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(09 March 2000) Disruptions illuminate Bin Ladin support network in the Levant

[REDACTED] at least one two- to three-person Bin Ladin cell is active within Israel and planning terrorist acts against Israeli interests abroad, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] they were linked to the [REDACTED] network and acted as a support cell that focused on procuring and shipping weapons and channeling financial support. [REDACTED] cell leader Muhammad 'Itani has close ties to Bin Ladin's headquarters in Afghanistan.

The arrest last December of an Islamic extremist cell in [REDACTED] plotting to attack tourists at millennial celebrations and subsequent discoveries of Bin Ladin-affiliated cells [REDACTED] reveal a larger and more active Bin Ladin-affiliated support network in the Levant [REDACTED] to US, other Western, or Israeli interests beyond the [REDACTED] cell leader's remark that Americans should "be careful in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait."

- A manifesto was seized from [REDACTED] recommending that [REDACTED] target facilities--such as the Statue of Liberty or the Eiffel Tower--to create an uproar without loss of life or, alternately, attack population targets, such as skyscrapers, airports, or nuclear power plants.

- [REDACTED] and the recommendations to avoid loss of life are inconsistent with Bin Ladin's focus on maximizing US casualties.

[REDACTED] arrested a [REDACTED] cell linked to Bin Ladin and confiscated plastic explosives, hand grenades, automatic weapons, and other contraband materials. [REDACTED] they recruited and trained Syrians and other Islamic extremists in Syria to support unspecified Bin Ladin-related activities in [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] the compromised cells in [REDACTED] were almost identical in size, function, and in how they compartmentalized their activities--only one senior member in each cell had contact with the UBL leadership.

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