

## **Sulaiman Jassem Sulaiman Abo Ghaith**

AKAs: Abo Ghaith; Sulaiman abu Ghaith

DOB: December 14, 1965

POB: Kuwait

Sulaiman Jassem Sulaiman Abo Ghaith ("Abo Ghaith") has been the official spokesman of al-Qaeda since his appointment to that position after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Shortly after these attacks, he appeared seated beside Usama bin Laden (UBL) and Ayman Zawahiri in a video that aired October 9<sup>th</sup> on al Jazeera, after the start of U.S. Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan. He has also appeared alone as the mouthpiece of bin Laden, praising the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> and threatening more. (The text of his statement, broadcast on October 9, 2001, can be found at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/low/english/world/middle\\_east/newsid\\_1590000/1590350.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/low/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1590000/1590350.stm).) In December of 2002, he broadcast a message claiming al-Qaeda's responsibility for the November 2002 suicide attacks in Kenya that killed 13 people and called on al-Qaeda fighters to "prepare themselves seriously for the next phase which will be bigger and more serious."

Although he was born in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Government announced in October 2001 that Abo Ghaith's citizenship was revoked in its "national interest."

Abo Ghaith was a high school teacher and preacher at a mosque in Kuwait. He fought in Afghanistan, accused the U.S. government of killing children in Iraq through UN sanctions, and joined Muslim guerillas fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the summer of 1994. In the late 1990s, the government banned him from the mosque where he was preaching because he strayed from officially approved religious themes, making strident and frequent attacks against the Kuwaiti government and other Arab governments. After being banned from the mosque, Abo Ghaith taught high school religion classes. Several individuals arrested for their involvement in al-Qaeda have stated they were recruited into the organization by Abo Ghaith. Indeed, while he lived in Kuwait before September 11, 2001, his mission was to recruit elements for training in bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan. At the end of the school year in 2001, he made at least two trips to Afghanistan.

Press reports indicate that Abo Ghaith is in custody in Iran.