

# Captured al-Qaeda leader reveals bin Laden ties to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

Agence France Presse

NEW YORK, Aug 31 -- A top aide to Osama bin Laden told CIA agents in a drug-induced confession about secret connections between the al-Qaeda leader and top officials in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, according to excerpts of a new book in Time magazine Sunday.

Abu Zubaydah, captured last year in Pakistan, told US interrogators that longtime Saudi intelligence chief Prince Turki al-Faisal bin Abdul Aziz had secretly agreed to pay bin Laden as long as al-Qaeda refrained from promoting its political aims in the kingdom, according to the book.

He also said that high-ranking Pakistani air force officer Mushaf Ali Mir had agreed to provide al-Qaeda with protection, arms and supplies, Gerald Posner wrote in his new book "Why America Slept."

The book gives a detailed account of how US agents used drugs and threats to scare Zubaydah into confession, citing a "very senior executive branch" official and another source from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Both Mir and Saudi Prince Ahmed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, a nephew of King Fahd, knew that al-Qaeda planned an attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, Posner writes.

Neither man had enough details to warn Washington, and they couldn't turn against bin Laden afterwards because he could expose their knowledge of the attack, the book said.

During his interrogation, US officials transported Zubaydah to a mock Saudi prison to fool him into more confessions, the book said.

In the fake Saudi prison, he rattled off Prince Ahmed's telephone number and told his captors that the prince would "tell you what to do."

Zubaydah, captured in March 2002, was believed to be in charge of al-Qaeda operations and its top recruiter. He has been held in an undisclosed location since his capture.