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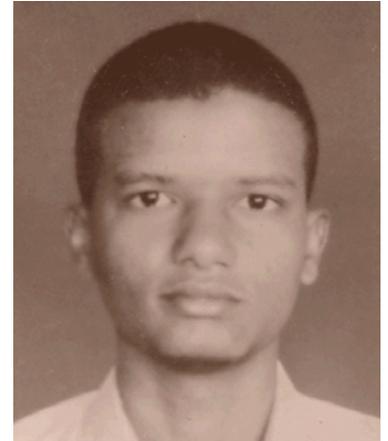
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## “Sudanese Heroes in Iraq: Biographies of the Martyrs Hassan Abdel Rahman and Sadiq al-Jilani”

February 2, 2007

**“Sudanese Heroes in Iraq -- Biographies of the Martyrs: Hassan Abdel Rahman (a.k.a. Zaman al-Hwan) [‘Era of Shame’] and Sadiq al-Jilani (a.k.a. Aashik al-Jihad) [‘Lover of Jihad’]”**

***“The finest of men have departed... they all rushed towards Allah. I stayed behind, alone, like a prisoner... although I long to hear the whispering of the beautiful black-eyed virgins... The merciful one calls me to paradise... Will I heed the call? Or will the devil lead me astray?! These pages are not intended to be stories for casual reading. They tell the story of blood that was spilled in the name of Allah in order to help illuminate the path for those who wish to join it. These pages were not written to glorify one family or another. Instead, they serve as a light that should help to illustrate to you, dear brother, the essence of sacrifice. They rebuke those who profess to love jihad but who do not follow its path—as well as those who have followed its path and yet have succumbed to lethargy. Sami, who became a martyr in steadfast Fallujah... Walid, who was stabbed with a knife when he lost control of himself after seeing Allah’s religion subjected to mockery in one of the universities, and who survived and eventually achieved martyrdom in Iraq... Thu al-Sawt, who wandered about the thickets of the south, fought the Christians there, and who eventually became a martyr in Iraq... and the list of martyrs is long... My brother went to paradise—a place Allah created with his own hands using bricks of silver and gold. The scent of perfume is its cement and the small stones there are pearls. Go, my brother, and join them and the green birds of paradise. Go on, brother... Go on!”***



[Top]: Hassan Abdel Rahman  
[Bottom]: Sadiq al-Jilani

***“...The crusade against the land of Islam continues to claim lives, tarnish our dignity, and desecrate our holy places. It began quietly a long time ago when they supported the Jews against the Muslims, and made unlimited use of their veto power [in the United Nations]. The crusade became widely recognized when they invaded Afghanistan, where Usama [Bin Laden] and a group of righteous men stood as an obstacle against their desires. Allah made him [Bin Laden] successful and rallied millions of righteous young men to stand by him. Pure blood spilled all across the land... Allah then wanted ‘the stupid one’ [George Bush] to make his most foolish decision. He attacked Iraq thinking that the Baathists had already wiped out the followers of al-Tawheed. He thought that the Islamic nation would simply hand over the land of the Caliphate with a [bouquet of] roses rather than with conflict.”***

***“Nonetheless, Allah disappointed him. Young Muslim men rushed to the land of the jihad from all over, seeking martyrdom and wishing to repel the crusader assault on the land of Islam. The [Islamic] nation had already come to recognize that a great plot would be contrived against it after 19 of her sons [the 9/11 hijackers] showed her the path. The life of this world did not cause them to stray from their path for they knew that what Allah has to offer is superior and longer lasting. They steadily flowed in from Syria, the Arabian Peninsula, the countries of the Mediterranean, Africa, Sudan, and all***



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*over the world—undeterred by hostile borders or great distances... If a single Muslim suffers in India, wake me up, and if a Muslim cries in China, make me weep. They rushed into Iraq, ignoring the pleas of the discouraged ones who claimed that we did not have the strength to take on Bush and his soldiers. Instead, they said, ‘O’ Allah! Give us patience, strengthen our legs, and make us victorious over the infidels!’”*

*“Allah gave rise to the brave and noble commander—the passionate knight of the battlefield—Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and used him to bring misery to the infidels and delight to the believers. He enabled him to slaughter our enemies. The brigade of the martyrs, the Al-Baraa bin Malik Brigade [Al-Qaida’s suicide unit], was placed under his command, and through this brigade, Allah sent the infidels to hell one by one and in groups—on some occasions slaughtering them, and in others blowing them up. They broke their necks, hurled their heads, tore out their eyeballs, and struck them as they were inside their Humvees, leaving no place safe for them. Praise be to Allah for this.”*

*“Our lion [Hassan Abd Al-Rahman] was an ‘al-Barai’, referring to his membership in the al-Baraa bin Malik Brigade. He was a Sudanese lion. We shall survey some aspects of his life in the following lines with the hope that someone among us will follow his footsteps. Our hero was born to a respected family. He was raised and educated with a commitment to Islamic etiquette and a love of jihad, and he was concerned for his nation from a young age. After America invaded Iraq, he heard an Islamic cleric interpreting the holy verse: ‘And of men is he who sells himself to seek the pleasure of Allah. And Allah is compassionate to the servants.’ (Surah al-Baqarah, Verse 207) The [cleric] explained, ‘Also falling under the category of what is described in this verse are martyrdom operations. They are an essential form of Jihad.’ These words made their mark on our hero and became his motto in life. They were always on his mind and he would often cite the above verse.”*

*“He tried to travel to Iraq from the very first day of the invasion, however Allah did not enable him to do so. He did not simply [give up] and say he had tried, and therefore Allah would forgive him—but rather, he used this time to fight in another jihad: the information jihad. Together with a fine group of righteous brothers, he became active in the al-Ansar Internet Forum [Muntada al-Ansar] where he wrote messages under the name ‘Zaman Al-Hwan’ [‘Era of Shame’], for he saw shame in the state of the Islamic nation. He saw shame in those who had sold their religion for material and worldly possessions. The martyr began producing CD-ROMs and distributed as many as he could with great success, praise be to Allah. The method he used was that whenever someone would come to him in order for him to fix their personal computer, he would beg their pardon and [offer] to give them some Islamic material for free. It so happened that one young man downloaded material from the martyr [Hassan Abdelrahman] only for him to hear a short while later that [the young man] had become a martyr. This moved him and he made a commitment to Islam. One time, the young man wanted to fix his computer and took it to someone who would do it for him. He told [the repairman], ‘If you are able to fix it for me without deleting anything then please do so. But if you cannot, then leave it as is and I do not want to fix it.’”*

*“At that time, the martyr visited one of his brothers and also with him was the father of one of the young men. The father began saying that, today, one must ask a high authority for permission to wage jihad, for it is no longer an individual Islamic duty. Hassan remained silent until the father finished speaking and then responded as they were eating, ‘In the name of Allah, Hajji, it is a mistake to be sitting with you right now.’ The father asked, ‘Why is that?’ Hassan replied, ‘Our sisters are being raped right now and our brothers are being held as prisoners or are being killed and you are saying that the jihad is not an individual duty?’ Hassan was concerned with physical preparation and so he joined one of the local sports clubs. One of the brothers who was with him at the club said that during his first day of training, he collapsed from sheer exhaustion. Nevertheless, he became even more*



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*determined to continue with the exercises. The brother added, ‘After the exercise session was over, we went to the Arab market and parted from each other. Shortly thereafter, Hassan called me and I thought that he must have forgotten something. When I picked up the phone, I heard him reciting the prayer that was to be said before entering the market. He hung up when he was done.’”*

*“One of Hassan’s greatest traits was his honesty. He would always search for the truth. Whenever you asked him something and then asked him to swear to Allah that it was true, he would always say that it was but hardly ever swore to Allah. One day one of the brothers came up to him and talked to him about jihad. He told him that Islamic missionary work was essential at this juncture because ‘we are in a country that is full of polytheism’ and ‘how can we just head off to fight jihad and leave all these people behind?’ Hassan replied, ‘Yes, indeed, Islamic missionary work is mandatory, but why differentiate between missionary work [Dawah] and Jihad? Whoever finds a way to go should go and help make his brothers victorious.’”*

*“Allah gave Hassan the gift of loving mosques... Blessed Allah enabled him to leave for Iraq after he spent a long time in one of the mosques. It was the first Friday after Ramadan that Allah enabled him to leave, and there is a story behind his trip... He managed to obtain his travel documents and all he had left was to cover the cost of his ticket and living expenses. He started selling his personal belongings. He sold his personal computer, as well as several other devices, and when he was done raising the sum he needed, he went to his father and told him, ‘O’ father! I have decided to head to the jihad in Iraq.’ His father replied, ‘My son, the Americans will come to Sudan soon, be patient.’ The hero countered, ‘O’ father! We will go to Iraq and fight them there so that they do not come here!’”*

*“Hassan left and joined the mujahideen [in Iraq]... He began a new life there... a life that is nothing like our lives... It is a life of glory and honor... A life in which every step you take gets you closer and closer to death—yet, you only become happier and more joyful. Even more wonderful than their desire for paradise... is their longing for Allah. When they meet him they will proclaim, ‘Please send us back, so that we can fight again! We will die for you several times so that you will be satisfied! And once you are satisfied, we shall only want more!’ In Iraq, [Hassan] expressed his desire to carry out a martyrdom operation, contrary to the false claims of some people that the mujahideen are forced to carry out these operations. The Martyrs Brigade has a list full of names of would-be martyrs. The list, praise be to Allah, is long and the young men compete with each other—and some even ask their brothers to move their name up [on the list], even for a mere few spaces, out of their sheer longing and love for Allah. We are not going to elaborate on the Islamic legitimacy of these operations that have already been approved by several righteous Islamic clerics.”*

*“Hassan had made his decision... and anyone who knew him recognized that once he had made a decision, he would not change his mind. I do not fear death if the time for death has come. Instead, I shall hasten my steps toward it. Death is the way to make our chastened people victorious, and after it awaits Heaven which is a better place. In the film ‘Winds of Victory’ [produced by the media wing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in 2004], just before executing the ‘Khaldiya Bridge’ martyrdom operation, Abul-Harith al-Dosari—may Allah have mercy on his soul—stated: ‘All it takes is the press*



[Above]: Still images of Abul-Harith al-Dosari from the Abu Musab al-Zarqawi propaganda film, “Winds of Victory.”



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*of a button. Following that, with the help of Allah, the banner of 'No God but Allah' will prevail, and the person will be finished with this world after fulfilling his mission.'"*

*"When news about Hassan's martyrdom reached his father he said: "My child was precious to me, but not more precious than Allah...he welcomed the news chanting "Allah is the greatest". His approach was impressive. Allah bless a father like him. That was how our hero's worldly life came to an end...and how his real life began. He went and left us behind in the worldly life to be tempted by pleasures and desires, neglecting to fulfill a great Islamic duty- the Jihad in Allah's name in order to allow Islam to prevail and help the enfeebled ones. When will we wake up and shake off our carelessness?! When will we answer the call of Jihad saying "Let's go Allah's horses! Let's go and carry the banner!" When will we join Usama?"*

*"Sadiq al-Jilani... If it were reason enough for Allah to pardon someone based upon the many times they had gone to fight in jihad, Sadiq would be one of the first to be pardoned. His love for jihad emanated from the depth of his heart. He took part in jihad [in Iraq] before the fall of Baghdad and was arrested on his way back to Sudan after the capture of the city. When he found out that others were preparing to fight the Americans, he decided to travel for the sake of Allah, only to be arrested once again. As for his biography, the martyr was born in the al-Jazeera province [of Sudan], and was raised in a respected religious family. His father urged him to observe prayers and to memorize the Quran. He was an excellent student at school and would always get the best grades. When he was in 4th grade... one of his classmates from elementary school recalled... that the martyr [Sadiq] suggested that they enroll in one of the military training camps so that they would be able to join with the mujahideen in Afghanistan and fight their Soviet enemies... During the days of Bosnia and the evil Serbs, the martyr [Sadiq] asked someone [about the situation] and insisted upon going for training. Nevertheless, the man refused his request and said that he was too young. Thus, the concept of jihad... preoccupied our brother until Allah finally granted him his wish in Iraq."*

*"...After completing high school, he enrolled at one of the military academies, where he mastered the use of various weapons. His physical build improved as well. Sadiq then left the military academy and studied civil engineering. He was an excellent student, but still continued to memorize the Quran parallel to his studies until he finally knew it all by heart. He began his day before the first call to prayer was made, [and] he would observe the nightly prayer... He would not mix with women and would not shake their hands. One day, the martyr took a bus and a young woman sat down next to him. He quickly stood up and got off the bus. After earning his Bachelor's Degree, he once again joined a religious study group. He spent some time there in order to improve his mastering of the Holy Quran. The martyr took a Quranic proficiency test and earned a high mark, praise be to Allah. Sadiq then joined a construction company. After he began working for them, they expressed great interest in him continuing his work, for they found him to be professional and a man of good character."*

*"The crusader onslaught on Iraq began at this time, and the soul of the martyr that had always longed for jihad urged him to go and fight the crusaders. He started looking for a way to get there until he eventually found one. Before he departed, he discussed the matter with his parents. His mother was patient and pious, and so was his father. They both knew that if he insisted on something, he would do it, and so he managed to convince them. He told them about the jihad that the companions of Mohammed had waged and how mothers had pushed their children to fight in jihad. He told them how the companions of Mohammed had sacrificed their souls as well as their material possessions in the name of Allah. Nevertheless, he was captured [before he could fight in jihad]."*

*"When he returned to [Sudan], he was offered an opportunity to work for a company outside Khartoum at a decent salary. He refused, as he believed that relocating would result in him being disconnected*



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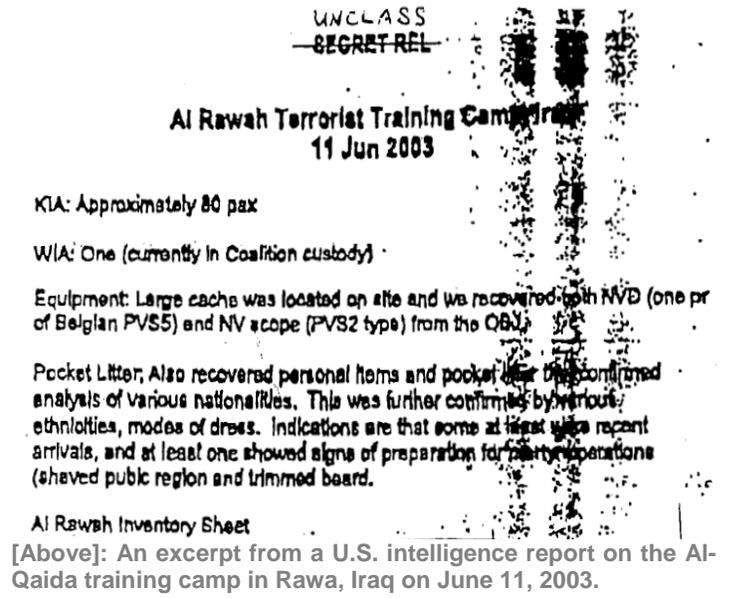
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*from news of the jihad and the mujahideen and would prevent him from expanding his knowledge of Islamic law. One of the young men recalled, ‘When I called the martyr, he would say hello and then say, ‘Give me some good news [about my search for jihad]...’”*

*“After some time, he was presented an opportunity to return to Iraq. He quickly departed and was instructed to go the Rawa training camp that was one of the first jihad camps in Iraq. When he got close to the camp, the American forces attacked it. The brothers were ordered to retreat so that they could reorganize. One of the martyr’s brothers told him... ‘The young men who were killed in this training camp were among the finest men from our nation in this era.’ These words evoked strong feelings in our hero and he replied, ‘Had we been among the finest, we would have been killed along with them.’ The martyr was chosen to be the commander of one of the units. One of the brothers said, ‘After [Sadiq] was appointed commander, we all met together and he told us, ‘O’ Brothers! The money we have serves as a safety net. We must save it, and limit our spending as much as possible.’ They began eating two meals a day, and later it became only one meal. A few months later, Allah decided that the group would be discovered [by their enemies] and they were arrested.”*

*“In prison, the martyr’s strength and courage was evident. One of the brothers recalled, ‘We could not speak to those criminals [who ran the prison] and we did not express our disapproval of anything they said. With respect to the martyr [Sadiq] however, as soon as he heard one of them curse Islam, he said to him, ‘Do not curse our religion, do not say that, do not do that...’, and so forth. The brothers told him, ‘They are criminals. Leave them alone so that you do not get hurt.’ Before he had the chance to stand up in defense of Islam yet again, he was taken to the interrogation rooms where he was beaten. The brothers then declared a hunger strike. They all quit striking after three days, yet the martyr continued for 21 days. He became so weak that he could not sit down—let alone stand up—and the brothers insisted that he quit, and told him that there was no point in continuing. After that, it was time for interrogations... the martyr said, ‘In the name of Allah, I did not disclose even a single piece of information. I would rather be killed than provide information regarding another brother.’ May Allah have mercy on his soul, he received the worst of the beatings during interrogations...”*

*“The martyr—may Allah have mercy on his soul—looked forward to soon being freed so that he would be able to return to [jihad in] Iraq. Allah decided that the martyr would be released and that he would return to Sudan. He used to fast on a regular basis, even during the hot summer days... At the same time, he constantly searched for a way to get to the occupied territories [in Iraq], until he eventually found one, praise be to Allah... And so, it was... the martyr met the brother that would arrange his trip once again, the third time. A brother recalled, ‘The day he left, he was happy and joyful. When I saw him, I knew that he would never return. I said to him, ‘Swear to Allah that if you become a martyr, and recommend to Allah who should join you in paradise, that you will recommend me.’ Even before he left, luck was on his side: he won an opportunity to take part in a construction project... something all men desired, as it offered a higher salary and an opportunity to acquire experience. Nevertheless, it was too late for the worldly life to tempt him, for his heart was filled with love for jihad. Love for jihad*



[Above]: An excerpt from a U.S. intelligence report on the Al-Qaida training camp in Rawa, Iraq on June 11, 2003.



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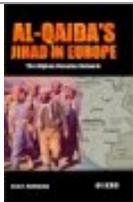


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***has spread throughout my entire body... My blood is not worth as much as the jihad... O' mother! Be patient, for the meeting is glorious..."***

***"One of his friends mentioned that he used to constantly review the Quran. Before his martyrdom, he recited 25 chapters from the Quran without making any mistakes that he was not able to correct himself, without any help from the person he was reciting to. One person who witnessed his martyrdom said that the martyr had told him that he dreamt that a shell had struck him in the head and made him a martyr. Later that day, after they finished the noon prayer in Tel Afar [a city in northern Iraq], crusader warplanes suddenly attacked their house and dropped bombs on the residence. The martyr thus was killed, along with three other honorable brothers and mujahideen. We ask Allah to allow them to join the ranks of the martyrs, permit their entrance to the highest section of paradise, and make them our recommenders. O' Allah, Amen!"***

***"Before his martyrdom, the martyr called his family and spoke with them for more than half an hour—it was a farewell conversation. He asked that they be fearful of Allah, that they observe their Islamic obligations, and be fervent about jihad. His parents welcomed the news [of his death] by praising Allah. His mother prostrated twice out of gratitude to Allah and called upon the lord to accept him as a martyr. Many of his relatives, friends, and loved ones were saddened by the news for he was known to be a good man. May Allah have mercy on his soul, and may he allow him to join the ranks of the martyrs. Does the jihad still require more men, especially after the display of power that has been made and the improvement in the situation? One of the mujahideen commanders responded to this question, explaining, 'It is the men who are the ones in need of jihad.'"***



## **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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