

[REDACTED]

Reports That Bin Ladin is Planning Attacks Inside the US

We have received four reports from highly questionable sources suggesting Usama Bin Ladin is making plans to conduct an attack in the United States.

- [REDACTED] Bin Ladin is considering mounting an attack in Washington, probably at a shopping mall [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] three weeks ago, teams sent by Bin Ladin had planned to kidnap [REDACTED], but the plot probably was aborted.
- [REDACTED] that Bin Ladin threatened to carry out an attack in the US or Saudi Arabia [REDACTED] June.
- [REDACTED] in April said Bin Ladin was planning possible attacks in Pakistan, New York, or Washington [REDACTED]

Although we have significant concerns about these sources, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bin Ladin may be planning an operation soon, possibly in the US.

- On 11 June, Bin Ladin's lieutenant said they would be "in the news soon."
- On 1 June, an Arab in [REDACTED] linked to Arab extremists in Pakistan said he was "preparing the [REDACTED] sacrifices" in terms suggesting that he himself might be the sacrifice.

It is plausible that Bin Ladin places a high priority on conducting attacks in the United States. In May he made a reference to "bringing the war to the US." Some of his followers have indicated that they would like to avenge the imprisonment of Shaykh Umar Abd al-Rahman, Ramzi Yousef, and Wali Khan Amin Shah.

We have little information on Bin Ladin's operatives in the US. He may have ties to Arabs in Boston where an international Islamic charity that he funds has a branch office. Employees of the charity's New York branch were involved in the World Trade Center bombing. Other groups with members who work with Bin Ladin, such as the Egyptian al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya, also have a presence in the US and may, because of their close association with Bin Ladin, be willing to conduct attacks on his behalf.

For the President Only
3 July 1998

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