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# Tapes reveal testament of hate

By Josh Meyer in Washington  
September 11 2002



"God praise everybody who trained and helped me" ... Abdulaziz Alomari speaks on one of the videotapes sent to Al-Jazeera.  
Photo: AFP/Al-Jazeera

The al-Qaeda terrorist network has sent the United States a video calling card on the eve of September 11 - for the first time publicly claiming credit for the attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon.

The videotapes, which contained comments attributed to one of the hijackers and Osama bin Laden, were delivered on Monday to the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television network, which immediately broadcast them.

On one tape, at least four men identified as among the 19 hijackers were shown chatting and reviewing flight manuals in Afghanistan. In a close-up, a hand is placed on a map of Washington that has the Pentagon highlighted.

The men were not clean-shaven and dressed in European clothing as they were on September 11, but rather bearded and wearing Afghan costume. Al-Jazeera identified them as hijackers Ahmed Alnami, Hamza Alghamdi, Ahmed Alghamdi and Wail Alshehri.

In other developments:

The FBI has issued warnings to local police, electrical companies and transportation agencies in recent days of

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potential terrorist attacks within US borders on or near September 11;

 Philippine authorities announced they had uncovered evidence of an al-Qaeda plot to attack the US and Israeli embassies in Manila; and

 The US embassy in Jakarta and a consulate in Surabaya were closed "until further notice" because of threats of attack.

As in the past, Al-Jazeera officials would not say how, where or from whom they got the tapes.

The footage, the network said, "seems to be a tape prepared by al-Qaeda on the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks".

In another segment, a man appears before a large, apparently superimposed photograph of a smouldering Pentagon. "We will get you. We will humiliate you. We will never stop following you," he said, speaking in Arabic. He demanded the US "take your fat hands off the land of Arabs", according to the CNN translation.

Al-Jazeera identified that speaker as Abdulaziz Alomari, one of the hijackers aboard American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Centre.

"God praise everybody who trained and helped me, namely the leader Sheik Osama bin Laden," he said. "May God bless him. May God accept our deeds."

In yet another segment, a voice identified by Al-Jazeera as that of bin Laden himself is heard over images of Afghanistan and the 19 hijackers, praising the hijackers for changing "the face of history".

"There aren't enough words to describe how great these men were and how great their deeds were," the CNN translation said. "... These men have consolidated faith in the hearts of believers and undermined the plans of the crusaders and their agents in the region."

The man identified as bin Laden names all four of the men believed to be pilots of the four hijacked planes. Mohamed Atta, he said, "carried the pains of the nation", and Hani Hanjour, whose plane crashed into the Pentagon was "a great man".

Al-Jazeera said the tape of the hijackers was filmed in the Afghan town of Kandahar several months before the September 11 attacks.

In Washington, FBI and Justice Department officials said they wanted to scrutinise the tapes to glean whatever they could from them about the September 11 attacks and any future terrorist plots al-Qaeda has planned.

"We are trying to get them," said an FBI official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Obviously, they are of great interest to us."

### Los Angeles Times

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