



- News home
- Blogs
- Comment
- Your view
- Obituaries
- Law reports
- Matt cartoon
- Alex cartoon
- Picture galleries

CIA holds young sons of captured al-Qa'eda chief

By Olga Craig
Last Updated: 1:26am GMT 09/03/2003

Two young sons of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the suspected mastermind of the September 11 attacks, are being used by the CIA to force their father to talk.

Yousef al-Khalid, nine, and his brother, Abed al-Khalid, seven, were taken into custody in Pakistan last September when intelligence officers raided a flat in Karachi where their father had been hiding.

He fled just hours before the raid but his two young sons, along with another senior al-Qa'eda member, were found cowering behind a wardrobe in the apartment.

advertisement



The boys have been held by the Pakistani authorities but this weekend they were flown to America where they will be questioned about their father.

Last night CIA interrogators confirmed that the boys were staying at a secret address where they were being encouraged to talk about their father's activities.

"We are handling them with kid gloves. After all, they are only little children," said one official, "but we need to know as much about their father's recent activities as possible. We have child psychologists on hand at all times and they are given the best of care."

Their father, Mohammed, 37, is being interrogated at the Bagram US military base in Afghanistan. He is being held in solitary confinement and subjected to "stress and duress"-style interrogation techniques.

He has been told that his sons are being held and he is being encouraged to divulge future attacks against the West and talk about the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden.

"He has said very little so far," one CIA official said yesterday. "He sits in a trance-like state and recites verses from the Koran. But while he may claim to be a devout Muslim, we know he is fond of the Western-style fast life.

"His sons are important to him. The promise of their release and their return to Pakistan may be the psychological lever we need to break him."

The Kuwaiti-born Mohammed named his older son after Ramzi Yousef, his nephew, who was convicted of masterminding the 1993 attack on New York's World Trade Centre. After the attack, Yousef fled to the Philippines with his uncle.

When bomb-making chemicals set fire to their Manila apartment, Yousef fled to Pakistan where he was captured in an Islamabad hotel room in 1995.

Mohammed was in the next room and, audaciously, gave an eye-witness account of the arrest to a reporter. By the time the Pakistani authorities found out his true identity he had fled the country.

He was eventually arrested last weekend in a flat in Rawalpindi, two miles from the home of Pakistan's President Musharraf. Among the items found was a photograph of a smiling Mohammed with his arms around his two sons.

Known as "The Engineer", he is suspected of being the mastermind of the Bali bombings and the man who slashed the throat of Daniel Pearl, the American reporter, in Pakistan in January 2002.

Little is known of his sons' mother, who is thought to be Pakistani. "We have no evidence that



An appliance on standby is still on.



MARLOW CARS
Supplier and buyer of Mercedes, Porsche, BMW, Bentley

- SERVICES**
- RSS feeds
 - Blackberry service
 - Email services
 - Mobile
 - Podcasts
 - Photographs
 - Telegraph e-paper
 - Home delivery
 - Weekly Telegraph

FEATURE FOCUS



- Crossword
- Sudoku
- Dating
- Weather

suggests she has anything to do with al-Qa'eda," a Pakistani intelligence source said yesterday.

"All we know is that she is the sister of an al-Qa'eda member that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed met at a Pakistan college, the University of Dawa al Jihad, in the late 1980s."

The college, referred to as the "Islamic Sandhurst", is said to have been a breeding ground for terrorists where bomb-making was among the subjects on its unofficial curriculum.

Print | Email this story

Post this story to: del.icio.us | Digg | Newsvine | NowPublic | Reddit

Related articles

- Net tightens around bin Laden
Torture not effective
They will do what is needed
5 March 2003: CIA 'pressure' on al-Qa'eda chief
5 March 2003: Al-Qa'eda chief betrayed by bin Laden's friend
4 March 2003: Welcome to the CIA's Hotel California
3 March 2003: Race against time to crack terror cells
2 March 2003: September 11 mastermind held

External links

- War on terrorism - CIA
Most wanted terrorists - FBI
Interrogating the dead Al Qaeda - Pakistan News

Ads by Google
Take the Stress Test
Panic Attacks
Employee Health Checks



BUSINESS
Short-termism is a future menace
Investment industry failing to address climate change.



ULTRATRAVEL
My travelling life: India Hicks
The model talks Bahamian retreats and conch salad.



BOOKS
The ups and downs of authorhood
Follow the twists and turns through a writer's year.



STELLA
Host with the most time and cash
How to rustle up a £30 meal for six in under an hour.

You are here: Telegraph > News > International News > Asia > Afghanistan

About us | Contact us | Forgotten your password? | Advertising | Press office | Promotions | Archive | Today's news

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2007. | Terms & Conditions of reading. | Commercial information. | Privacy and Cookie Policy.