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## Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia: excerpts from “The Laws of Targeting Petroleum-Related Interests”



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**“The Laws of Targeting Petroleum-Related Interests and a Review of the Laws Pertaining to the Economic Jihad’, by Shaykh Abdullah bin Nasser al-Rashid (a.k.a. Abdelaziz bin Rashid al-Anzi)—may Allah release him from prison...”**

**“In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious Most Merciful... These days Allah has enabled us to expand the battlefields of the jihad. Praise be to Allah, many Muslims are waking up from their state of distraction, as they answer the call for jihad in the name of Allah, and fulfill what Allah has ordered them to do. One of the areas that our knights have focused their strikes on is the oil industry. This includes a variety of petroleum-related interests such as oil wells, oil production facilities, pipelines, and individual leaders in the industry. The mujahideen have been making an effort to destroy such targets, and competing with one another in their drive to set these targets ablaze and bomb them. Praise be to Allah, these operations have had a great impact. After all, oil is a vital resource for the modern industrial world, and a resource that is fundamental for the economies of the industrialized infidel countries. Oil enabled America to dominate the world, after it succeeded in taking over the source of oil in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and**



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other countries as well. The mujahideen have recently targeted a number of petroleum-related interests. As expected, these attacks were among the most powerful blows dealt to the enemy. These attacks dealt a blow to the economies of the infidel crusader countries. Among these operations were the two attacks in Yanbu in which the Bani Ansar who executed them, may Allah have mercy upon their souls, became martyrs. Another example is the operation that was carried out by the Al-Quds Brigade that targeted the crusaders in Khobar...”

“...The conclusions that I have reached in my study, thanks to Allah’s guidance, are briefly summarized by the following points:

- 1.) The targeting of oil facilities is a legitimate means of economic jihad. Economic jihad is one of the most powerful ways in which we can take revenge on the infidels during this present stage.
- ...
- 3.) The infidels do not own what they have seized from the Muslims. It is still Muslim property.
- 4.) The demolition of infidel property as part of a war is legitimate, as long as the benefits outweigh the costs of such an action.
- 5.) It is okay to destroy Muslim property if infidels have seized control of it, or if there are fears that something like this may happen. This is true as long as the potential damage of the infidels making use of this property is greater than the potential benefit that can be obtained when this property is returned to Muslim hands.
- 6.) There are four types of oil related interests:
  - a. Oil Wells: The targeting of oil wells is not permitted as long as an equally powerful alternative exists. This is because the negative consequences of such an operation outweigh the benefits...
  - b. Oil Pipelines: These are among the easiest targets to attack. The benefits of attacking pipelines outweigh the costs.
  - c. Oil Facilities: These are not to be targeted if they are privately owned by a Muslim. Individual leaders from the petroleum industry: these are among the easiest targets to attack, and the benefits of such operations far outweigh the disadvantages—as long as [spilling] the blood of the person who is being targeted is permissible. As for industry leaders whose blood has not been permitted, they should not be targeted except in situations where there is no other choice but to attack a facility they are currently located in...”



[Top]: Saudi anti-terrorist commandos storm a housing complex for Western oil workers in Khobar seized by Al-Qaida gunmen in May 2004.

[Bottom]: The aftermath of an Al-Qaida terrorist attack on Western nationals in the Saudi Red Sea oil and petrochemical hub of Yanbu, May 2004.

“...The following is a list that explains how damage is inflicted upon the infidels by attacks on oil facilities:

- 1.) Rising oil prices: The countries that are hurt the most by rising oil prices are the industrialized superpowers. America—may Allah rid us of her soon—is the number one





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**consumer of oil in the world. There are many reasons why jihad operations cause a rise in oil prices, and these include:**

- a. **Fears of supply shortages that arise following the operations. This happens because the very fact that an operation was carried out proves that similar attacks are possible. When countries and traders fear about supply constraints, they buy more oil, and thus prices go up.**
  - b. **Actual shortages that are a result of damage to pipelines, oil tankers, and oil wells, for example. Sometimes, these shortages come as a result of the heightened security measures that slow down oil production and export.**
  - c. **Rising insurance costs. Insurance companies raise the cost of premiums as the risk associated with oil operations increases.**
  - d. **It has been a common practice by oil traders to refrain from buying oil as prices go up, so that prices will come back down again. However, when jihad operations are behind the rise, this is not possible... because the reason the price goes up in this scenario is fear of supply disruptions. Companies and traders, therefore, scramble to buy oil while prices are rising, out of fear that prices will go up even further, or that supply will simply run out as a result of the operations.**
  - e. **As for the traitor [Arab] governments that export oil, the rising price of crude actually serves their interests. Nonetheless, they see this as something that lessens America's fondness of them. This is why they scramble to increase production as prices go up, in attempt to stabilize the price and please the consumers. Generally speaking, the damage potentially inflicted upon the traitor governments following the global economic repercussions of rising oil prices pales in comparison to the profits they will make by selling their oil at a higher price.**
- 2.) **The cost of guarding petroleum facilities: It has already been suggested that the security measures that have been taken in order to guard the facilities are one of the reasons behind shortages that have caused a rise in prices.**
  - 3.) **Expenditures for oil as a proportion of GNP: rise as prices go up...**
  - 4.) **Increased allocation of funds for research on alternative energy sources.**
  - 5.) **Outflows of both local and foreign capital: as a result of investors' concern over the stability of the region that was targeted.**
  - 6.) **Damage to America's economic reputation: This happens when her interests in oil producing countries are threatened. Everyone knows that America is totally dependent on oil in order to keep its economy going. The end result is the conversion of assets into other [foreign] currencies and increased demand for gold, while at the same time investor capital flows out of America..."**

**"A Detailed Survey of the Laws Pertaining to Targeting Oil Related Interests:**

- 1.) **Targeting Oil Wells: The targeting of oil wells is a powerful act of vengeance, and is exceptional in the sense that such operations have longer lasting effects. This is because it takes a long time to repair the wells, and extinguish any fires. Some of the devastating effects that can be achieved by attacks against oil wells are:**
  - a. **Rising oil prices: attacks against oil wells bring about the most significant price spikes.**
  - b. **A decrease in oil production: as was mentioned earlier, this has the dual effect of rising oil prices and a negative impact on the economies of oil-producing governments.**



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c. **A negative impact on the American economy, and its reputation. In addition, attacks against oil wells have a negative effect on other Western and Eastern infidel countries as well as countries who serve as their agents. This is because oil wells are one of the most vital economic resources for the infidel countries in general, and America in particular.**

d. **As for what Muslims stand to lose by operations against oil wells... Such operations impact commerce and market conditions in the country. They are also detrimental to the environment and to public health. Moreover, attacking the oil wells also means forfeiting the opportunity to use them again once the Muslim nation reassumes ownership over them—unless, of course, a lot of money is invested in repairing them. This is precisely what the commander of the army of Islam (may Allah make it victorious) Usama Bin Laden said in his statement titled, “The declaration of war against the American occupiers of the Arabian Peninsula’ when he discussed the question of attacking oil wells. He [Bin Laden] said, ‘Fighting in these areas increases the risk of petroleum catching fire, and therefore, we should restrain ourselves, and urge our mujahideen brothers to spare these riches and keep them out of the battle, as they are a priceless Islamic resource, and an important source of economic power for the future Islamic state to be established, Allah willing.’ Nonetheless, we must take into account the date in which this statement was made. [Bin Laden’s] statement was made before the fiery eruption of the jihad and before many developments pertaining to the conflict took place. Since this statement was initially made, attacks against oil-related interests, such as the attack on the French oil tanker, have been claimed by Al-Qaida...”**



**A burning oil well in southern Iraq, March 2003**



**The French supertanker *Limburg* following an Al-Qaida terrorist attack with an explosives-laden dinghy off the coast of Yemen in October 2002**

**“...The negative publicity as a result of attacks against oil wells is significant, and is in fact one of the most significant types of damage inflicted upon us by such operations. This is because it brings about the misinformation of many people, while making them justify the tyrants. This makes some people trustworthy and even accepting of the tyrants, may Allah forbid it. Therefore the conclusion is that: at this time, the costs of targeting oil wells in Muslim countries outweighs the benefits. This is because of the negative impact on public health and the environment, and because such operations make Muslims forfeit the opportunity to use these oil wells when Allah finally makes the Islamic nation victorious. Moreover, the apostate governments use such operations to tarnish the image of the jihad and the mujahideen. Finally, such operations drive people away from the truth and from answering the call of al-Tawheed.”**





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***“As for targets other than oil wells, the devastation that they inflict upon the enemy outweighs their cost. And I shall now elaborate on this point, Allah willing.”***

***“Attacks against ports: Ports can be divided into two parts. The first part is the land and the water upon which the port is established. The second part is the facilities that are used by the port. I will elaborate on the facilities—however, as was mentioned earlier, the land and the water do not belong to anyone, and it is impossible to target them without causing environmental damage.”***

***“Attacks on petroleum-related facilities:***

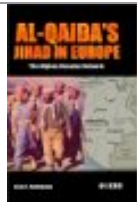
- 1.) Pipelines: Attacks on pipelines hurt the enemy in a variety of ways that we have already mentioned. Pipelines are easier and less costly to [attack]. They are not the only means by which oil is transported, as oil is also delivered through oil tankers directly from the drilling site, and without the use of pipes. As for the costs of attacks against pipelines, they are less detrimental to the environment, not to mention the non-existent public health issues. Moreover, attacks on pipelines do not make Muslims forfeit the opportunity to make use of the oil, as the actual source of oil is not affected. As for bad publicity, although it does play some role regarding targeting oil pipelines, the damage is far more limited than in the case of attacks on oil wells. People understand the logic behind such attacks, especially when pipelines originating in Iraq or the land of al-Haramain that is ruled by the Saudi government and extend to Israel are targeted. Even in cases when the good name of Muslims is tarnished, this pales in comparison to the powerful blow that is dealt to the enemies of Allah. In addition, pipelines are easy to target from an operational perspective. This is because guarding the pipelines is virtually impossible due to the vast distances that they sprawl across. These pipelines extend thousands of kilometers, and it is impossible to impose tight security measures at every single point along them. It would not be possible to totally secure them even if the governments that control the petroleum-related interests and seek to protect them decided in turn to deploy all of their forces along the pipelines, and abandon other places and vital targets. [Even then], it would still be easier to attack the pipelines than to attack the fortified enemy headquarters that the mujahideen have nonetheless managed to break into and bomb, thanks to the grace of almighty Allah. This is because in such a scenario, the forces would be deployed over great distances. Thus, attacking oil pipelines offers great benefits, and deals a powerful blow to the enemies that cannot be dealt by other means.***
- 2.) Refineries and oil plants: The costs and benefits of attacks on refineries and production plants are quite similar to those associated with attacks on pipelines. The only caveat is that targeting refineries and production plants results in a far less substantial decrease in oil supplies and drilling activities. It is essential to make sure that they are owned by a country or an infidel that can be attacked... There is no room for haste and careless action... Thus, the benefits of attacking refineries and production plants, as long as this is permissible, far outweigh the insignificant costs. Such attacks render a devastating blow to the enemy, while Muslims lose little.***
- 3.) Attacks on individuals associated with petroleum-related interests: The source of authority on this issue is the rules that pertain to blood, and whose blood is permissible [to be spilled]. It is forbidden to spill the blood of a righteous man whose blood is sacrosanct for the mere purpose of impacting oil [production]. Nevertheless, blood that is not sacrosanct should not be spared. The effect that [targeting] industry leaders has on oil is not on supply and production. Instead, it impacts the stability of the markets and the economy’s***



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***reputation. It also raises concerns over the future, and could indeed have an effect on production when certain individuals who are active in the oil market are targeted. It is forbidden to kill a person simply because he works for one of the oil companies, unless it is evident that he is helping the infidels against Muslims. For example, if the individual supplies the American military in Iraq with fuel, guards the crusaders that work inside the oil facilities, guards one of the American occupiers, or [guards] the bases of the agents in Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula. If one of the people whose blood is sacrosanct is present in one of the facilities, and there is no choice other than to attack this facility, then killing him for the sake of the broader interest is permitted. Unless he was a sinner, such a person will become a martyr, Allah willing... It is imperative, nonetheless, to avoid shedding such a person's blood whenever this is possible, and Allah knows best. These operations offer the greatest reward, because of the insignificant and virtually non-existent costs that are associated with them when infidels are the ones who are subject to attack..."***

***"Signed: the evening of the 26 Rabi al-Thani 1425 [June 15, 2004]. This document was later edited and reviewed in distant councils. The most recent of these reviews was held on Sunday evening, 29 Dhul Qadah [January 9, 2005]."***



## **Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe: the Afghan-Bosnian Network**

*"For Bin Laden's involvement in the Bosnian conflicts, see Evan F. Kohlmann, Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe." - U.S. 9/11 Commission Final Report (July 2004)*

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