



**Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center  
at the Center for Special Studies (C.S.S)**

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**Mahmoud Qumati, a Hezbollah senior, praised Al-Qaeda's  
Katyusha rocket attacks on Aqaba and Eilat and expressed  
his hope that the organization would step up its attacks  
against Israeli targets**



**Mahmoud Qumati appears on Al-Manar Television (August 19, 2005)**

⌘ In the morning hours of August 19, three Katyusha rockets were fired from Aqaba on the southern Israeli city of Eilat and the Gulf of Aqaba. One of the rockets landed near Eilat airport. Two additional rockets were targeted at an American ship in the Gulf of Aqaba. One of them hit Jordanian soldiers, one of whom was killed and the other wounded. An organization calling itself “Abdullah Azzam Battalions, Al-Qaeda, in Syria and Egypt” claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack.

⌘ In an interview granted to Hezbollah’s Al-Manar Television on August 19 (the day of the terrorist attack), **Mahmoud Qumati**, a member of Hezbollah’s Political Council, was asked by the interviewer, among other things, to comment on the Katyusha rocket attacks. In response, **Qumati praised the attacks**, saying that any action, by any party, **targeted against Israel or “the American military presence”** was a good action since there was “an American plan to attack the region”. In his view, however, Al-Qaeda should **limit** its attacks on American targets and **step up its attacks on Israeli targets**. Qumati expressed his hope that Al-Qaeda would step up its attacks on Israeli targets and that all of its attacks on “other targets” [Muslim? other Western countries?] would come to a complete halt.