

## Middle East Report by Thierry Lalevée

### Death of a murderer?

*Reports that Abu Nidal is dead will do little to change the mercenary business popularly known as international terrorism.*

**E**ven among those who offered him shelter in Baghdad, Damascus, and Tripoli, few can be expected to have shed any tears at the news that international terrorist Sabri al Banna, a.k.a. Abu Nidal, reportedly died around Oct. 20 of heart disease. News of his death is still shrouded in mystery, and may be just a ploy.

It is known that last June, Abu Nidal had entered a hospital in the suburb of Baghdad, probably not far from the Al Karkh quarter's numerous warehouses and garages where he maintained his international headquarters for years, even when shifting operations to Damascus or Tripoli.

According to Iraqi sources, his return to Baghdad last spring was permitted for "humanitarian" reasons, with the understanding that he would not personally engage in any terrorist operations.

As news of his death spread, anonymous followers in Damascus announced that the "struggle will continue." Evidently, the death of Abu Nidal will have as much affect on international terrorism as did the death of his alter-ego, Waddi Haddad, in an East Berlin hospital a few years ago: none.

The reason is simple. Contrary to the mythology of international terrorism, the Abu Nidals of the world, far from "dedicated revolutionaries" or champions of oppressed peoples, are mere puppets, mercenaries deployed by international forces more evil than those purchased merely to pull the trigger.

That Abu Nidal was nothing but a mercenary is evident in his shifts from one employer to another. "Black June," created in 1976 in Iraq, was deployed against the Syrians, primarily for their invasion of Lebanon. Later, Abu Nidal's Al Assifa was deployed by the Libyans, and then again by the Syrians, against Arafat's PLO and his personal collaborators.

It was on behalf of the Syrians and their Soviet allies that Abu Nidal murdered Issam Sartawi in April 1983, as he murdered numerous PLO representatives in Europe after 1978. Sartawi's murder was deemed necessary as he alone had dared to reveal the true reasons behind the attempted assassination of Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov in London in June 1982—the operation which triggered the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Argov operation was ordered jointly by the Syrians and then Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who had already plotted a partition of Lebanon! Sharon needed the pretext of the Argov assassination to "retaliate" against the Palestinians in Lebanon. Neither Syria's Assad nor Sharon could allow a PLO leader to come forward with such revelations. The murder of Sartawi was ordered.

Hidden behind mystery and mythology, the real story of the creation of "Abu Nidal" has never been told. Nor do we know many details. However, as we do know and revealed in September 1982, Abu Nidal's family had extensive connections to the early

Freemasonic networks in Palestine around the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Adolf Hitler's chief ally in the Middle East. It was such networks that went into the "Arab Legion" of the Abwehr, and such networks which were co-opted after the war by Allied intelligence services, but remained intact as assets of the Lausanne, Switzerland-based Nazi International, now in alliance with the Soviet Union against the West.

Abu Nidal was a product of the Nazi International. It was out of the Nazi International networks emerging after World War II that Abu Nidal and many of his associates received their first military training, as well as their first targets. And many times since, the path of Abu Nidal has crossed Lausanne's François Genoud, Nazi International banker and also creator of Algeria's Ahmed Ben Bella.

Abu Nidal's path also frequently crossed that of Genoud's Belgian friend, François Thiriart, whose "European Brigades for Palestine" became breeding grounds for Abu Nidal's mercenary team.

That so many countries welcomed help from such as Abu Nidal says a lot on what fundamentally has to change in the Middle East if peace is ever to be achieved. In the meantime, we will have to watch Abu Nidal's heirs carefully:

- The "Arab Revolutionary Brigades," created in the spring of 1983, which claimed responsibility for the sabotage of a plane in September of that year in which 113 passengers died.

- The followers of Abu Ibrahim and his "May-15" group, who specialize in bombings rather than machine-guns.

- The associates of Abu Nizer, based in Damascus, whose number-two man recently sold himself to Iran's Khomeini regime.