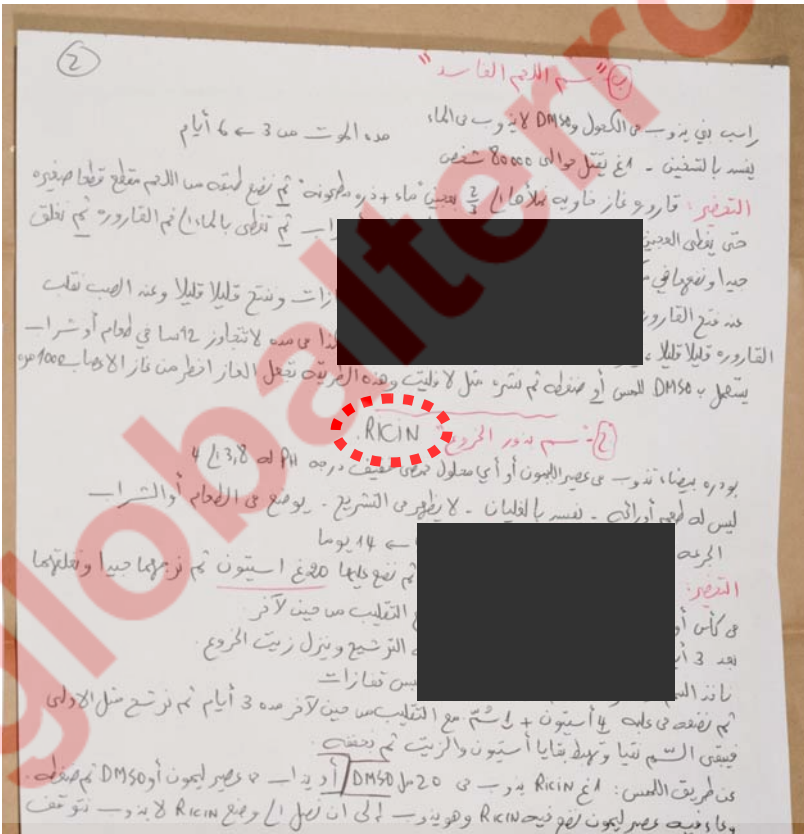




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Globalterroralert.com (4/14/05): Despite damning evidence and the violent murder of a British constable, four of five men accused of plotting to spread ricin and other poisons throughout downtown London have been acquitted by a court in the United Kingdom. When British counterterrorism forces raided the headquarters of the alleged terror cell in January 2003, they found a makeshift chemical weapons factory, replete with castor oil beans (the raw material for ricin), lab equipment, and recipes for ricin, cyanide, botulinum, and the preparation of explosives. In a public statement, the chief of the Metropolitan Police's Anti-Terrorist Branch Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke warned, "The impact on the public, if [they] had succeeded... is incalculable... It would be hard to underestimate the fear and disruption this plot could have caused across the country."



At left: An Arabic-language guide to producing Ricin, seized in north London, January 2003.
At right: Castor beans (the primary ingredient in Ricin), seized in north London, January 2003.