

# Al-Qaida No. 2 uses Web to attack leaders

"How is it possible for Mahmoud Abbas to be a brother of ours or for Mohammed Dahlan to be a brother of ours, when they have grown fat on the bribes of the Jews and gifts of the Americans?"

**Ayman al-Zawahiri**  
Al-Qaida's deputy leader criticized Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Mohammed Dahlan, a member of his Fatah party, in a statement on the Internet

## Message gives congratulations to militants

By MAAMOUN YOUSSEF  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### CAIRO, Egypt

Al-Qaida's deputy leader has criticized Palestinian and other Arab leaders, accusing them of betraying Islam and collaborating with the United States and Israel, according to an Internet state-

ment posted in his name Monday.

The statement, purportedly from Ayman al-Zawahiri, congratulated Islamic holy warriors around the world on the feast of Eid al-Adha and on "the defeat of the Americans and their crusader allies in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The message could not immediately be authenticated.

The most communicative of al-

Qaida's leaders, al-Zawahiri appeared to be trying to encourage militants, those fighting and those in prison, but his message offered nothing in the way of new ideas or policies.

Referring to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and a senior member of his Fatah party, al-Zawahiri asked: "How is it possible for Mahmoud Abbas to be a brother of ours, or for Mohammed Dahlan to be a brother of ours, when they have grown fat on the bribes of the Jews and gifts of the Americans?"

Senior Abbas aide Saeb Erekat called the statement "absolutely

unacceptable" and predicted it would not influence Palestinians.

Al-Zawahiri, who issued 14 taped statements last year, has often told the Palestinians what they should be doing but is not known to have an impact. The leading Palestinian militant group Hamas has distanced itself from al-Qaida, saying its struggle is against Israel, not the West at large.

It was not clear when the statement was written. It only gives the date "December 2006" and its Islamic calendar equivalent.

The statement did not mention events of the past few days that

have made headlines around the Arab world, such as the execution of Saddam Hussein on Saturday and the Ethiopian forces' entry into the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

Al-Zawahiri also tossed out insults to various leaders, making no effort to substantiate his allegations.

He called Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf a "bribe-taker," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak a "traitor," Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh an "agent of America," and he accused New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman of being a "fanatical Zionist."



AL-ZAWAHIRI

## WAR IN IRAQ

# Fighting for Saddam



Iraqis raise rifles in the air as others carry posters of the country's former dictator Saddam Hussein during a protest in Tikrit,

Iraq, on Monday. About 350 people took to the streets and protested Saddam's execution.

## Mobs protest execution of former Iraqi dictator

By LAUREN FRAYER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BAGHDAD, Iraq

Enraged crowds protested the hanging of Saddam Hussein across Iraq's Sunni heartland Monday, as a mob in Samarra broke the locks off a bomb-damaged Shiite shrine and marched through carrying a mock coffin and photo of the dictator.

The demonstration in the Golden Dome, shattered in a bombing by Sunni extremists 10 months ago, suggests that many Sunni Arabs may now more actively support the small number of Sunni militants fighting the country's Shiite-dominated government. The Feb. 22 bombing of the shrine triggered the current cycle of retaliatory attacks between Sunnis and Shiites, in the form of daily bombings, kidnappings and murders.

Monday's protest came on a day that saw the U.S. military kill six Iraqis during a raid on the offices of a prominent Sunni political figure, who was suspected of giving al-Qaida in Iraq fighters sanctuary.

Until Saddam's execution Saturday, most Sunnis sympathized with militants but avoided taking a direct role in the sectarian conflict, despite attacks by Shiite mili-

tia that have killed thousands of Sunnis or driven them from their homes. The current Sunni protests, which appear to be building, could signal a spreading militancy.

Sunni were not only outraged by Saddam's hurried execution, just four days after an appeals court upheld his conviction and sentence. Many also were incensed by the unruly scene in the execution chamber, captured on video, in which Saddam was taunted with chants of "Muqtada, Muqtada, Muqtada."

The chants referred to Muqtada al-Sadr, a firebrand Shiite cleric who runs one of Iraq's most violent religious militias. He is a major power behind the government of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Many Sunnis also are upset that Saddam was put to death the day that Sunni celebrations began for Eid al-Adha, a major Muslim festival. The judge who first presided over the case that resulted in Saddam's death sentence said the former dictator's execution at the start of Eid was illegal according to Iraqi law and contradicted Islamic custom.

Rizgar presided over Saddam's trial on charges he killed 148 Shiite men and boys in Dujail, north of Baghdad, in a botched

assassination attempt in 1982. The judge was removed from the case after Shiite complaints that he was too lenient.

In a Sunni neighborhood in northern Baghdad, hundreds of demonstrators mourned the executed leader. Some praised the Baath Party, the outlawed nationalist group that under Saddam cemented Sunni Arab dominance of Iraq.

Saddam's eldest daughter briefly attended a protest Monday in Jordan, her first public appearance since her father was hanged.

"God bless you, and I thank you for honoring Saddam, the martyr," said Raghda Saddam Hussein, according to two witnesses. She addressed members of the Professional Associations — an umbrella group of unions representing doctors, engineers and lawyers — in the group's office parking lot in west Amman.

In the midst of the protests, U.S. forces continued operations in Iraq.

Six Iraqis were killed in a U.S.-led raid on the Baghdad offices of a top Sunni politician, Saleh al-Mutlaq. The U.S. military and Iraqi police said they suspected the offices were being used as an al-Qaida safe house.

## Indonesian plane crashes, killing all but 12 aboard

By ZAKKI HAKIM  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### JAKARTA, Indonesia

Rescuers Tuesday found the smoldering wreckage of an Indonesian jetliner that went missing during a storm.

Officials said 90 people were killed, while the remaining 12 aboard survived.

"The plane is destroyed and many bodies are around there," said local police Chief

Col. Genot Hariyanto.

Air force rear commander Eddy Suyanto told el-Shinta radio that the plane — operated by local carrier Adam Air — had crashed in a mountainous region of Polewali in eastern Sulawesi Island.

Adam Air spokesman Hartono, who goes by just one name, said 90 people were killed and 12 survived in Monday's crash of the Boeing 737-400.

The survivors' conditions

weren't immediately known.

Local mayor Ali Bahal also put the death toll at 90 in comments to el-Shinta.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people gathered at the airport in Manado seeking information about their relatives.

Justin Tumurang, 25, was waiting at the airport to pick up her twin sister, but she never arrived.

"Being a twin, we share almost every feeling. I felt

something was not right, and it grew worse. Now I feel pain," he said.

The 17-year-old plane carried six crew and 96 passengers, including 11 children.

Contact was lost about an hour before it was due to land amid very bad weather, national aviation chief Ichsan Tatang said late Monday.

The aircraft's last inspection was on Dec. 25, and it had flown 45,371 hours, he said.

## Democrats look for quick victories in new Congress

### First female speaker of the House takes control Thursday

By JIM ABRAM  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### WASHINGTON

Democrats savoring a return from political wilderness are ready to move quickly this week to take the levers of power in a Congress that has been run by Republicans the past 12 years.

On Thursday, Nancy Pelosi will take the gavel as

the first woman speaker in the history of the House and immediately launch a 100 legislative-hour march to quickly put the Democratic stamp on the new Congress.

Before President Bush arrives on Capitol Hill on Jan. 23 for his State of the Union address, House Democrats intend to update ethics rules, raise the minimum wage, implement 9/11 Commission recommendations, cut subsidies to the oil industry, promote stem cell research and make college educations and prescription drugs more affordable.

"Democrats are prepared to govern and ready to lead," said Pelosi, a Californian.

On the first day back, Democrats plan to change House rules on what members can accept from lobbyists. On the second day they'll vote on other rules changes requiring that new spending or tax cuts be paid for and that pet projects tucked into larger bills be publicly disclosed.

The new Democratic Senate,



PELOSI

under Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, will take a parallel if somewhat more leisurely track.

The first week or week-and-a-half of business will be devoted to ethics and lobbying reform that stalled in the most recent Congress, including a proposal to ban lawmakers from accepting gifts and travel from lobbyists and one making it more difficult for former members who become lobbyists to solicit their former colleagues.

All of this is reminiscent of January 1995, when Republicans kept the House in past midnight on their first day in power after 40 years of Democratic rule.

"This will be the busiest day on opening day in congressional history," new Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., boasted at the time.

In the end, Republicans did achieve some of the goals of that political treatise, such as cutting taxes, reforming welfare and fighting crime. Others, such as constitutional amendments to limit the terms of lawmakers and balance the budget, ultimately failed.

Democrats may have more success because they have taken a less ambitious approach, said Sarah Binder, a political scientist at George Washington University and analyst for the liberal-oriented Brookings Institution think tank.

They realize that their new-found majority is not so much a demand for liberal policy as a referendum on the Bush administration, she said.

"I'm really struck by how pragmatic the new Democratic majority appears to be with such a limited agenda," Binder said.

## Former Indianapolis mayor dies at age 97

The Associated Press

### INDIANAPOLIS

Charles H. Boswell, who was mayor of Indianapolis from 1959 to 1962 and later the city's postmaster, has died at age 97.

Boswell died Saturday after about a year of failing health, said Darlene Boswell, a sister-in-law.

Boswell, a Democrat, was the city's controller when he took over in January 1959 for Mayor Phil Bayt, who had been elected county prosecutor. Boswell was elected mayor to a full term in November 1959 but left office early when he was appointed postmaster of Indianapolis by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

He remained with the Postal Service until retiring in 1987.

Boswell got the nickname "Snow Belt Charlie" while mayor when a blizzard struck shortly after he announced the city would rent, not buy, snow equipment.

News reports in 1961 quoted Boswell as saying he made his decision because Indianapolis was not in the snow belt. That day, the city was hit by a blizzard that caused him to declare a snow emergency.

He said later it was the weather service that said the city was not in the snow belt.

His wife, Elsie Margaret Stock Boswell, died in 2001. They had no children. Funeral arrangements are pending.

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