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## EDITIONS

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You are in: **Middle East**

Sunday, 23 September, 2001, 12:30 GMT 13:30 UK

## Hijack 'suspects' alive and well



A man called Waleed Al Shehri says he left the US a year ago

Another of the men named by the FBI as a hijacker in the suicide attacks on Washington and New York has turned up alive and well.

The identities of four of the 19 suspects accused of having carried out the attacks are now in doubt.

Saudi Arabian pilot Waleed Al Shehri was one of five men that the FBI said had deliberately crashed American Airlines flight 11 into the World Trade Centre on 11 September.

His photograph was released, and has since appeared in newspapers and on television around the world.

Now he is protesting his **Hijacking suspects** innocence from Casablanca, Morocco.

He told journalists there that he had nothing to do with the attacks on New York and Washington, and had been in Morocco when they happened. He has contacted both the Saudi and American authorities, according to Saudi press reports.

He acknowledges that he attended flight

Flight 175: Marwan Al-Shehhi, Fayez Ahmed, Mohald Alshehri, Hamza Alghamdi and Ahmed Alghamdi  
Flight 11: Waleed M Alshehri, Wail Alshehri, Mohamed Atta, Abdulaziz Alomari and Satam Al Suqami  
Flight 77: Khalid Al-Midhar, Majed Moqed, Nawaq Alhamzi, Salem Alhamzi and Hani Hanjour  
Flight 93: Ahmed Alhaznawi, Ahmed Alnami, Ziad Jarrahi



## Rebuilding

Uneasy peace  
Afghan army test  
Looking ahead  
Aid shortfall  
Unfulfilled dreams

## Political uncertainty

Karzai's shaky rule  
Al-Qaeda threat?  
Qadir's assassination  
Loya jirga assessed

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Hamid Karzai  
Ex-king's dilemmas  
Masood: Slain hero  
Warlord Ismail Khan  
Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

## Issues

Wedding bomb error  
Warlords re-emerge  
Threats to aid agencies  
Refugee return halted

## FACT FILE

Afghan powerbrokers

## IN DEPTH

War on al-Qaeda

## FORUM

Hamid Karzai  
answered your questions

## TALKING POINT

Have promises been kept?

## See also:

21 Sep 01 | Americas  
FBI probes hijackers' identities  
18 Sep 01 | Americas  
FBI probes 'attempted fifth hijack'  
15 Sep 01 | Americas  
Worldwide hunt for hijack plotters  
15 Sep 01 | Europe  
Europe hunts for US clues

training school at                      and Saeed Alghamdi  
Daytona Beach in the  
United States, and is indeed the same Waleed  
Al Shehri to whom the FBI has been referring.

But, he says, he left the United States in  
September last year, became a pilot with  
Saudi Arabian airlines and is currently on a  
further training course in Morocco.

### **Mistaken identity**

Abdulaziz Al Omari, another of the Flight 11  
hijack suspects, has also been quoted in Arab  
news reports.

He says he is an  
engineer with Saudi  
Telecoms, and that he  
lost his passport while  
studying in Denver.

Another man with  
exactly the same  
name surfaced on the  
pages of the English-  
language Arab News.



Abdelaziz Al Omari 'lost his  
passport in Denver'

The second Abdulaziz  
Al Omari is a pilot for  
Saudi Arabian Airlines, the report says.

Meanwhile, Asharq Al Awsat newspaper, a  
London-based Arabic daily, says it has  
interviewed Saeed Alghamdi.

He was listed by the  
FBI as a hijacker in  
the United flight that  
crashed in  
Pennsylvania.

And there are  
suggestions that  
another suspect,  
Khalid Al Midhar, may  
also be alive.



Khalid Al-Midhar may also be  
alive

FBI Director Robert  
Mueller acknowledged  
on Thursday that the identity of several of the  
suicide hijackers is in doubt.

14 Sep 01 | Americas  
[Nineteen hijack suspects  
named](#)

13 Sep 01 | Americas  
[Evidence trails lead to  
Florida](#)

14 Sep  
01 | Science/Nature  
[FBI probes ISPs for clues](#)

20 Sep 01 | Americas  
[The trail to Bin Laden](#)

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Orthodox mayor](#)

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*(Note: An update on this story was published  
in October 2006 in the BBC News editors'  
blog)*

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