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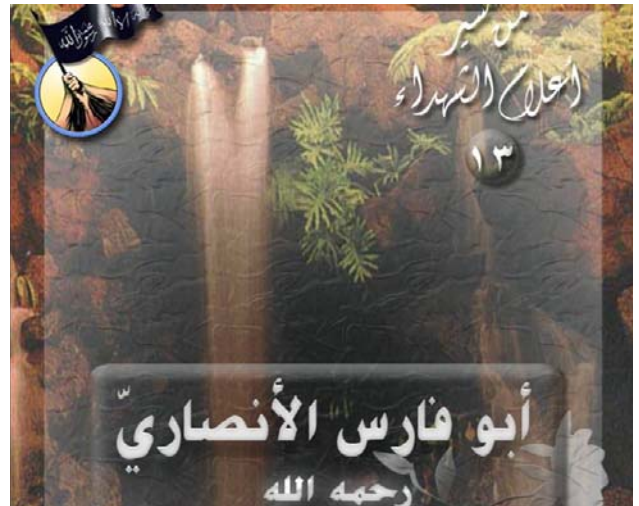
Biographies of Al-Qaida's "Distinguished Martyrs" in Mesopotamia" (Abu Musab al-Zarqawi)



March 2006

• "Abu Fares al-Ansari"

"In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious Most Merciful... Abu Fares al-Ansari was a courageous commander and hero. Abu Fares (Abdelsatir Mohammed Faras) was a valiant man who overcame great hardships, and [accomplished] heroic acts. Abu Fares was from al-Bawabid in the al-Ramadi peninsula. Words help to commemorate this mountain of a man, however they still cannot fully describe him. Abu Fares was a captain in the [Iraqi] intelligence forces, who joined the righteous path after the collapse of Saddam's tyrannical regime... Abu Fares was familiar with al-Tawheed [monotheism] and studied its principles with great passion... He joined the righteous path in accordance with what blessed Allah said: 'Fight all the mushrikeen, because all of them fight against you.'"



"The first time I saw Abu Fares was at his house in the [Ramadi] peninsula. At first, I thought he was a peasant who was not fortunate enough to have acquired any education. Whenever everyone sat on the sofa, he would sit on the floor. When everyone ate, he would just serve them all. Abu Fares would always do his best when it came to serving his brothers. In fact, it was as if he was their guardian. I always thought that Abu Fares was older than he actually was, because he was bald on the front part of his head. When I asked him how old he was, he told me that he was born in 1970. I later learned from his courageous and bold brother Saeed, that his older brother Abu Fares used to be a captain in the [Iraqi] intelligence forces. I replied, 'Praise be to Allah, this man is not ignorant at all. Praise be to Allah for that! How is it possible that he was ever part of the intelligence forces?' Abu Fares devoted himself to the righteous path for four months, praise be to Allah, during which he showered everyone with good deeds and with blessings. I knew Abu Fares to be a wealthy man, as well as a courageous and bold individual. He was also an exceptional commander. As one of his brothers put it, 'The bullet fears Abu Fares, but Abu Fares does not fear the bullet.'"

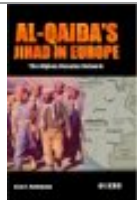


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“The events in Falljah later took another turn, and the brothers decided to prevent the Americans from entering the city. This decision was made after the forces in the al-Anbar province were replaced by Marines. The [mujahideen] units—including the unit of Abu Fares—were ordered to leave the desert and come to the city in order to guard at night and set up ambushes during the day. The situation remained the same, until the operation that shook the entire world took place—and by this, I am referring to the killing of the four American intelligence officers who were deceitfully referred to as ‘contractors.’ I witnessed with my very eyes how a mule dragged their bodies through the streets of Fallujah, after they were hung from the iron bridge that the British built and that serves as one of the oldest and most important landmarks in the city. I recall that day, while I was sitting inside a store in the al-Sinaa area, I saw the heroic martyr [Hajji] Abu Thamer (who was mentioned in a previous edition [of the ‘Distinguished Martyrs’ series]) approach me with a wide smile on his face. Abu Thamer was beaming with joy, and said, ‘Look!’ He tossed me a bunch of papers. I quickly skimmed through the papers and suddenly saw American passports and credit cards that were issued by American banks in Kuwait. I saw a Kuwaiti [immigration] admissions stamp that was stamped five days ago inside one of the passports. The translation proved that the four Americans who were killed were indeed training and planning officers who came to Iraq as ‘contractors’ in order to layout the groundwork for their ‘ingenious’ invasion of Fallujah. Instead, the only thing that awaited them was a grocer, who dragged their bodies [through the streets] using the mule that carries his trash on a daily basis when he is done working for the day.”

“Following the incident, the situation in Fallujah began to escalate. The Americans launched an offensive against the city. They began their offensive in the al-Sinaa area because the mujahideen had the weakest control over this part of town, as it was hard for them to defend it. Moreover, this was a large industrial neighborhood that was highly vulnerable to air strikes, and practically uninhabited. It was easy to strike anything that moved inside this part of town. At 2am, the mujahideen brigades engaged in battle with the Americans. It was a fierce battle. The mujahideen stood firm and redeemed Islam with their bodies. The heroes advanced wearing no armor other than their hearts that were full of faith and trust in Allah. Their motto was, ‘the eyes of the cowards never rest.’ The pigs fired a massive salvo of bullets and cluster bombs toward the mujahideen, and our hero and commander Abu Fares sustained a fatal injury. He drove toward the hospital himself at first, but was later joined by the heroic martyr and great lion Jamal from al-Khaldiya. Jamal took over, and drove the car. He placed Abu Fares in the trunk of the vehicle, and this aggravated his pain even more. When they were finally in front of the hospital entrance, the Americans suddenly appeared from every single direction. They shot everything in sight, and several bullets struck the body of our heroic commander [Abu Fares]. The bullets signaled the start of a new life for Abu Fares—a life free of hardships.”

“Abu Fares will always remain a role model, and a great mountain of a man... After offering his advice to his spouse and to his children [during his burial], he asked that one of his brothers (who works as a policeman) not walk during his funeral... The eye has never seen a person quite like you, Abu Fares. Your seat is still empty, and I ask Allah to reward us with a worthy substitute.”



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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