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Title: An explanatory statement concerning circumstances surrounding the assassination of brother "Abi Tarek"

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Synopsis

The Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement denounces the assassinations of Abi Tareq and Sister Zubaidah, and connects them with a series of attacks and plots by the Popular Front in Eritrea to divide the Eritrean opposition, sever their connections with their supporters, and obstruct da'wa and jihad.

Key Themes

On December 21, 1996, the Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement had issued a statement condemning the assassination of Abi Tareq and Sister Zubaidah.

According to the document, the Popular Front has seized on divisions within Eritrea's revolutionary organizations and begun assassinating, or attempting to assassinate key figures within the movements, including the Liberation Front and jihad movements. It has also accused Arab countries of supporting the jihad groups, and has tried to turn international opinion against the jihadists. At first the groups blamed one another, which increased their internal dissension.

The Popular Front assassinated the following people:

1. Mohamoud Hasab in Kasala
2. Idris Hanqala in Kasala
3. The assassination of Sa'eed Saleh in Kasala
4. The assassination of 'Uthman 'Ajeeb in Khartoum.

It also attempted to assassinate the following people:

1. 'Abdulla Idris, president of the Eritrean Liberation front in Khartoum.
2. 'Abd Al-Qader Jailani, president of the Eritrean Liberation Front - the National Council in Kasala.

After the attack on Jailani, the Sudanese government discovered that the 'popular front' was behind the attacks. The Aforqi regime [perhaps another name for the Popular Front] has also conducted attacks on civilians and blamed them on the Mujahideen.

The Popular Front designed the assassination of Abi Tareq and Sister Zubaidah to accomplish several objectives.

1. To create conflict between the Eritrean opposition and Sudan, which is hosting them.
2. To exacerbate pre-existing problems within the Jihad movement.
3. To hurt the international reputation of the Jihad movement. The timing of the assassinations was designed to the Jihad movement just as it was canvassing for support abroad at the beginning of Ramadan.
4. To obstruct da'wa and jihad that had been increasing among the Eritrean opposition after the Sudanese government relaxed restrictions.

The Eritrean Islamic Jihad movement prefers clear ideology, dialogue, moderation, and reform to physical violence.