

# Syria is Funding, Sponsoring, Training, Arming, Directing Al Qaeda in Iraq, Insurgents in Lebanon!

Contributed by Geo Strategy Direct  
Friday, 05 October 2007

Syria and Al Qaeda in Iraq is only a piece of the pie that Syria encompasses. Not only are the Syrians involved with undermining Iraq, but they are also involved in undermining Lebanon, and the Palestinian Two State Solution in the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. ties Syrian intelligence to Al Qaida network in Iraq

BAGHDAD &mdash; The U.S. military said Syrian intelligence has relayed funding and support to Al Qaida cells in Iraq. "We have evidence of Syrian intelligence involvement," an official said.

Evidence has come from captured Al Qaida operatives who entered Iraq from Syria. On Sept. 3, Iraqi and U.S. forces dismantled an Al Qaida cell in Rabiya said to have been directed by Syrian intelligence.

Officials said Syrian intelligence facilitated the movement of Al Qaida insurgents, weapons and funds to Iraq through the Anbar province.

One of the Al Qaida operatives, officials said, was linked to Syrian intelligence. They said Syrian intelligence provided funds to fuel the Sunni insurgency in Iraq, which includes the entry of up to 80 fighters per month.

"Another detainee is suspected of having financial ties with Syrian Intelligence to support the insurgency," the U.S. military said early last month.

"In addition, one of the six suspects is an alleged Al Qaida in Iraq emir [commander] who assists in financing insurgent operations."

Officials said Syrian intelligence has been a key element in the training and stationing of Al Qaida cadets in Syria. They said Syrian intelligence has monitored the flow of Sunni volunteers who arrive by air to Damascus International Airport and then make their way to Iraq.

"The job of Syrian intelligence is to determine which volunteers intend to fight in Iraq and which intend to stay and make trouble in Syria," the official said.

-----

Syria said to liquidate Al Qaida agents out of synch with Assad

LONDON &mdash; Syria secretly eliminates Al Qaida operatives who refuse to follow orders from the regime of President Bashar Assad, according to opposition sources.

The Assad regime has targeted and killed several senior Al Qaida operatives deemed as threats to Damascus. The sources said Al Qaida operatives have been given a choice of cooperating with Syrian authorities or risking arrest and death.

"Al Qaida operatives who don't follow the orders of the regime are either killed or arrested," a Syrian source said. "Those who operate openly cooperate with the Assad regime."

On Sept. 28, a Syrian cleric said to have been recruiting fighters for the Sunni insurgency war in Iraq was assassinated in Aleppo. Sheik Mahmoud Abu Al Qaqa was shot several times by a gunman following prayers at a prominent mosque. The assailant was pursued by Muslim congregants and arrested.

"The one who carried out the assassination was a prisoner of the American forces in Iraq and had been released some time ago," Sheik Samir Abu Khashbeh, an aide to Al Qaqa, said. "He is known to us."

The sources said the killing of Al Qaqa marked a blow to Assad's efforts to coopt the Islamic opposition in Syria. They

said Al Qaqa, whose real name was Mahmoud Aghassi, served Damascus by directing Islamic regime opponents to Iraq to fight the U.S.-led coalition.

"Al Qaqa made sure that those who wanted to fight the infidels did so in Iraq rather than in Syria," the source said.

About 60 Al Qaida recruits arrive in Damascus by plane every month, and then head for the Iraqi border to join the Sunni insurgency against the U.S. military. The recruits often receive briefings in Aleppo and Hama before they are taken into Iraq, often for suicide missions.

The sources said Syrian intelligence has tracked and killed scores of Al Qaida operatives who sought to undermine the Assad regime. In some cases, they said, detained Islamists were recruited for false flag missions in which they ended up being killed by Syrian security forces.

Over the last year, Abu Qaqa maintained a low profile and was appointed by the regime to head a government-financed Islamic seminary. The appointment came in wake of the discovery of compact disks that contained a speech in which Abu Qaqa called on Syrians to join the insurgency war in Iraq. Later, Abu Qaqa denied making such an appeal.

-----

Geostrategy-Direct, [www.geostrategy-direct.com](http://www.geostrategy-direct.com), October 10, 2007  
Copyright © 2007 East West Services, Inc. All rights reserved.