

Faces of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

The al-Qaeda group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has claimed responsibility for bombings that killed at least 57 people and wounded 110 at three hotels in the Jordanian capital Amman

Real name: *Ahmed Fadhil al-Khalayleh*. Born Oct 30, 1966, in Jordanian town of Zarqa. Son of retired soldier and elder of prominent *Bani Hassan* Bedouin tribe



Mar: Zarqawi's *Tawhid wal Jihad* group blamed for bombing of *Shiite* shrines in Baghdad and southern city of Karbala, killing at least 181 people

1980s: Joins *Jihad* fighting Soviet occupation of Afghanistan

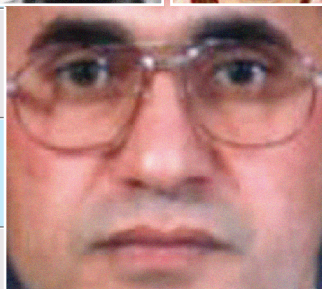
1992: Returns to Jordan. Mounts violent campaign to overthrow monarchy

1996: Jailed for 15 years, released 1999 under amnesty when *King Abdullah* assumes throne

2002: Sentenced to death in absentia for plotting attacks against U.S. and Israeli targets in Jordan

Aug 2003: Allegedly masterminded bombings of UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22, including top UN envoy *Sergio Vieira de Mello* – and *Imam Ali* mosque in Najaf, in which 105 people die

2004: Sentenced to death again for 2002 assassination of U.S. diplomat *Laurence Foley* in Amman



Apr: Zarqawi identified as brains behind major bomb plot intercepted by Jordanian authorities

May: Identified as killer in video showing beheading of U.S. civilian worker *Nick Berg* – first foreign

hostage to be beheaded in Iraq. Slaughter causes revulsion in West

Jul: U.S. raises bounty on his head to \$25 million from \$10 million

Oct: Appointed by *Osama bin Laden* as his deputy in Iraq, changes organization's name to *al-Qaeda Organisation for Holy War in Iraq*

2005: Zarqawi's group becomes largest of six insurgent groups in Iraq. U.S. estimates total insurgent strength at 20,000. **Attacks on U.S. troops reach nearly 600 a week**