

Claim: Bhutto's death work of al-Qaida

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- A U.S. Department of Homeland Security official said a bulletin was issued citing al-Qaida's alleged claim of responsibility for Benazir Bhutto's death. The official said the bulletin -- issued Thursday by his department and the FBI -- cited Italian news agency Adnkronos International's report that al-Qaida Afghanistan commander and spokesman Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid claims the former Pakistani prime minister's assassination was planned and executed by al-Qaida, CNN reported Friday. "We terminated the most precious American asset which vowed to defeat (the) mujahedin," Al-Yazid told the news agency. He said al-Qaida's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, began plotting the official's assassination in October. However, the claim hasn't been repeated on radical Islamist Web sites that often post claims of responsibility for attacks from al-Qaida and other groups. The Homeland Security official said the claim was "an unconfirmed open source claim of responsibility." He said the bulletin was sent Thursday to state and local law enforcement agencies. Ross Feinstein, spokesman for U.S. Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell, said the U.S. intelligence community is working to discover who was behind the attack. "We are not in a position to confirm who may be responsible," Feinstein said.

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