



© 2005 Evan Kohlmann (<http://www.globalterroralert.com> – [info@globalterroralert.com](mailto:info@globalterroralert.com))

## Death of Senior Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ) Member Mahmud Hisham al-Hennawi Reported in the Caucasus



April 17, 2005

***"The martyrdom of Hisham al-Hennawi, a commander in the Egyptian Jihad Movement in Chechnya and the arrest of his son Hamza by Egyptian security forces."***

***"By: Dr. Hani al-Sebai, Director of the Al-Maqrizi Institute for Historical Studies."***

***"The Al-Maqrizi Institute has received a letter confirming the martyrdom of Mahmud Hisham al-Hennawi, 50 years old, who was one of the leaders of the Egyptian Jihad Movement. Surprisingly, his death was kept in secret until it was confirmed by close sources to his family. These sources were able to confirm that Mahmud Hisham al-Hennawi was killed in one of the battles that took place between the Chechen mujahideen and the infidel Russian forces. The Al-Maqrizi institute had known for quite a while now about the death of Mahmud al-Hennawi in Chechnya, however it took us several days to confirm the news before we could post this article."***

***"1.) The commander Mahmud Hisham al-Hennawi was known by the name Abu Sahl. During his absence, he was convicted as part of case number 8 in 1998 (the Albanian Returnees case) against 107 Muslims. He was given a sentence of 10 years in prison with hard labor on April 18, 1999."***

***"2.) He is the brother of Ahmad Hani al-Hennawi, one of the founders of the Egyptian Jihad Movement who was arrested during one of the military operations in the year of 1974. Later, he was arrested along with his brother Hisham in the first case against the Jihad Movement led by Dr. Yousra Mustafa (who later dismantled the organization). Mahmud was arrested also in the second against the Jihad Movement prior to 1980 in Alexandria, but later himself and his brother were released. However, his brother was sentenced in case number 462 in 1981 against the Jihad Movement and he was released again in November 1984. In the late 1980s, Mahmud was arrested, and then traveled to another Arab country in order to retire from his work with the group."***

***"3.) Mahmud Hisham al-Hennawi was very athletic. He traveled to Saudi Arabia after the year of 1984 where he worked as a merchant and established a close relationship with a lot of businessmen in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. He lived in Jeddah for many years, and he was known as a generous man. Many young religious men and scholars seeking knowledge visited his house."***

***"4.) Hisham al-Hennawi participated in the Afghan jihad against the Communist regime and he used to travel between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia."***

***"5.) After the defeat of the former Soviet Union by the mujahideen, the Americans and their allies in the Islamic world joined forces in order to chase out the mujahideen, especially the Arab volunteers. This caused the mujahideen to scatter and al-Hennawi returned to Jeddah. However, Saudi security forces tried to arrest him upon his return. He managed to escape from them during mid-1993."***



© 2005 Evan Kohlmann (<http://www.globalterroralert.com> – [info@globalterroralert.com](mailto:info@globalterroralert.com))

**“6.) After an excruciating journey through the desert, Allah saved him and allowed him to reach Yemen. However, he was not able to secure the safety of his wife and children, whereupon the Saudi security forces drove them into exile in Egypt, where they were disgraced and humiliated.”**

**“7.) Later, he traveled to Sudan and stayed there until the Sudanese Government made all the Muslims leave the country—including Hisham al-Hennawi—in early 1995.”**

**“8.) He then traveled to China where he worked as a merchant and kept moving between China, Hong Kong, and Singapore until Chinese security forces tried to catch him. This caused him to flee to Azerbaijan.”**

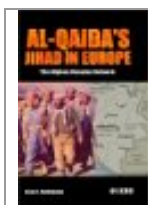
**“9.) In Azerbaijan, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahri decided to travel to Chechnya in order to help establish a camp for his followers. But when he reached the borders of Dagestan, he was arrested along with Ahmad Mabrouk (who was later kidnapped from Azerbaijan and is now held in Cairo) and Mahmud Hisham al-Hennawi.”**

**“10.) It was a miracle that the arrest of these three leaders was not broadcast to any of the world intelligence agencies. It was even kept a secret from the Shura Council of the Jihad Movement for 6 months. Meanwhile, the organization’s leader was Ayman’s brother—Mohammed al-Zawahri (who was later kidnapped from the UAE in 1999 and is now being held in a special prison in Cairo). There were negotiations with their jailors for the return of the three even though the [Russians] did not know who they were. Later, a ransom was paid and the three were set free. Hisham al-Hennawi decided to go to Chechnya along with several young Afghani men. However, Dr. Ayman and Ahmad Salama [Mabrouk] went back to Azerbaijan and then on to Afghanistan. Afterwards, Ahmad [Mabrouk] went back to Azerbaijan where he was kidnapped by the CIA. He was last seen in [Egyptian] court during the Albanian Returnees case.”**

**“11.) This is how this great commander decided to live and he chose an honorable death with the mujahideen in Chechnya and his mujahideen from the Arab battalion. We hope that he is now content along with a group of other martyrs who went to paradise before him, such as commander Ibn-ul-Khattab, Abu al-Walid [al-Ghamidi], and [Aslan] Maskhadov.”**

**“12.) [Hennawi’s] son Hamza returned [to Egypt] with his mother when he was still young in the year of 1994. However, the security forces have arrested him and currently he is being held based on a military case known in the media as ‘Jundallah’ [‘Soldiers of Allah’] for approximately the last two and a half years. His arrest is renewed every 45 days and his only sin is that he is the son of Mahmud Hisham al-Hennawi.”**

**The Al-Maqrizi Institute for Historical Studies  
London, United Kingdom  
April 17, 2005**



## **Al-Qaida’s Jihad in Europe: the Afghan-Bosnian Network**

*“For Bin Laden’s involvement in the Bosnian conflicts, see Evan F. Kohlmann, Al-Qaida’s Jihad in Europe.” - U.S. 9/11 Commission Final Report (July 2004)*

**NOW ON SALE IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**