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Biographies of Al-Qaida's "Distinguished Martyrs" in Mesopotamia" (Abu Musab al-Zarqawi)



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• Abu Khaled al-Suri (from Syria)

"In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious Most Merciful... Abu Khaled al-Suri was a pleasant, scholarly man. He was highly revered and known for his intellect and obedience to Allah's word. May Allah have mercy upon the soul of Abu Khaled al-Falastini [the Palestinian]. Yes, indeed I said al-Falastini because he was a Palestinian from the Hatim Refugee Camp in Damascus, where he was born—like the rest of his generation—in exile, where he dreamt about heroic victories and liberation. However, Abu Khaled was among the select few who grew up following the Salafist beliefs and the Sunnah of Mohammed."

"Abu Khaled joined the Abu Khabab unit, which was fortunate to have him. He also teamed up with the courageous knight, fearless hero, and experienced warrior Abu Hassan. Although Abu Hassan was older than Abu Khaled, he was like kin to him, and thus when Abu Khaled became a martyr, Abu Hassan looked as if he had lost the whole world. [Abu Hassan] was [Abu Khaled's] mentor, his Shaykh, and his friend. He also served as a counselor and confidante—and for all these reasons, he shed countless tears and set off to attack the enemy once again, hoping that he would be able join his friend. Nonetheless, Allah is the one who ultimately determines this."

"Abu Khaled stayed at the residence of martyr Abu Umar [al-Masri], where he served as a counselor and guide to his brothers. He also took a short course in explosives and car bombs. Although Abu Khaled came over to take on a somewhat administrative role, he later told me about his strong desire to carry out a martyrdom operation, after he began believing in his heart and mind that such an act would be powerful and vengeful. Abu Khaled recognized that... these operations were always heard loud and clear by the enemy. Moreover, the enemy was unable to conceal the fact that they were taking place, nor the results that they brought about. Abu Khaled later assigned me a task that was so difficult that even the mountains would collapse under its weight. He said, 'I will leave this matter up to





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you. It is important that the chosen target will be one that is impossible to target without martyrdom and will have a potentially devastating impact on the enemy.’ As Abu Khaled was preparing to embark on his journey, he also dedicated himself to his lord and you could see that his facial features had changed as a result. His face glowed like the moon and shined as if it were made of silver. His eyes beamed with light and glistened with warmth. Just by seeing this man, you could practically swear that he was sharing a secret with his lord, selected to fulfill a special duty, or simply beaming with joy because Allah had enabled him to do something. This was far from surprising as the man made the Koran his friend and companion, and would intimately communicate with his lord, asking him to make him successful, guide him, and strengthen him.”



Abu Umar al-Masri
(a.k.a. Hamoud Naji)

“The residence [of Abu Umar al-Masri] was crowded with muhajireen [foreign fighters] and Abu Khaled asked me if he could go to another house where he would have more privacy. I promised to find him a new place if I would be able to. Although I tried to help I was not successful, and so I apologized and told him, ‘My brother, you are right, but this place is the best we could do. Please forgive me.’ The man forgave us and continued to prepare for the trip to his lord. It was quite a trip indeed that was waiting for him and it was quite perfect timing too because we had just received an order to carry out an attack on an important target and a criminal tyrant as well. The target was a house frequently visited by a senior General from the CIA. Inside the house, there were also a number of spies. The General was heavily guarded whenever he would come by the house. We put the house under surveillance and decided upon the method in which the operation would be carried out.”

“The brothers’ plan was to blow up the house with the Americans, the agents, and all the equipment and documents inside. For this purpose, the brothers prepared a car bomb. According to the intelligence they gathered, the General came to visit almost every day and stayed inside for one hour before he left. He would leave whenever he felt like it and probably did not have a set schedule. Abu Khaled was ready and so were his brothers from the ambush team. We embarked on our mission on the day that we had agreed upon and waited for the target from 8am until 5pm—the latest hour that he was known to come by—but he never showed up. We tried the same thing another day, but he didn’t show up either. I decided to call off the operation for a while, but we quickly received orders to continue monitoring the target and have an ambush set in place. We were ordered to remain in full operative mode—meaning that the martyr brother, the ambush team, and the vehicle must be positioned and ready to attack the target from 8am until 5pm. We later made a third attempt, but the target didn’t show up in this case either.”

“I could tell that Abu Khaled was getting restless. I was most impressed by his patience and perseverance. The man was practically waiting for the ambush team to come and tell him any moment, ‘In the name of Allah, it is time for you to go.’ He was waiting for his death as every moment passed by, and this is difficult indeed. We ourselves, among the ambush team, were tired of waiting and the only reason for this, of course, was the fact that we had to constantly remain in a full state of alert which was nerve-racking. We asked Allah to reward us during the entire time... After an entire week of closely monitoring the house, we came to realize that the target had stopped visiting this address. Instead, he was in some other place that we did not know about. We praise Allah for any outcome.”



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“A different target was later selected. We were now monitoring the first police station that would be targeted in Iraq. It was a nest of corruption and promiscuity. It was also located in an area that was infamously known for blatantly cursing our Umm Aisha, may Allah bless her—let alone our Shaykhs Abu Bakr and Abu Umar, may Allah bless them. The target was the Sadr city police station located in the Jamila district. There were more than a hundred and fifty vermin that would line up in rows at the outdoor courtyard of the police station at eight o’clock each morning. We selected Thursday as the day in which we would carry out the operation. One of the brothers later came up to me and asked me to postpone the operation to Saturday, because there were usually less [civilian bystanders] on Thursdays. Abu Khaled was right next to me when the brother made his request. I told the brother, ‘We have made our decision and Allah will reward us, even if there seems to be a problem with carrying out the attack on Thursday.’”



A U.S. soldier stands guard following an Oct. 9, 2003 suicide bombing at a police station in the Baghdad suburb of Sadr city.

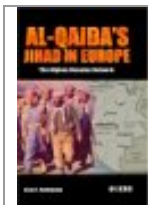
“We set off to the target and I went ahead to check how many people were actually inside the station before the car got any closer. I discovered that there were double the number of enemies inside, as they had all arrived to collect their paychecks on this particular day. I had told Abu Khaled earlier, ‘When you arrive, wait until I come over to see you and tell you to go inside.’ As if he did not understand a word that I had said, one of the brothers accompanying me suddenly beckoned me and called me over to him just as I was directly in front of the apostate station. His cries drew the attention of others and so I quickly went over to see what he wanted and demanded, ‘What are you doing?!’ He replied, ‘Look! The brother right in front of you is approaching the station.’ I then noticed that Abu Khaled was indeed making his way toward the station. He was calm in a way that was typical of him, and it seemed as if he was casually out for a stroll with his family and children. When he saw me in front of the station, he backed away and circled the building before approaching it once again. I saw him heading toward the front entrance. As I continued to walk farther and farther away without hearing any sounds, I became terribly worried. The car was driven by our previously mentioned knight and valiant hero [Abu Khaled al-Suri] and we were concerned that it simply had failed to explode, or that the brother had been killed or captured before detonating the explosives. We were unsure of what to think.”

“I told the brother, ‘I’ll return to the station.’ He replied, ‘Wait a bit.’ I was so anxious that I told him, ‘I’ll go back to the station and whatever shall be will be. That way, we will at least know.’ The brother [Abu Khaled] knew about several safehouses that we would have to evacuate if something bad had happened. While we were on our way back to the station, I suddenly saw everything around me shake violently as a result of a tremendous explosion that rocked and devastated everything nearby. The blast turned that miserable [police station] courtyard into an inferno, resembling the mouth of a volcano more than anything else. I was later informed by our special sources that 160 policemen were killed, and this tally of course did not include the number of those who were wounded. There were no civilian casualties because the brother, may Allah bless him, had managed to detonate the vehicle



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right in the middle of the courtyard. He managed to do so despite taking heavy fire from the guards. Abu Khaled went ahead and struck his target. May Allah have mercy on his soul and may he reunite us all in Paradise, by Allah's side. I ask Allah to reward his wife and three children with his grace. Allah never forgets the family of a martyr... The martyr left me a letter that he wrote to his family, and also asked for my family to write a letter to his wife that would remind her about Allah—and especially that Allah would not forget her... He wrote, 'My wife is gracious and pious. However, marriage has its place. I feared that she would prevent me from carrying out my plan because she loved me so dearly.' I promised to do as he had wished. May Allah protect our honor and our children from all harm and all evil."



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

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

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