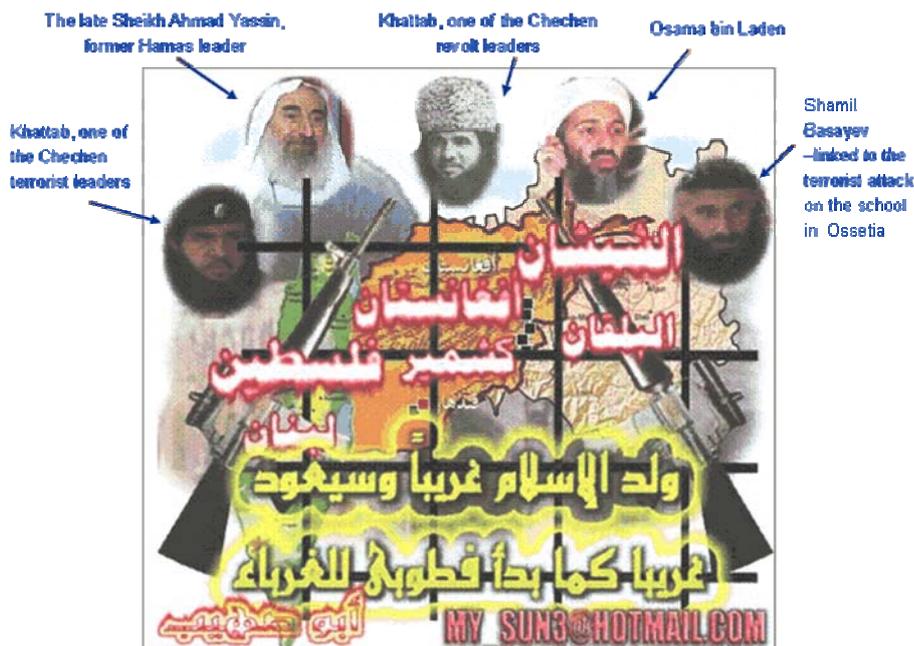




10 February, 2006

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

Russian president invites Hamas to Moscow
Hamas support for the Chechen separatists and their terrorist tactics did not prevent it from immediately accepting Russian president Vladimir Putin's invitation to visit Moscow.



Hamas identifies ideologically with Chechen terrorism: a poster distributed in the Palestinian Authority-administered territories as part of a CD containing other items of hate propaganda and indoctrination. The title reads: “Chechnya, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Kashmir, Palestine and Lebanon.”

Overview

✿ At a press conference held in Madrid on February 9, Russian president **Vladimir Putin** announced that Russia had contacted Hamas and that **he was planning to invite its leaders to visit Moscow**. He noted that Hamas had won democratic elections and that the decision of the Palestinian people had to be respected. He added that a solution had to be found that would satisfy both Hamas and the international community.

✿ Ismail Haniyeh, a senior Hamas leader who heads the Hamas faction in the Palestinian Legislative Council, **was quick to accept the invitation in principle**, on condition a formal invitation is sent (Reuters, February 9).

✿ The motives behind Hamas's quick acceptance of the invitation were completely pragmatic. The main one was the opportunity being given to break out of international isolation and reduce the pressure exerted on them to change their radical terrorist strategies. However, it should be noted that ideologically **Hamas is completely hostile to the Russian régime in that it identifies with the Chechen separatists, regarding them as part of the global jihad, and supports them in their terrorist activities**. Their position is in accordance with the spirit of the Hamas charter (1988) and the ideology of Dr. 'Abdallah 'Azzam, Osama bin Laden's spiritual mentor.¹

✿ Hamas's ideology **has been manifested in posters, CDs and movies found in Hamas institutions in the Palestinian Authority (PA)-administered territories**. Hamas uses such media to express its identification, admiration and support for both Chechen and international terrorism. **Hamas has even allowed the Chechen terrorists to use its Internet site, www.palestine-info.net, to provide its suicide bombing attacks with religious Islamic sanction.**²

¹ For further information see our Special Bulletin "[The influence of the legacy of global jihad on Hamas: glorification of the image and Islamic-political doctrines of Dr. 'Abdallah 'Azzam](#)"

² That did not, however, prevent Russian Internet service providers from supporting Hamas's vast Internet infrastructure. For further information see our Special Bulletin "[Marketing terrorism by Internet: the Hamas terrorist movement continues using Internet Service Providers in Eastern Europe and South East Asia to operate its leading sites](#)"

✿ Hamas customarily distributes its anti-Russian incitement CDs (full of hate propaganda and incitement to acts of terrorism) in **educational institutions** in the PA-administered territories **as part of the battle for the hearts and minds of the younger Palestinian generation**. The CDs from which the material dealing with Chechnya was taken were distributed to the **American University in Jenin** in November 2003, the **Islamic-oriented Hebron University** in February 2004 and the **Hebron Orphan Asylum**, operated by the Hamas-affiliated Islamic Charitable Society in Hebron, in August 2004.

✿ Hamas uses **radical Islamic terminology** in its posters and videos (See below). **Admiration is expressed for Chechen terrorist leaders, such as Shamil Besayev and Khattab,³ while the Red Army is blasted and its actions are referred to as “terrorist activities against the Islamic population in Chechnya.”** One of the CDs on which clips of fighting in Chechnya were found (the CD was entitled “The Russian Hell”) **included a sermon promoting jihad and stating that those who fought and died in it would reach paradise as *shaheeds*.**

✿ Below is information about posters, videos and Internet material dealing with Chechnya, all disseminated by Hamas through its charitable societies and other civilian institutions in the PA-administered territories and its Internet sites.

³ According to the Sobaka Internet site, his full name is Samir Saleh ‘Abdallah Swilam (www.diacritica.com/sobaka/dossier/khattab).

Appendix A



1. A Hamas poster entitled [Chechnya, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Kashmir, Palestine, Lebanon](#) . It was taken from a CD distributed by [Hamas](#) , in our assessment to institutions in the PA-administered territories, especially educational institutions.
2. The CD was found in [two separate locations](#) : at a Palestinian Heritage Week exhibition at [Hebron University](#) ¹ on February 28, 2004; and in a computer at the [orphan asylum supported by the Hebron Islamic Charitable Society](#) , which is identified with [Hamas](#) , on August 12, 2004.

¹ Among propaganda and indoctrination material captured by Israeli army forces on March 4, 2004.

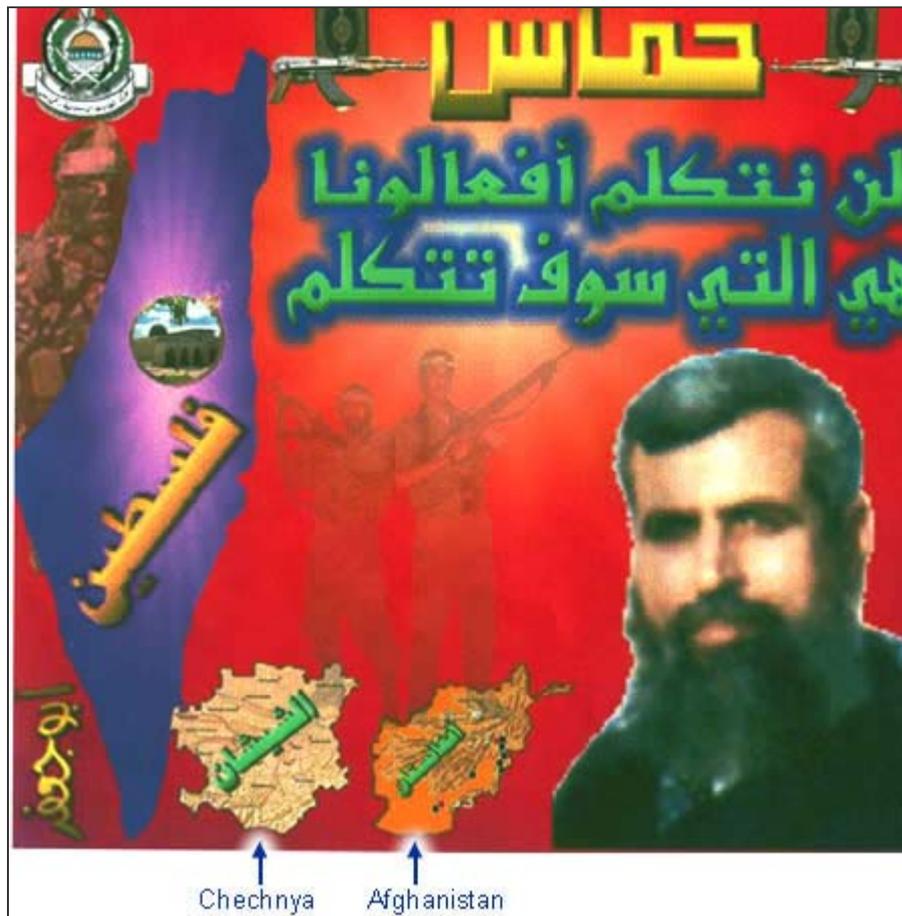
3. The pictures appearing from left to right are: Khattab, Ahmad Yassin, Khattab again, Osama bin Laden and [Shamil Basayev, one of the Chechen rebel leaders](#) , who was recently (September 2004) mentioned in media reports as being one of the planners of the slaughter at the school in Beslan, Ossetia.
4. [Beneath the pictures appears a traditional saying \(hadith \) of the prophet Muhammad, according to which :](#)

“Islam was born in a region alien [i.e., hostile] to it [that is, a region which did not know Islam beforehand, and in this context, the Arabian peninsula before the rise of Islam]; it will continue to exist in a region alien to it, as it did in the beginning [in this context, [it will continue to exist in those regions of the world where Muslims are a minority living in a hostile environment](#)]; therefore, blessed be the aliens [i.e., Muslims living as a minority in regions alien to them, among whom Islam will continue to exist].” The saying is attributed to [Abu Suhaib](#) , one of the “sahabah” [companions] of Muhammad.

5. The message refers to the “oppressed minority of Muslims” living in the countries mentioned on the poster. Its militancy is

expressed in the accompanying pictures – Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and Osama bin Laden in the company of Chechen leaders. To the left and right are M-16s with sniper scopes. It is an explicit message of violence, in which Hamas goes beyond its Islamic-Palestinian identity and encourages international Islamic terrorism .

Appendix B



1. A Hamas poster found (August 12, 2004) in a computer in the offices of the Hebron orphan asylum operated by Hebron's Islamic Charitable Society . The Society belongs to Hamas and has been outlawed by Israel (as of February 2002).
2. To the left is a map of Israel marked "Palestine." The inscription in the center reads, " Hamas , we do not believe in words." At the right is a picture of Salah Shahadeh, who was the commander of the terrorist-operative wing of Hamas in the Gaza Strip until he was killed in a targeted Israeli attack . At the bottom of the poster are maps of Chechnya and Afghanistan .

Appendix C



1. A poster taken from a propaganda CD distributed at the [American University in Jenin](#) by the [Hamas](#) student movement (November 2003). The inscription reads: “The leader of the *mujahdeen* [fighters in the holy war] in Chechnya – a *shaheed* [martyr for the sake of Allah] of Islam. The large letters read “The *shaheed* , commander [Khattab](#) .”

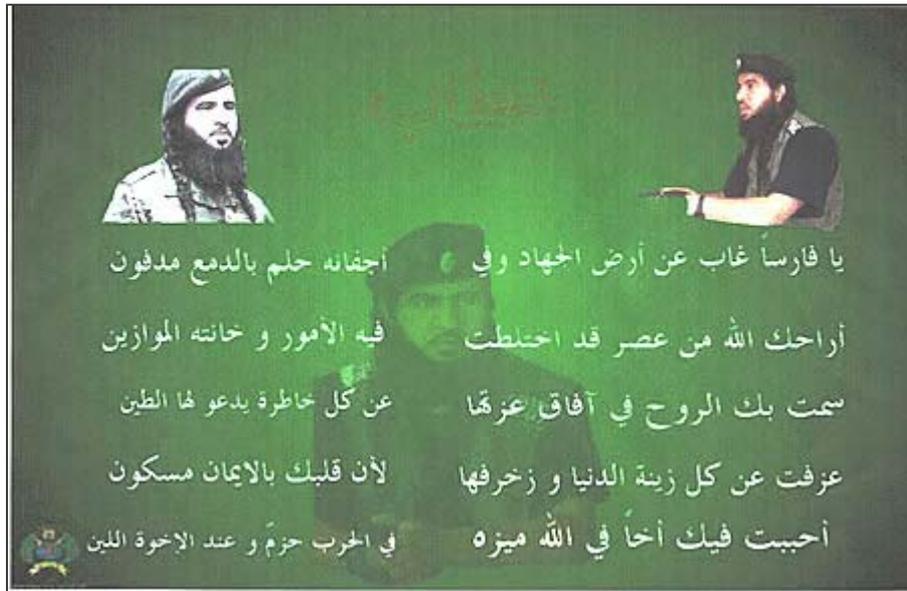
“Khattab” was the *nom de guerre* of one of the leaders of Chechen terrorism, a “graduate of Afghanistan.” He was born either in Jordan or Saudi Arabia and killed by the Russians. The following information comes from the SOBAKA Internet site:



Name: Ibn-ul-Khattab
Location: Chechnya
Affiliation: Chechen rebel army
Profession: soldier, mercenary, aspiring movie producer
Born: 1969
Died: March 19, 2002
Claim to Fame: great hair
Body Count: hundreds
Other: real name: Samir Saleh Abdullah Al-Suwailem

Samir Saleh Abdullah Al-Suwailem, alias Ibn-ul-Khattab, the Russians' favourite foreign mujahid fighting in Chechnya, was reported to have been killed fighting in Konduz, Afghanistan, along with Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan leader **Djuma Namangani**. The rumour turned out to be false. Khattab was nowhere near **Afghanistan**, and the Russians knew it all along. A few months later they bribed a Chechen messenger into taking out Khattab with a boobytrapped letter containing a poisonous agent. Chechen sources confirmed his death as occurring on or about March 19, 2002.

Appendix D

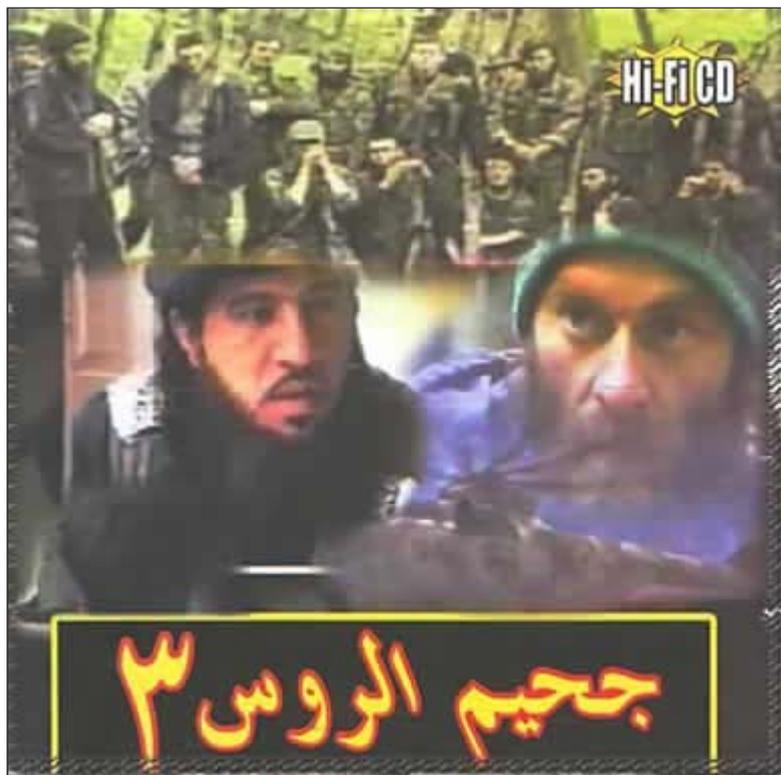


1. Poster taken from a CD distributed at the [American University in Jenin](#) (November 2003) by the [Hamas](#) student movement.
2. [Khattab](#) appears at both the center and left, with the following inscription: “Oh great hero and soldier, vanished from the *soil of the jihad* , whose eyes enclose a dream of tears; Allah released you [from a life] in an age in which everything is inverted and people have lost their minds; the spirit has carried you beyond the horizon, transcending every new-arising idea; you have left all the vain pleasures of this world and its interests because the faith imbuing your heart is your dwelling; I loved you as a brother in faith, stern [with enemies] in battle, but mild with friends.”³

³ A description of the admirable Muslim warrior found in classic Arabic poetry, despite the fact that they style here is [modern](#) and in rhyme.

Appendix E

A CD called “The Russian's Hell” (Part 3)



1. The CD was found at the [Palestinian Heritage Week exhibition at Hebron University](#)⁴ -- a Hamas stronghold -- on February 28, 2004.

⁴ Among propaganda and indoctrination material captured by Israeli army forces on March 4, 2004.

2. It contains, among other things, expressions of contempt for the Russian soldiers: "Fire is waiting for you in the next world, and the Chechens in this..." There are exhortations in favor of *jihad* [holy war], whose dead [reportedly] go directly to paradise; condemnation of the cruelty of the Russian army against the Muslims of Chechnya; a description of the "*jihad* warriors" of commanders nicknamed Abu al-Walid and Abu Ja'ffar being prepared for guerilla sorties.
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