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Senior Military Official Predicts More Abu Nidal Hits

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Editor's Note: The following dispatch was submitted to the Israeli military censor, who ordered one significant deletion.

A senior military official predicted Tuesday there would be more terrorist strikes on Israeli and other targets in Europe by the Abu Nidal group and an Iraqi-based Palestinian faction "which specializes in blowing up planes in the air."

"Radical organizations such as Abu Nidal and the May 15 Organization of **Abu Ibrahim** will continue to attack targets in Europe, both Israeli and others," said the official, who was interviewed on condition of anonymity.

Abu Nidal, the code-name of Sabry al-Banna, was blamed by the United States for the Dec. 27 grenade and submachine gun attacks near El AL Israel Airlines check-in counters in Rome and Vienna airports that killed 19 people, including five Americans.

The officer identified the May 15 Organization as an Iraqi-based group headed by a Palestinian who calls himself **Abu Ibrahim** which "specializes in blowing up planes in the air. They operate with the active support of Iraqi intelligence, they tried several times and they'll try again."

The May 15 Organization is not known to have claimed responsibility for any attacks, but Israeli officials have frequently referred to this group in listing what they consider terrorist organizations. The name May 15 presumably stems from the date in 1948 when the state of Israel was proclaimed in part of the old British mandate land of Palestine.

The Israeli military official said international terror organizations have renewed ties with Palestinian guerrillas and are training in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon with Damascus' blessing.

Organizations such as the Italian Red Brigades, the Irish Republican Army, the Basque separatist ETA and the Japanese Red Army have renewed cooperation with the Palestinians after a disruption when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 and overran the Palestine Liberation Organization's training camps, the official said.

Syrian-backed PLO groups who broke with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat are now offering training centers in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, he said.

"Syria also activates the busiest terror organization in the Middle East and Europe _ Abu Nidal," the official said.

The official said Abu Nidal, who split away from the PLO in 1974, moved from Syria to Libya several months ago but most of his men stayed behind in the Damascus area and the Bekaa, where Syria has maintained troops since 1976.

Abu Nidal's guerrillas moved through Beirut and Damascus after training in the Bekaa to launch the simultaneous Dec. 27 airport attacks and Libya supplied the gunmen with false Tunisian passports, he said.

He said Israel had received full reports on the interrogation of the three surviving terrorists.

The officer reiterated Israel's stance that it would retaliate for terror attacks "at the time and place it sees fit," as part of a strategy that also includes diplomacy, military action and clandestine operations.

He said killing terror leaders was one effective method for dealing with terrorism. "When guerrilla chiefs were eliminated in the past, there was a period of calm. It took a long time for them to get back into

action."

This was a reference to Israeli strikes against key PLO men in the 1970s after a series of airplane hijackings in Europe and guerrilla operations inside Israel.

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