Abu Talha al-Sudani (Tariq `Abd Allah)

Abu Talha is an al-Qa'ida operative with extensive explosives training, and alleged to be close to bin Laden. He was born in Sudan and married a Somali woman, and they resided in Somalia beginning in 1993. He is also an associate of Gouled Hasan Dourad, working with the Mogadishu cell of AIAI that was responsible for supporting al-Qa'ida members.

He, along with Fazul and Salih `Ali Salih Nabhan were the targets of the American air strikes on Somalia in January 2007. According to the testimony of Jamal al-Fadl, he received explosives training from Hizbollah in southern Lebanon in the early 1990s. He is believed to have assisted Fazul in the car bombing and attempted attack on the Israeli airliner in Kenya in 2002.

Following the 1998 embassy bombings, a number of the East African cell members involved in the attack were arrested. The remaining members at large, including Fazul, were assisted financially by Abu Talha, who was traveling frequently between Somalia and the United Arab Emirates at the time.

Sources:

"Al-Ittihad al-Islami." Federation of American Scientists <<u>http://www.fas.org/</u>>Accessed 11 February 2007.

"Al-Zawahiri yatahadi Bush fi al-`Iraq wa yatawa`id al-Ithiubiyin fi al-Sumal." *Elaph*, January 23, 2007.

Boukhars, Anouar. "Understanding Somali Islamism." Terrorism Monitor 4:10 (2006).

Burke, Jason. Al-Qaeda: Casting a Shadow of Terror. London: I.B. Taurus, 2003.

"Hargeysa Judicial Court Acquits 'Hassan Dahir Aweys' Of Terrorism." *Somaliland Times*, December 9, 2006.

"Hikmatiyar: Sa`adna bin Ladin `ala al-farar min Tura Bura; najat qiyadi: al-Qa`ida alkibar fi al-Sumal." *Al-Sharq al-Awsa,* January 12, 2007.

International Crisis Group, "Somalia's Islamists." Africa Report N°100 (2005).

Marquardt, Erich. "Al-Qaeda's Threat to Ethiopia." Terrorism Monitor, 3: 3 (2005).

Sii'arag, Duale A. "The Birth and Rise of Al-Ittihad Al-Islami in the Somali Inhabited Regions in the Horn of Africa." http://www.somaliawatch.org Accessed 12 February 2007.

"Somali Fighters: We'll Heed al Qaeda's Call." CNN. January 6, 2007.

Terdman, Moshe, and Deborah Touboul. "Al-Qaeda in Africa." Islam in Africa Newsletter 2:1 (2007).

U.S. Central Command. Al-Qaeda Leaders, Jihadist Websites on Somali Islamists. <<u>http://www.centcom.mil/</u>> Accessed 10 February 2007.

Winter, Joseph. "Profile: Somalia's Islamist Leader." BBC News. June 30, 2006. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/5120242.stm