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## Dossier: Abu Sulaiman al-Makki (Khaled al-Harbi)



*Usama Bin Laden discusses the 9/11 suicide hijackings with Abu Sulaiman al-Makki*

- **Abu Sulaiman al-Makki (a.k.a. Shaykh Khaled al-Harbi, Khaled al-Saif) was born in Saudi Arabia in 1966 and first worked as a religious teacher at the Holy Mosque of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.**
- **During the 1980s, Abu Sulaiman al-Makki joined the foreign guerillas gathering in Afghanistan and gained a reputation as a veteran and respected fighter. Al-Qaida documents indicate that Abu Sulaiman served in “the company of [the Martyr] Sheikh Abdullah Azzam.” Azzam was the initial founder of Al-Qaida and Usama Bin Laden’s first spiritual mentor.**
- **In August 1992, Abu Sulaiman al-Makki joined a group of Saudi Arab-Afghans and traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina, ostensibly to help the embattled Muslims of the Balkans. Among his compatriots was Abu Abdel Aziz “Barbaros”, an infamous Arab-Afghan military leader who became the “amir” or commander of the Arab-Afghan mujahideen in Bosnia. At about this time, Abu Abdel Aziz “Barbaros” told other senior Al-Qaida members gathered at a meeting in Zagreb, Croatia that Al-Qaida’s primary goal in Bosnia “was to establish a base for operations in Europe against al Qaeda’s true enemy, the United States.”**
- **In early September 1992, Abu Sulaiman al-Makki and Abu Abdel Aziz “Barbaros” led a group of 43 predominantly Saudi mujahideen into combat against Serb forces in central Bosnia. Among the other prominent members of this unit was Abu Asim al-Makki (Mohammed Hamdi al-Ahdal), now considered one of the**



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**central conspirators behind the October 2000 bombing of the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen.**

- ***During combat operations near Tesanj, Abu Sulaiman al-Makki was “sprayed” by automatic weapons fire as he dashed across the battlefield to recover the body of another “martyred” Saudi volunteer soldier. Though he was seriously injured and was near death, Abu Sulaiman was at last recovered by his compatriots and carried to safety. A few days afterwards, though he ultimately survived his injuries, Shaykh Abu Sulaiman lost feeling and movement in his legs and was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.***
- ***Following the end of the Bosnian war in 1995, Abu Sulaiman al-Makki reportedly stayed on in Bosnia and settled in the small local fundamentalist community of Bocinja Donja. He helped establish an Islamic “relief organization” in the Tuzla area, providing charitable and religious assistance to both local Bosnians and Arab-Afghan fighters based in the Balkans. Abu Sulaiman publicly stated in Bosnian media in 1996 that cells of Arab-Afghan mujahideen remained actively deployed in Tuzla, Zenica, Sarajevo, Konjic, and Bihac.***
- ***In late 1997, Bosnian authorities issued arrest warrants for 19 men wanted in connection with recent acts of violence. Abu Sulaiman al-Makki, named as one of the 19, was accused by the Bosnians of having provided refuge and a safehouse to several dangerous fugitives. The alleged terrorists included an Algerian national later implicated in a plot to suicide crash private aircraft into NATO military bases in the Balkans and southeastern Europe.***
- ***In December 2001, Abu Sulaiman suddenly reappeared in a videotape produced by Usama Bin Laden in which the latter took credit for organizing and financing the September 11 suicide hijackings. The two men, sitting on the floor together in a plain white room, discussed the intricate details of the 9/11 plot. After a grinning Bin Laden explained how he had schemed to crash commercial airliners into the World Trade Center, Abu Sulaiman chimed in and spoke of his joyous reaction when he heard “the news”:***

***“That day the congratulations were coming on the phone non-stop... No doubt it is a clear victory... Thank Allah America came out of its caves. We hit her the first hit and the next one will hit her with the hands of the believers, the good believers, the strong believers. By Allah it is a great work. Allah prepares for you a great reward for this work... I live in happiness, happiness, I have not experienced, or felt, in a long time... In these days, in our times, that it will be the greatest jihad in the history of Islam.”***

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