

Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for the attack on a Western sea vessel in the region of the Strait of Hormuz

On July 28th 2010 an explosion occurred on a Japanese oil tanker near the entrance to the Persian Gulf. One sailor was lightly injured as a result of the explosion.

The "M Star" tanker, loaded with nearly two million barrels of oil, was on its way to Chiba Port near Tokyo when the explosion occurred as the vessel entered the Strait of Hormuz, close to Oman.



The oil tanker after the explosion

The Strait of Hormuz, connecting the Persian Gulf and Oman, is considered to be one of the most important routes in the world. Close to 40% of the world's oil supply passes through this strait.¹

¹ <http://aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=580179&issueno=11566>



The Strait of Hormuz

After a few days of speculation regarding the origin of the explosion, the Jihadi forums announced on August 4th 2010 that the Abdullah Azzam Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack.² Two days later, on August 6th 2010, a senior member of the United Arab Emirates' Coast Guard (the ship arrived there after the attack), stated that inspections carried out by expert teams proved that the attack was executed using home-made explosives loaded into a boat which then sailed close to the tanker.³

² <http://www.faloojaa.net/vb/showthread.php?t=128455>

³ <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2010/08/06/115855.html>

يريدون نظام أمي ولا عمل استخباراتي.

و لم يكن هذا التصيم من أمعاء الله مستغفياً؛ فإن حرب المجاهدين لئلا هذه النافذة فشل ذريع لنظام الكفر العالمي؛ فإنها من أحدث الثورات وأكبرها، وتعمل على منبها ما لا يقل عن مليون برميل من النفط، والضربة المبركة كانت في منطقة من أهم مناطق النقل البحري في العالم؛ فمضيق هرمز هو شريان اقتصادي رئيس لنظام الكفر العالمي، ومنطقة المضيق ملية بالأساطيل البحرية للعدو، فما أصعب احتراق هذه المنطقة المحصنة لئلا أن الله مع المجاهدين ﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُكَفِّرْ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ مُجِيبُ الدُّعَاءِ ۗ ۝﴾ ، ولو كشف أعداء الله عن كون المرة التي تعرضت لها النافذة هي مرة استشهادي؛ فثارت أسوار النفط، ولعرف العالم كله فشل النظم الأمنية التي بقيت بها الكفار ضربات المجاهدين ﴿ وَظَلُّوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ وَأَنْفُسَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَأَنْشُرُوا اللَّهَ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ يَحْتَسِبُوا وَقَدْ جَاءَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الرَّغْبُ ۗ ۝﴾ ، إلا أنها غيب أن تبشر إخواننا المسلمين للمستضعفين بأن هم إخواننا لن يذوقوا آرامة قبل أن تقطع رأس الكفر العالمي بإذن الله، فليستبشروا بقراب النصر، وليضربوا مع إخوانهم فيه بسهم؛ فإنه باب أجر عظيم قد فتح للمسلمين. وقد أمرنا نشر البيان حتى عاد أبطالنا إلى قرايعهم سائلين، وقد الفضل والمنة.

وكانت هذه العروة باسم الشيخ الأسير عمر عبد الرحمن، تذكروا للأمة بأحد من كان هم -بعد الله- فضل عظيم في إشعال جذوة الجهاد في الأمة؛ وقالاً بأن يكون فكاكه من أسرته قريباً -إن شاء الله تعالى- .

وتقول لأختنا المسلمة، ولشباب العالم كله ممن استجدهم طغوت النظام الدولي المعاصر، إن رفع العلم عنكم -مسلمكم وكافركم- مما أوجبه الله علينا، حتى يحكم المسلم والكافر بالعدل؛ وحتى يأخذ كل ذي حق منكم حقه كاملاً غير منقوص؛ كما شرع الله له.

وإنا لنمعد الله على الثبات في هذا الطريق ﴿ حَتَّىٰ لَا تَكُونَ فِئَةً يَبُذُّونَ الشَّيْءَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا ۖ ۝﴾



كتاب عبدالله عزام
سرايا يوسف العيوي
اللاتين ٢١ / ٨ / ١٤٣١ هـ
٢٠١٠ / ٨ / ٢
الصدر: (مركز الفجر للإعلام)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

:: كتاب عبد الله عزام ::

[غزوة الشيخ عمر عبد الرحمن - تبي عملية تفجير ناقلة النفط اليابانية]

قال الله تعالى: ﴿ مَا قُلْتُمْ مِنْ لَيْتَ أَوْ تَرَكْتُمْهَا قَائِمَةً عَلَىٰ أَرْضِنَا لِيَذُنَ اللَّهُ وَيُخْرِجَ الْقَافِلِينَ ۗ ۝﴾



الحمد لله ناصر المؤمنين، مخزي الكافرين، الذي وعدنا بالنصر والسكين، وجعلهما في جهاد الكافرين، والصلاح والسلام على سيد المرسلين، وإمام المجاهدين، وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين، أما بعد:

ففي حلقة مباركة من سلسلة جهادنا في سبيل الله، لإضعاف نظام الكفر العالمي المنسلط على بلاد المسلمين، الناهب لتروايقهم، وارفع الظلم عن المسلمين، ولإعادة ما سُلبوه من حقوقهم في عيادة الله وحده والتحاكم لشريعته، وحققهم في الثروات التي أودعها الله أرضهم وسرقتها طواغيت نظام الكفر العالمي وأذنانهم الخنزيرين لبلادة؛ قامت مجموعة من إخوانكم المجاهدين في سرايا الشيخ يوسف العيوي من كتاب الشهيد عبد الله عزام بغزوة مظفرة في مفصل اقتصادي هام لنظام الكفر العالمي، أتت أكثليتها كما أرادوا، وزيادة فضل من الله.

بعد منتصف ليلة الأربعاء الماضي فجر البطل الاستشهادي (أيوب الطيشان) - تقبله الله في الشهداء- نفسه في ناقلة النفط اليابانية (إم ستار) في مضيق هرمز بين الإمارات وعمان، فألقى بها أضراساً تسامت بها وكالات الأنباء العالمية. والعظيم أثر هذه العملية البطولية على الاقتصاد العالمي وأسعار النفط؛ فقد تكتم أعداء الله على حقيقة العملية، ونسبها بعضهم إلى هزة أرضية؛ وصدفوا فقد هزم استشهادنا هرا بوصوله إلى هذا الهدف الثمين، مبتغياً للكفر العالمي من جديد؛ أن أولياء الله المجاهدين تفتح أمامهم أحكام الأرواب إغراقاً بعون الله ومسته، وليس يحول توهم ودون ما

In the organization's announcement of responsibility it was stated that the attack was carried out by the Yusuf Al-Uyeyri Company, which is named after a senior Saudi figure in Al-Qaeda who was killed in 2003. According to the organization, the attack was meant to "weaken the global heretic regime overruling the Muslim countries and taking away their resources..."

It was also stated in the announcement that: "A group of your Mujahideen brothers from the Yusuf Al-Uyeyri Company of the Shahid Abdullah Azzam Brigades, has carried out a victorious attack at an important economic junction for the global heretic regime... After midnight on Wednesday (28/07) the Shahid hero Ayyub Al-Taishan blew himself up on the 'M Star' Japanese oil tanker at the Hormuz Strait between the Emirates and Oman..."

The announcement stated that the region of the Strait of Hormuz was chosen as the target for the attack because "it is filled with the enemy's vessels". The claim of responsibility was published a week after the attack. According to the organization's announcement, the claim was delayed to ensure that the group members could safely return to their bases.

It should be noted that it was said that the attack on the oil tanker was to avenge the imprisonment of Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman, who is serving a life sentence in the United States for his involvement in an attempt to blow up the Twin Towers in 1993. The announcement did not explain why the Japanese tanker was targeted, but it seems that the reason was the ease with which it could be carried out and the availability of access to the target. In addition, the announcement did not provide any information about the modus operandi of the terrorist attack.

The "Abdullah Azzam Brigades" – named after the Palestinian considered to be Osama bin Laden's spiritual mentor – have thus far been active in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. It should be noted that the organization's field commander, Salih Al-Qaraawi, is a Saudi wanted by the Saudi Ministry of Interior. He was revealed for the first time in April 2010 when he was interviewed by the Al-Fajr media institute, known as the media institute of global Jihad organizations. He revealed, in the interview, that the brigades are composed of a number of companies deployed in several areas.⁴

The organization took responsibility for the terrorist attacks at the Hilton Hotel in Taba and other targets in Sinai in October 2004. In July 2005 the organization claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks in Sharm El-Sheikh. In August 2005 the organization announced that its people were behind the launching of rockets towards an American ship in the Port of Aqaba. In September 2009 the organization's activists launched rockets towards the north of Israel. This was carried out by the Ziyad Al-Jarrah Company, named after the Lebanese national who was amongst the 19 terrorists who carried out the September 11th attacks.

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades are mostly active in the Sinai Peninsula, but the recent attack may indicate a new expanse of operation on the organization's part, and maybe indicate existing ties with Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen.⁵

The terrorist attack brought responses from internet surfers on the Jihadi forums. One wrote: "Al-Qaeda has returned to carry out the war at sea. It has demolished America and global economy. On September 11th Al-Qaeda waged war in the air, and the rest of its activity was on the ground. Then the "Cole"

⁴ <http://www.aljond.com/vb/showthread.php?p=53106>

⁵ <http://ara.reuters.com/article/topNews/idARACAE6730Z720100804?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>,
<http://ara.reuters.com/article/topNews/idARACAE6730Z720100804?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0>

(destroyer) and now the Japanese tanker at sea." Other surfers viewed the terrorist attack with great surprise, asking if the suicide bomber was from Oman or the Gulf principalities, and called for a continuation of attacks on all ships and tankers so as to destroy the economy of the western countries. With regards to this they stated that Japan supplies oil to "the armies of the Crusading Alliance" and emphasized: "Allah shows us mercy by having the Hormuz Strait, the Bab El-Mandeb Strait and the Suez Canal close to us".⁶

This is not the first time Al-Qaeda has attacked targets at sea using suicide bombers. In October 2000, 17 American sailors were killed in a terrorist attack on the "Cole" destroyer in the Yemeni port of Aden. Two years later a suicide bomber attacked the French "Limburg" tanker off the coast of Yemen.

On 31 July, 2003, investigators announced that a scuba diving school in Eindhoven had been used by suspected Al-Qaeda members. The alleged Al-Qaeda cell led by Tunisian instructor Wahid Gomri trained dozens of suspects, with Gomri footing the bill for expensive diving classes and materials. It should be noted that previously captured Al-Qaeda terrorists have discussed marine attacks using scuba diving teams.

Three Al-Qaeda operatives – all Saudis – were arrested and convicted in Morocco for planning maritime attacks targeting US ships in the Strait of Gibraltar in 2002. They also mentioned the Dutch school. A diving license from the scuba diving school was found in the possession of one suspect from the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), Kasim Al-Ali (aka Abu Ilal). Al-Ali was arrested

⁶ <http://www.faloojaa.net/vb/showthread.php?t=128455>

in May 2003 along with 11 other suspects, but all were subsequently released due to a lack of evidence.⁷

It should also be noted that over the past year there has been a marked increase in the number of calls made by surfers on the Jihadi forums to attack American ships, especially those passing through the Hormuz Strait.⁸

Abu Musab Al-Suri, one of Al-Qaeda's most prominent ideologists, has already noted the need to attack western sea vessels in the Middle East due to their strategic and economic importance, in his book "Global Islamic Resistance Call". According to him, there are four main sea passages: the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, the Suez Canal in Egypt, Bab El-Mandeb between Yemen and the Horn of Africa, and the Strait of Gibraltar. In his words:⁹

"Most of the western world's economy passes through these sea passages both in commerce and in oil. Also fleets pass through them, airplane carriers and death missiles meant for our children and wives...These passages should be closed down so that these invasive voyages move away. This [can be achieved] by attacking the ships of Americans and the ships of their allies by planting mines and sinking the ships, or by way of threatening to carry out terrorist attacks against them, and acts of piracy, and by way of using the force of weapons as much as possible."

⁷ <http://www.cdn.info/news/article/a030802.html>,
<http://www.investigativeproject.org/169/dutch-lessons>

⁸ http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Maritime_Terrorism.pdf,
http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Periodical_Review_June_2010_No_1.pdf, page 14.

⁹ Abu Musab Al-Suri, **Da'wat Al-Muqawama Al-Islamiyyah Al-Alamiyyah**, page 1384.

In recent years, attacks on vessels (amongst other things) by global Jihad organizations have been thwarted due to the exposure of several terrorist groups. On May 23rd 2009, Egyptian authorities uncovered an operational terrorist cell identified with Al-Qaeda which was comprised of ten members. The cell's objective was to attack the gas lines between Israel and Egypt as well as attacking Israeli ships passing through the Suez Canal. It should be noted that this cell was also responsible for the terrorist attack at the Khan Al-Khalili Market in Cairo in February 2009, which was packed at the time with Egyptian civilians and tourists. At the beginning of July 2009, another terrorist network was exposed when the Egyptian Security Forces arrested 25 armed men who belonged to Al-Qaeda, most of them engineers and technicians. The network members were suspected of planning to blow up oil pipes and freighter ships passing through the Suez Canal.¹⁰

¹⁰ For more information on the attempts of Jihad organizations to attack marine targets, see:
http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWVG_Maritime_Terrorism.pdf