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Sawt al-Jihad Magazine #30: “Bin Laden and the Oil Weapon.”



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“From the French supertanker to the oil operations in Iraq, the Abqaiq [Buqayq] complex, and many more [attacks] that are yet to come, Allah willing... targeting the region’s oil is not an unusual or new thing and Shaykh Usama [Bin Laden]’s call dates back a long way with respect to this issue. Nevertheless, the enormity of the target and the severity of the shock caused many observers to forget past events and led them to claim that Bin Laden had just begun to target oil [interests], and that this was a strategic shift in Al-Qaida policy!! Praise the Lord!! Deaf, dumb, blind, so they have no sense. Our principle: if you are taking action, then you are the victor. Your continued survival is your enemy’s defeat. That is the motto of guerilla warfare. The Abqaiq operation was surely a success by all measures—the intelligence [behind it], the preparation, and the execution... all but by the measures of the [Saudi] government, which turn a scholar such as Sulaiman al-Alwan into a shackled criminal, and Turki al-Hamad—who says that ‘Allah and the devil are two sides of the same coin’—into a scholar of the highest status.”

“I can say with confidence that the operation was successful for several reasons:”



“1.) Successful selection of a large and appropriate target:”

“The Abqaiq refineries are considered the largest oil processing center in the world. Most of the oil destined for export passes through them. At full capacity, the center processes 9 million barrels of oil a day!! After Iraqi oil exports were shut down in 1991, the carrying capacity of the pipelines transporting oil to Yanbu was expanded at the request of the United States.”

“2.) Very accurate intelligence that was collected before the operation was carried out:”

“The operation was carried out exactly as planned, and successful execution requires precise intelligence.”

“3.) Successful breaching of security rings:”

“Mohammed al-Marri, one of the guards wounded during the raid, said, ‘We failed to stop the attackers and resist them.’ He also noted that the operation took place when he was finishing his patrol. His colleague, Corporal Rashid bin Hamdul Marri, who was also wounded, confirmed, ‘the attackers carried out their operation when the guards were asleep’ and that was according to the plan. Moreover, it was a surprise attack—and as Mohammed al-Marri said, ‘We tried to use our weapons but we failed because the [ammunition] depot was locked.’ These testimonies that were provided by members of the security forces contradict statements released by the [Saudi] Interior Ministry claiming that the security forces are well-prepared and ready, and that they managed to thwart the attack.”



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“4.) The execution was deep-penetrating, contrary to Interior Ministry claims. There were no casualties among the mujahideen, and they all managed to retreat safely. As for the two [mujahideen] who became martyrs during the operation, their martyrdom was planned [in advance]. In light of all this, do not we have the right to say the operation was successful?! Of course, for it was successful with respect to intelligence, planning, preparation, and execution. As for the response of the [Interior] Ministry, it is to be expected and is natural. It is no different from its typical responses that always deceive and misinform. Even the blind can make out such great lies and contradictions. It downplayed the operation and described it as a ‘failed’ attack, and not even a moment had passed before cameras arrived at the scene and broadcast the supposed ‘failure’ for all to see. A picture is worth a thousand words.”

“We say that it is only natural that the [Interior] Ministry statement contradicts the truth. It is simply impossible that a senior [Saudi government] spokesman will come out and say:

‘Indeed, at 3pm on Friday, two cars managed to breach the security rings and attacked the Abqaiq industrial complex. A gun battle broke out between the [occupants of] the vehicles and several members of the security forces when the latter grew suspicious of them. The [security] forces were then surprised by a third vehicle that was not taken into account and helped make the operation a success. We did not manage to stop the vehicles or identify the passengers because we were short of personnel, and because we did not have enough weapons, and also lost the key to the weapons depot. None of the attackers were killed, and they managed to detonate two of the car [bombs] according to their plan. Two members of our security forces were killed, and two others were wounded. The operation caused major damage and the security forces worked to extinguish the burning oil pipelines. Production was disrupted, and this live footage from the scene of the incident shows the damage.’

“Real pictures of the bombing would be shown as the statement is read. All stations, not just ‘the totally independent’ news channels, would be allowed to take pictures of the scene. The Interior Ministry cannot do this because it has been told to lie and deceive. Instead, it will launch a large organized media campaign aimed at downplaying the operation, and it will claim that the security forces are powerful and capable of thwarting these operations.”

“As part of the Ministry’s lies, it exaggerated the raid on the Al-Yarmouk guesthouse, where some of those who participated in the Abqaiq operation were located at. It is true that the mujahideen were wounded in this raid and that they lost a number of their finest men—however, this does not justify the glorious halo that the Interior Ministry created for itself through its propaganda. That is because the mujahideen who were killed during the raid achieved what they had wished for. They successfully carried out the operation, and it is no shame that they were killed after having done so. That is their path, and every mujahid knows that this will be his destiny. Moreover, most of the mujahideen race toward



Al-Qaida’s “Usama Bin Laden Brigade” prepares the final stages of the February 2006 terrorist attack on the Abqaiq refinery complex in Saudi Arabia.



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their deaths, just like the Interior Ministry soldiers race towards life. Every mujahid considers being killed by our enemies a glorious victory.”

“Therefore, any rational person who attempts to compare the Abqaiq raid and the [security] operation at the guesthouse will recognize that the Abqaiq raid was successful, powerful, and severe—whereas, the operation at the guesthouse was standard and not ‘decisive’ as the [Interior] Ministry falsely asserts. Time and time again, we hear the [Interior] Ministry claim in its statements that it has killed the leaders of the [Al-Qaida] network and has resolved the issue. However, the fact of the matter is that things are deteriorating and the Interior Ministry was not and will not be able to improve the situation—regardless of how many it manages to recruit and hire, and regardless of the amount of help it receives from external forces. Each time it falsely claims that the matter has been resolved, or is almost resolved, the wanted list is longer than ever before. Thousands [of mujahideen] have been killed either executing operations or in clashes [with security forces], [and others] have been imprisoned, so why are there only dozens of names on the lists?!”

“Just as we believe that there is a war being fought on the battlefields and on the highways, there is also an ‘information war’ in which words serve as weapons, and peoples’ minds serve as the battlefields. That is why I tell my brothers and myself to ignore what they say and not to believe what they falsely claim. My dear brothers, continue on your path, keep targeting oil interests, and may Allah bless you. Do not tire or become waylaid, and concentrate [your efforts] on oil exports and whatever helps facilitates them. Do not be tempted by [Interior Minister] Nayif the tyrant, the mufti of the [Saudi] family state, and his fatwahs. There is nothing wrong with destroying stolen property that cannot be recovered. This oil is used for the war against Islam and Muslims, and the war in Iraq and Afghanistan relies heavily on it. The biggest losers from attacking oil [interests] are the United States, the bearer of the cross, and more broadly, the industrialized countries.”



Evidence seized in a raid by Saudi security forces on terrorists suspected in the attack on the Abqaiq complex

“If [Saudi King] Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz was allowed to embargo oil exports that belonged neither to him nor his father, should not the mujahideen be allowed to target oil [interests] for the purpose of stopping or reducing exports, or leading to a rise in prices and thus benefiting the nation and its people? Also supporting the principle that ‘preventing damage is of higher priority than pursuing interests’ is the fact that the Islamic clergy issue fatwahs that are based upon it in on many occasions. You see them forbidding the sale of weapons during times of unrest and explaining that this should be the case whenever there is a possibility that such an action would lead to the killing of sinless souls. Furthermore, the apostate [Saudi] government severely punishes people who possess unauthorized weapons or are involved in arms trafficking, and sometimes the penalty is as high as ten years in prison and confiscation of all property.”

“As for the petroleum that is exported to the United States, I cannot say that it ‘may’ be used to kill Muslims, for it is unquestionably the pillar of the wars that the United States is waging against the Muslim countries. Fuel, explosives, much of the equipment, and even some clothes and food heavily rely on petroleum in the production process. Where do the Islamic clergy stand on this issue? What is their stand with respect to those who offer their airspace, seas, and land, to the Americans and thus support their war against Muslims in Afghanistan and Iraq? Why does pursuing interests precede the prevention of damage in this case? Why this selfishness? Muslims are starving and dying and yet



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your stomachs are full and you lead a life of comfort and luxury... only to claim later that you care about their afflictions? ...Just as it is forbidden to sell weapons at times of unrest, it is forbidden to sell oil to the United States and we must prevent its sale by all means including its destruction. Zealous Muslims should not condemn the targeting of oil [interests]. Instead, if we truly want to help persecuted Muslims wherever they may be, and stop the American aggression against the world, we must all work together to prevent the exportation of oil to the United States by all possible means."

"Just as the Islamic clergy once justified an embargo on Iraq that included an embargo on its people's oil exports, and the prevention of food and medicine from reaching women and children in order to punish Saddam and comply with the Americans, the mujahideen have the right to strike oil [interests] in order to punish the Americans and limit their aggressive activities. Shutting down America's oil supply, or limiting it at least, will help put an end to the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan and lessen its infinite support for the Jews."

"Perhaps I will deviate a little to shed light on the importance of blessed operations of this kind, and their impact on the industrialized countries and most prominently the United States. Energy security is the world's utmost concern right now. That is why it stood at the center of the G-8 meeting in Moscow and troubled the chief parties in most international conventions. All the statements made by politicians and economists indicate the importance of the oil issue and its economic significance with respect to the superpowers. Moreover, in his State of the Union address, Bush implied that oil was the industrialized countries' weak spot, and a ghost that threatens their economies. He also tried to diminish from the significance of Middle East [sources] and [implied] that they will be able to manage without it soon."

"Commenting on the speech, James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, said that 'America will never become independent of Middle Eastern oil no matter what' and that 'the American president's statement was political propaganda and the Democrats would have said the same thing if they had been in power too.' Many experts agree with Zogby. Bush's speech proves that the targeting of oil [interests] constitutes the biggest threat to the United States, and that is why he tried to mislead public opinion and assure himself that it is possible to do without Middle Eastern oil. This issue has been a long time concern. Former president, Richard Nixon, made the same demands as Bush and promised to put an end to [Middle Eastern oil imports] along with all foreign oil imports by the end of 1980. Carter said the exact same things and promised to stop [importing] by the end of 1990. Nevertheless, America's imports have risen and it has become reliant on its imports for they now constitute 60% of its oil consumption."

"Bush discussed the U.S. energy strategy and several alternative energy sources—such as coal, wind power, solar energy, and nuclear energy—in order to show that the terrorists and their operations do not constitute a threat to the American economy in the foreseeable future. I believe that Shaykh Usama Bin Laden's most recent speech and previous statements that called for the targeting of oil played a major role in shaping Bush's recent address. As for the alternatives that Bush mentioned, they are deemed unrealistic by experts and his proposal makes no sense whatsoever. America needs more than 21 million barrels of oil per day, or one fourth of global consumption that stands at 85 million barrels. It imports 21 million barrels a day, and was forced to cut down its oil reserves to 29 billion barrels. The situation is growing worse and worse, and the proposed solutions are rather insignificant for the United States. Nuclear energy could serve as a partial solution; however, the United States has not built a single nuclear power plant for over thirty years now. Instead, it sufficed with its 35 nuclear reactors and continued to renovate them for these past 20 years, thus making them 60 years old. It did so out of safety considerations and in an effort to prevent the recurrence of the



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1986 Chernobyl reactor disaster. Bush promised, but did not yet confirm, the building of a nuclear plant during the coming decades but this will not help much anyway.”

“As for other solutions—such as ethanol, bio-energy, solar and wind power, renewable energy, and cars that run on electricity and hydrogen—they all need some oil-based fuel, take up lots of space, and need help from traditional energy sources. This means that they are expensive, offer limited output, and will not challenge traditional energy in the coming decades. The future of energy will not be determined by Bush, but rather will be determined by global markets and the availability of oil and natural gas sources, and these are abundant and on the rise.”

“United States demand is growing hand-in-hand with the growth of its economy. To note one example, vehicle fuel consumption will exceed 9 million barrels of oil a day in the foreseeable future and in the year 2030 there will be 320 million cars that will consume oil based fuel in America. John Browne, CEO of British Petroleum, points out that global energy consumption will continue to rise as a result of an increase in population size and standard of living. He stressed that oil will continue to play a major role, regardless of the calls to become less reliant on it. Browne added that gas is the best fuel for electricity production, that none of the alternatives are more efficient than gasoline for the purpose of running car engines, and that hydrogen cannot serve as a substitute.”

“The American culture’s addiction to oil will continue for at least several more decades. Therefore, the United States will remain dependent on the Middle East in the near future, its oil will continue to be an easy target for all the enemies of the United States, and it will remain a weak spot for many decades to come. Nevertheless, we must not forget that the U.S. has spent a great deal on alternative energy technology, and will spend even more and in earnest. This indicates that America might become independent of the Middle East, or at least lessen its reliance on the region in the long term, while sufficing with oil from Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, and several new collaborators, as well as domestic energy sources. That is why it is imperative that we strike petroleum interests in all regions that the United States benefits from, and not only in the Middle East. The goal is to cut off its imports or reduce them by all means.”

“The targeting of oil interests includes oil production wells, export pipelines, loading platforms, tankers—and anything else that will deprive the United States of oil, force it to make decisions that it has avoided having to make for a long time, disrupt and stifle its economy, and threaten its economic and political future. We just need to look at Iraq to see how much impact the operations have on oil. 186 operations this year led to a loss of six billion. We also see what took place and is still ongoing in Nigeria, where the gargantuan British-Dutch petroleum company Royal Dutch Shell halted loading activity at Port Harcourt in the Niger Delta region of southern Nigeria that is capable of producing approximately 380 thousand barrels a day, after the oil loading platform was bombed. The company also closed the oil fields that feed the port.”

“Shaykh Usama [Bin Laden]’s instructions are crystal clear with respect to the targeting of oil interests. In implementing these instructions, the mujahideen must gather information [and] select worthy targets... Finally, I stress that the industrialized countries, and most prominently the bearer of the cross—the United States—have the most to lose, and conversely that oil producing countries will not be greatly hurt. In fact, they will benefit from rising oil prices, just as the [Arabian] Gulf states enjoyed economic prosperity in 1973 as a result of the embargo of oil exports. The extent of the impact this had on the United States was made clear in a statement made by American Defense Secretary Schlesinger, who called for the use of military force to prevent any new oil-related hazard that threatened to stifle the American economy.”