

Yemen and Saudi Al Qaeda groups merge

Al Qaeda groups in Yemen and Saudi Arabia have announced they are merging operations, raising fears of new attacks in the region. The new group, *Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula*, threatens to extend operations to include Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Israel

Al Jama'a Al Islamiyya
and ***Takfir Wal Hijra***. Offshoots of Muslim Brotherhood. Strength: **800+**

Al Qaeda in Iraq, established 2004. Active in Iraq and Jordan. Strength: **1,000+**



Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

Leader: **Nasir Wuhaiishi**

Deputy: **Said Ali al-Shihri** (former Guantanamo Bay prisoner 372)

Al Qaeda attacks in Yemen

■ **Sep 2008:** Car bomb attack on U.S. Embassy in Sana'a leaves 17 people dead including six militants

■ **Mar:** Three mortar rounds land near U.S. Embassy in Sana'a wounding Yemeni students at nearby school

■ **Jan:** Two Belgian tourists and Yemeni driver killed in Hadramout

■ **Jul 2007:** Suicide car bomber kills eight Spanish tourists and two Yemeni guides at ancient temple in Marib

■ **Sep 15, 2006:** Four coordinated bombings of oil facilities. Four attackers and one security guard killed

■ **Feb 2006:** Twenty-three senior Al Qaeda operatives – including **Nasir Wuhaiishi** – escape maximum security prison in Sana'a



■ **Oct 2000:** Bombing of **USS Cole** in Yemeni port of Aden kills 17 sailors and wounds 39. Average age of dead is just 19 years

