



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**  
Counterterrorism Division

19 October 2006

**Intelligence Bulletin No. 223**

**(U//FOUO) End of Ramadan Security Awareness**

**(U) THIS INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN PROVIDES LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS WITH SITUATIONAL AWARENESS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TERRORIST GROUPS AND TACTICS.**

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(U//FOUO) This intelligence bulletin addresses the terrorism (TERR) topic of the NIPF and responds to FBI intelligence requirements IT-III.E.1.

(U//FOUO) Every year, the question is raised regarding the possibility of terrorist attacks coinciding with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. FBI has no specific, credible information relating to operational planning targeted at the end of Ramadan. The timing of attacks, moreover, is typically driven by operational considerations rather than specific timeframes.

(U//FOUO) Violent Islamic extremist groups however may view the last 10 days of Ramadan, especially Laylatu al-Qadr (the Night of Power), as a particularly opportune time to strike at the Homeland. Ramadan is a very symbolic time, especially the Night of Power, the night on which the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. According to the Islamic calendar, this event begins after the 26th night of Ramadan, October 19, 2006, and will continue until sunset on October 20, 2006. This period of time is especially sacred to Muslims and many of them spend the entire night in prayer usually at a mosque or at home. The end of Ramadan, possibly October 23, depending on the physical sightings of the moon, is marked by the celebration of Eid-al-Fitr.

(U//FOUO) As noted, the FBI possesses no specific credible intelligence indicating that terrorists are planning to target the United States during the last 10 days of Ramadan. The FBI, however continues to receive intelligence reports that al-Qa'ida and like-minded Sunni extremists continue to engage in operational planning and have the intent to attack the Homeland. We have no information, however, on specific targets, timing, or methods being considered.

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We also have no indicators that attacks are imminent, but a number of factors continue to drive our concerns regarding possible terrorist attacks here.

- (U//FOUO) Al-Qa'ida leadership remains intent on attacking the US and allied partners' interests worldwide. Ayman al-Zawahiri—the second most senior figure in al-Qa'ida after Usama bin Ladin—in a recent video statement called on followers worldwide to continue attacking the US and its allies.

**(U) REPORTING NOTICE**

(U) Recipients should immediately report suspicious or criminal activities potentially related to terrorism to their local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. FBI regional phone numbers can be found at [www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm).

**(U) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE**

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