

# The Al-Zarqawi 11/9 Amman Bombings: More Holes in the Official Story

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)  
Global Research, November 15, 2005  
15 November 2005

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)  
Theme: [Terrorism](#)  
In-depth Report: [AMMAN 11/9](#)

The “Al Qaeda in Iraq” website which allegedly claimed responsibility for the Amman bombings, stated that the attacks were directed against Israelis, members of Western intelligence agencies and their Shiite accomplices:

“[the hotels are] a backyard for the enemies of religion, the Jews and Crusaders, and a dirty hideout for the nation’s apostate traitors, as well as a safe haven for the intelligence services of the infidels, where they plot their conspiracies against Muslims.”

According to The New York Times (10 Nov)

“The group’s statement said the hotels had been attacked because they were favored locations for Western and Israeli intelligence agencies and were used as “backdoor safe houses” for the Shiite -dominated Iraqi government.”

The attacks were said to be in response to “the conspiracy against the Sunnis whose blood and honour were shed by Crusaders and the Shiites.” (quoted in The Statesman, India, 12 November 2005)

A subsequent mysterious audio tape allegedly by Al Qaeda in Iraq stated that:

“Our martyred brother’s target was halls being used at the time by intelligence officers from some of the infidel crusader nations and their lackeys .... Our brothers knew their targets with great precision. God knows we chose these hotels only after more than two months of close observation (that proved) that these hotels had become headquarters for the Israeli and American intelligence.

“People of Jordan, we did not undertake to blow up any wedding parties... For those Muslims who were killed, we ask God to show them mercy, for they were not targets. We did not and will not think for one moment to target them.” (quoted in the Record, Kitchener, 19 November 2005)

Upon reviewing the list of the 57 victims quoted by the Western media, however, we can confirm that:

1) *There was not a single Israeli casualty.* According to Haaretz and The Los Angeles Times, the Israelis had been evacuated prior to the blast. [\(see our earlier report on foreknowledge](#)

[of the attacks](#)) [One US media pointed to one Israeli casualty, Chicago Tribune 11 Nov 2005)

2) With regard to the “Western and Israeli intelligence agencies”, *there were no reported Israeli or US intelligence officials among the victims*. In fact quite the opposite: *two senior Palestinian intelligence officials were killed in the blast* including Maj.-Gen. Bashir Nafeh, head of the Palestinian Authority’s military intelligence and Col. Abed Allun, a high-ranking Preventive Security forces official. Both men were firm opponents of the US led war in Iraq.

3) Zarqawi is a Sunni. Al Qaeda in Iraq is described by the Western media as waging terrorist attacks against Shiites, with a view to creating divisions between Sunnis and Shiites. In the words of the NYT (11 November 2005)

If there has been evidence of disagreement between Mr. Zarqawi and the Qaeda leadership, it has been over the question of whether it is appropriate for the Sunni Arab-led movement to carry out attacks on Iraqi Shiites.

In his 2004 letter, Mr. Zarqawi recommended the tactic as a device to incite Sunni- Shiite tensions that might help to broaden the militants’ appeal among Sunnis. A letter that American forces in Iraq attributed to Mr. bin Laden’s deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, warned that such a tactic might undermine broader Islamic support for the jihadist movement.

*But the attacks did not target Shiites, who are allegedly considered by Al Zarqawi as “heretics”. The vast majority of the 57 victims of the blasts were Sunni Muslims.*

In this regard, the authenticity of both the internet posting and the subsequent audio, not to mention the “husband and wife team”, have been accepted by the Western media at face value, without further investigation of the evidence.

The attacks were also presented as the result of “anti-Israeli sentiment” pertaining to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. Yet two top intelligence officials of the Palestinian authority were targeted in the bombings at the Hyatt hotel.

[15 Nov 2005. minor revisions 20 Nov 2005 following the release of the mysterious audiotape.]

*Michel Chossudovsky is Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG). He is the author of [America’s “War on Terrorism”](#), Globla Research, 2005.*

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), Global Research, 2005

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **Prof Michel Chossudovsky**

## About the author:

Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has undertaken field research in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific and has written extensively on the economies of developing countries with a focus on poverty and social inequality. He has also undertaken research in Health Economics (UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNFPA, CIDA, WHO, Government of Venezuela, John Hopkins International Journal of Health Services (1979, 1983) He is the author of 13 books including The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order (2003), America's "War on Terrorism" (2005), The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity (2015). He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at [crgeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:crgeditor@yahoo.com)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)