

UBL Associate Planned To Attack US in Europe

_____ provide the most compelling evidence to date that the Bin Ladin organization is tasking members of a _____ network in Europe to conduct operations there.

_____ has declared that two senior Bin Ladin lieutenants directed him last spring to plan a suicide attack against US interests in France by next summer. _____

- _____ claims that Abu Zubaydah and Abu Zubair al Ha'ili told him to plan an attack against either our Embassy or the American Cultural Center in Paris. _____ already may have tapped a Tunisian suicide bomber in al-Qa'ida to conduct the operation.
- _____ says he also intended to recruit former Algerian Armed Islamic Group associates who had previously been jailed in France to assist in the attack.

_____ extensive training in South Asia and his ties to al-Qa'ida and North African extremists suggest he may know about other planned attacks. We are investigating possible connections between the Tunisian he selected and suspects in a plot to attack a marketplace in Strasbourg, France, last Christmas.

- _____ last month identified _____ as the "ringleader" of an international mujahidin plot against unspecified Western interests in Europe, which may have been a reference to the plan to attack US targets.
- _____ helped organize a training course for 20 Tunisian, Saudi, Pakistani, and Yemeni students last spring at the Derunta facility in Afghanistan, _____

The claim that two senior Bin Ladin lieutenants participated in _____ plot by assigning the target and the timing is consistent with other indications that al-Qa'ida's leadership is taking a more active role in directing mujahidin attacks, probably to prevent giving the appearance of making empty threats. In contrast, Bin Ladin lieutenants provided only training and encouragement to the millennial plotters in Jordan and Canada, leaving decisions on timing and targets to local cell leaders, _____

- _____ coincide with other reports during the past year that indicate a growing number of Bin Ladin associates are moving from South Asia to Europe to plan attacks there.