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Yemeni tribesmen kidnap doctor

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ADEN: Tribesmen in southern Yemen have kidnapped a Uzbek doctor in Yemen, demanding the government hold accountable those responsible for a 2009 air strike that killed dozens of civilians, a tribal source said on Tuesday.  
  
Tribesmen lured Abdul Hamid Jun out of the hospital where he works in the Shabwa province, an area of central Yemen where both separatists and Al Qaeda militants are active, by asking for his help treating relatives they said were injured.  
  
He was then abducted and taken to the neighbouring Abyan province, where an air strike against Al Qaeda suspects in December 2009 killed dozens of people in the town of Al Maajala.  
  
“They took him to pressure the government to hold the people behind the air strike accountable,” a tribesman in Shabwa told Reuters. “The people are upset with the government for not dealing with this issue.”  
  
Kidnappings of foreigners and Yemenis are common in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula state, where hostages are often used by disgruntled tribesmen to press demands on authorities.  
  
Jun was taken to a mountainous part of Abyan, where al Qaeda operatives are believed to be hiding and where several air raids have been conducted against suspected militant bases.  
  
Amnesty International has said a December 2009 air strike in Abyan that targeted Al Qaeda had killed 41 people, half of them children.

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