

## Incident Details

Title: July 2010 Disrupted Oslo al-Qaeda Cell and Plot

Type: Terrorist plot  
Date From: unknown  
Date To: 8 July 2010  
Country(s): Norway

### Narrative(s):

An alleged al-Qaeda terrorist cell was disrupted in Oslo by US and Norwegian authorities. The cell contained two Norwegians. The first individual is Mikael Davud, a 39-year-old with Uighur origin who first arrived in the Scandinavian nation as a refugee and has been living in Norway since 1999, and finally received his citizenship in 2007. The second person is David Jakobsen, a 31-year-old Norwegian with permanent residency who is also a citizen of Uzbekistan, but sought asylum.<sup>1</sup> Jakobsen actually contacted the police when he allegedly realized that a purchase of hydrogen peroxide could be used for malicious purposes by his colleague, yet was still arrested.<sup>2</sup> Unbeknownst to him, the authorities had substituted a "harmless" substance in the sale. These two men intend to plead not guilty to any terrorism charges. The third suspect, who has not been named, was arrested in Germany, is 37-year-old Kurdish<sup>3</sup> Iraqi who first moved to Norway in the late 1990s and has Norwegian residency.<sup>4</sup> He will be extradited by Germany to Norway in the next few weeks.<sup>5</sup> If convicted, the three could be sentenced to 12 years in a Norwegian prison.<sup>6</sup> The three have been under surveillance for over a year; the US Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation have been assisting.<sup>7</sup> But, the arrest was expedited once the Norwegian authorities believed that 'international media' had uncovered the investigation and might publish critical information.<sup>8</sup>

US and Norwegian authorities believe Saleh al-Somali, the deceased former al-Qaeda chief of external operation, organised the plot and kept it separate from the terrorist group's larger international operations. Al-Somali was also implicated in the 2009 New York subway plot. Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaeda's second-in-command, has previously called for an attack on Norway owing to its deployment of 500 troops in Afghanistan and in general retaliation for the 2006 Danish newspaper Prophet Muhammad cartoon controversy that were republished in Norway.<sup>9</sup>

The plot and perpetrators are in line with one of al-Qaeda's models that seeks to use nationals in low-level attacks to keep a perpetual state of fear in nations targeted by Islamic extremists.

### Tactic(s):

The planned tactic was meant to be similar to the 2009 New York Subway plot and a failed bomb plot in a Manchester, UK shopping mall.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> '3 alleged al-Qaeda members arrested in bomb plot', *The Washington Post*, 9 July 2010; 'Norway bomb plot shows reach of Al Qaeda-linked groups', *Christian Science Monitor*, 8 July 2010

<sup>2</sup> 'Qaeda bomb suspect was from FBI: Norway', *Associated Press*, 13 July 2010

<sup>3</sup> 'Norway bomb plot shows reach of Al Qaeda-linked groups', *Christian Science Monitor*, 8 July 2010

<sup>4</sup> 'Norway bomb plot shows reach of Al Qaeda-linked groups', *Christian Science Monitor*, 8 July 2010

<sup>5</sup> '3 alleged al-Qaeda members arrested in bomb plot', *The Washington Post*, 9 July 2010

<sup>6</sup> 'Three held for Norway bomb plot', *Today Online*, 9 July 2010

<sup>7</sup> 'Qaeda bomb suspect was from FBI: Norway', *Associated Press*, 13 July 2010

<sup>8</sup> 'Norway bomb plot shows reach of Al Qaeda-linked groups', *Christian Science Monitor*, 8 July 2010

<sup>9</sup> 'Three held for Norway bomb plot', *Today Online*, 9 July 2010

<sup>10</sup> '3 alleged al-Qaeda members arrested in bomb plot', *The Washington Post*, 9 July 2010

Weapon Used: portable peroxide bombs (if they acquired the correct materials and technology)

Target(s): Norwegian, unknown