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 PARIS — "Carlos the Jackal," the world's deadliest terrorist, is back in action as a hired killer for Libyan dictator Muammar Khadafy in his war with PLO chief Yassir Arafat and western Europe, The Post has learned.

Intelligence sources here and in other western European countries have confirmed that the Venezuelan-born Carlos is spearheading a new "special operations" terror team for the Libyan strongman.

According to the sources, Carlos was responsible for the New Year's Day bombing of a high-speed train in southern France and the Marseilles railway station.

Those blasts killed five people and wounded 40. But more significantly, the sources believe, Carlos has been hired to lead Khadafy's attack against Arafat, who has vowed vengeance on the Libyan dictator for branding him a traitor to the Arab cause and supplying troops to the PLO rebels who drove him from Lebanon.

French intelligence sources believe a new PLO terror organization called "Al Barkan" (The Volcano) was responsible for the recent shooting of the Libyan ambassador to Italy, Ammar el Paggazy.

The new group, sources believe, was formed to replace the notorious "Black September," which masterminded the 1972 massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

But undisclosed circumstantial evidence, according to French sources, now points to a definite Carlos link with Libya.

According to the sources, Carlos is not only Khadafy's top terror operative, but also serves as a consultant for a school in sabotage and terrorism run by Libyan intelligence.

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