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***The brothers deployed themselves in front of the enemy, and prepared to engage in battle and defeat him, just as they had defeated him before.”***

***“The brothers spread out through the entire city, and prepared for battle. At the forefront of those who prepared themselves were the brothers in the al-Sinaa neighborhood. The al-Sinaa group was under the command of Abdelaziz from the land of al-Haramain [Saudi Arabia]. This heroic group was responsible for guarding the most important and vulnerable point of access to the city. The distance separating the brothers from the enemy was only approximately 150 meters. Based upon the extent of the fighting that took place in this area, it was evident that it was under total enemy surveillance. Even the eye of a needle would not have been safe in this neighborhood. Death loomed over every single person day and night. Today, Abu Zarrah was wounded. Yesterday, Abu Mohammed became a martyr. And so on and so forth, this is how the story unraveled once the heroes took this burden upon their shoulders. The enemy constantly bombed this area. During some days, the entire area turned into a raging inferno with shrapnel flying everywhere.”***

***“Some time ago Abu Ubaidah al-Liby [from Libya] told me, ‘As we were being bombarded from all directions, and rockets from warplanes and AC-130 aircraft destroyed everything around us, a few brothers and I ran and hid behind a wall. Suddenly, a powerful rocket struck the house that we hid behind for protection. The sound of the explosion nearly uprooted our hearts, but of course only after it had already deafened our ears.’ [Abu Ubaidah] added, “At the moment of the blast, the wall that we had sought shelter behind went airborne. It was just like in the movies. We saw the wall fly right over our heads. We began to say the shahadah and prepared to die. Nonetheless, the wall crashed down behind us, and we all came out unscathed.’ That same day, Abu Nasser told me, ‘While I was praying along with one of the heroic brothers, a tank shell struck nearby where we were located. A burning hot piece of shrapnel sliced through my friend’s arm and came out from the other side. Fifteen minutes after the incident, I saw that he had already bandaged his wound in the mujahideen guesthouse and said, come on, let’s go, quickly. As soon as the brother finished bandaging his wound, he grabbed his rifle and set off to join the battle once again.”’***

***“Abu Nasser also told me about another incident that took place only one day before what happened in the ‘Martyr’s Garage’, and also showed me the location where it happened. Gesturing toward several homes in the neighborhood, Abu Nasser explained, ‘While we were performing evening prayers in front of this house, a powerful guided rocket suddenly shook the whole area. My eardrum nearly exploded from the magnitude of the blast. I went to see the place that the missile had struck, and, I swear my brothers, that I could not understand how anyone who was within a few kilometers radius from the point of impact—let alone a few meters—could survive such a blast. I saw a deep crater that was ten meters wide, and three meters deep. Water gushed out of the crater. The rocket struck right in the center of a group of trees. I saw a palm tree that had been hurled over a great distance, and seemed as if it had been uprooted with tremendous force... Nonetheless, nobody was hurt.”’***

***“During the night of the incident in the ‘Martyrs’ Garage’, and approximately an hour after the evening prayer, the commander and Shaykh Abu Musab [al-Zarqawi] passed by and found me prepared and ready to leave. He asked, ‘Is anything new?’ I said, ‘I am just about to go with the brothers.’ We then set off toward the al-Naimiyya checkpoint and stopped once we were 200 meters away from the Americans. I told him, ‘They are going to strike us now, and we are going to get into the street right here, and stay within a stone throw away from them.’ Indeed, we entered the street. As we moved from one place to the other, we suddenly saw a great ball of fire illuminate the entire city and heard a tremendous blast that originated from the direction of the al-Sinaa neighborhood. We heard a***



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*warplane pass overhead at that same moment, and realized that it must have dropped the bomb [that we heard impact]. We headed toward the site of the blast where another of the heroes also met us. He informed us that the al-Sinaa area had indeed been bombed, and that one of the bases of the brothers had been hit... The commander sent the brothers to save their fellow brothers, and a crane was dispatched to the scene in order to pull them out from beneath the rubble. Mujahideen from all over the area rushed to help their fellow brothers remove the debris.”*

*“Abu Zarr al-Falastini [from Palestine]—who was also among the group that was manning the frontline in this area—told me, ‘A rocket struck this factory.’ He pointed toward a factory that was situated in front of the garage. The brother added, ‘the rocket set the factory on fire, and then a second rocket struck right by the sand berm. The second rocket strike was followed by intense gunfire. During this time, the brothers were spread out, but they were only armed with light arms. The commander of the group Abu Turab said, ‘Brothers, take all your weapons, and get ready.’ More than ten brothers went to the ammunition depot, which was basically a garage. Inside the depot, one of them grabbed a mortar launcher, a second brother took a BKC [machine gun], a third selected rockets for a rocket launcher, and a fourth brother gathered mortar shells. While they were busy arming themselves, a powerful rocket struck the garage. The roof came crashing down on all of them. Seven of the brothers became martyrs on the spot, and four others—including the commander of the group Abu Turab [from Saudi Arabia]—were miraculously saved. Praise be to Allah for any outcome. Nevertheless, the brothers stayed firm in their combat positions at the very same checkpoint. Had the enemies—may Allah forbid them—managed to seize control over the points of access to the city, they would have totally infiltrated the al-Sinaa neighborhood and eventually all of Fallujah would be invaded...”*

*“I hereby present to you the reader the biograph[y] of... the ‘Martyr Missionary.’ I am referring to the beloved scholar, successful missionary, righteous mujahid, and cheerful and pleasant man, Mohammed al-Qubi—who was nicknamed Julaybib in the land of jihad. I am referring to the exceptional man who surrendered all of his honor, fame, and prestige in order to become an anonymous soldier in one of the mujahideen units. Our martyr lived in the extreme southern portion of the land of Al-Haramain [Saudi Arabia]... in a town called al-Wadiya. He was an excellent student of Islamic law, as well as a successful missionary. Over a short period of time, he managed to convince more than seventy men to devote themselves to Allah and join the righteous path. Abu Turab—who comes from the same area that Julaybib came from, told me, ‘My brother, I am a living testament of one of his good deeds. It was thanks to him, that I devoted myself to Allah and joined the righteous path. It was Julaybib who taught me about al-Tawheed [monotheism] and planted the love I have for jihad and for martyrdom, both through his actions and through his words.’ Abu Turab added, ‘Julaybib would take care of us in every sense of the word. He would take us out on trips—not to summer camps or parks, but rather to Mecca and Medina. We would all study there for several days, and meet with clerics and Shaykhs who radiated great passion for jihad and martyrdom.”*

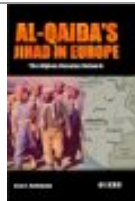
*“Julaibib got married recently, and six months before his trip, he was blessed with a daughter who he named Soumia... He wanted to set off on his journey without the Saudi tyrants knowing about his trip. He was smuggled over to Yemen, where he shaved his beard and changed his appearance somewhat. While he was walking in one of the streets in Sana’a, one of his students stumbled upon him and recognized him. As soon as our friend told the student about his intentions, the latter offered to accompany him to the land of nobility and jihad. In Yemen, he completed all the necessary preparations, including paperwork. He soon set off on his trip to the land of the jihad, dreaming all along about holding a rifle and aiming it toward the enemy. On one occasion, he dreamt that he was carrying a rocket that would devastate everything surrounding the infidels.”*



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***“Julaybib finally arrived in Iraq, and spent approximately two weeks with a jihadi unit. He later joined his brothers, the [foreign fighters] and the frontline soldiers in the first squad. He became a part of Commander Abdelaziz’s unit, and urged them to go the frontline. Julaybib insisted and eventually got what he had wanted. The day he arrived, Julaybib entered the kitchen and wanted to prepare lunch for the men... Nevertheless, a bombardment was soon launched targeting them. Julaybib scrambled to grab his machine gun out of the ammunition depot. A rocket struck Julaybib as he hurried, and Allah selected him to [go to]... paradise. Julaybib became a martyr, before firing a single bullet on the frontline. Nonetheless, Allah refused that he would die before he earned credit for manning the frontline, praise be to Allah for his blessing. I ask Allah to strengthen his family, and raise his daughter well.”***

***[Originally written: July 28, 2004]***



## **Al-Qaida’s Jihad in Europe: the Afghan-Bosnian Network**

*“For Bin Laden’s involvement in the Bosnian conflicts, see Evan F. Kohlmann, Al-Qaida’s Jihad in Europe.” - U.S. 9/11 Commission Final Report (July 2004)*

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