

The PETN Underwear Bomb

On Christmas Day 2009, 23-year-old Nigerian national Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab – a wealthy banker's son who had studied at the prestigious University College London – attempted to detonate a sophisticated explosive device, hidden in his underwear, aboard a Northwest Airlines aircraft on its final approach to Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Abdulmutallab trained and received the device in Yemen, and Al-Qaida's affiliate there has claimed responsibility for the plot.



PETN explosives hidden in Abdulmutallab's underwear



Image accompanying Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula's claim of responsibility