



[Education](#)

[Jobs](#)

[White Papers](#)

[Travel](#)

[Online Store](#)

[Home](#) :: [Security](#) :: [Profiles](#) :: [People](#) ::

HOMELAND SECURITY

Abdullah Azzam

Leader of Maktab al-Khidamat

● Dead



[Movements of Abdullah Azzam](#)

[Associates of Abdullah Azzam](#)

[Activities of Abdullah Azzam](#)

[Trace links to Abdullah Azzam](#)

[Back](#)

[Forward](#)

[Profiles Home](#)

[Profiles Directory](#)

[Profiles Search](#)

Importance	Very High
● Means of Death	Remote-detonated bomb ¹
● Date of Death	Nov. 24, 1989 ^{1,2}
● Location of Death	Peshawar, Pakistan ¹
● Affiliation	Maktab al-Khidamat ^{1,2}
● Role	Commander
● Affiliation	Al-Qaeda ²
● Affiliation	Muslim Brotherhood ¹
● Nationality	Palestinian ^{1,2}
● Nationality	Jordanian ¹
● Alias(es)	Dr. Abdullah Azzam ²
● Rough Age at Death	48
● Date of Birth	1941 ¹
● Place of Birth	Selat al-Harithis, Palestine ¹
Gender	Male
● History	Veteran of Afghanistan-Soviet civil war (1980-1989)
● Narrative and Notes (Reliable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdullah Azzam, with his deputy Osama bin Laden, founded Maktab al-Khidamat in 1984 to recruit and assist Arabs fighting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Once the anti-Soviet forces' victory was assured, Azzam and bin Laden decided they wanted to keep the jihad alive, and export it globally. Azzam was a disciple of the Egyptian Islamist Sayyid Qutb. In a journal article published in 1987, Azzam defined "al-Qa'ida al-Sulbah," or "the solid base," as the vanguard of global jihad. Killed with Azzam in 1989 were his two sons. It is uncertain who killed him.^{1,2}
● Narrative and Notes (Possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdullah Azzam is described as a ideological mentor for Osama bin Laden, although some experts, including Rohan Gunaratna, say they had significant yet private differences in how to proceed after the end of the Soviet-Afghan war. Azzam may have wanted to concentrate on Israel, or setting up an Islamist government in Afghanistan, while many in MAK wanted to focus on the authoritarian government in Egypt. Azzam wrote an article that appears to oppose the killing of noncombatants, women and children during jihad.^{1,2}
● Narrative and Notes (Questionable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speculation regarding Azzam's killers has included rival Egyptians, Osama bin Laden or one of his supporters.¹

Sources and Notes

¹ Gunaratna, Rohan. 'Inside al-Qaeda: Global Network of Terror.' Columbia University Press: New York, 2002.

² The 9-11 Commission Report. July 22, 2004.


Photo credit


Public domain

Key to bullets

● High confidence

● Some confidence

 Low confidence

 No confidence

Page maintained by [John Lumpkin](#)

[Click here](#) for a disclaimer and detailed explanation of the confidence ratings.

[Advertise with Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [GlobalSecurity.org In the News](#) | [Internships](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000-2008 GlobalSecurity.org All rights reserved.

Site maintained by: [John Pike](#)

Page last modified: 01-11-2006 22:40:58 ZULU