‘mujahideed’ stretch from eastern Shawbwah to western Abyan; a large number of the “elders and sons of the tribes” have joined the ‘mujahideen’; and they have taken down the Yemeni and southern separatists flags, and, instead, the “flag of *tawheed* is flying high.” For mainstream coverage see, [“US Drone ‘Kills Two in Attack on Saudi Qaeda Chief’”](#). According to a source cited by the local [Mareb Press](#) newspaper, the operation consisted of two strikes, the first of which was a ‘failed’ strike by US aircraft.

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