



### **Implications for Local Law Enforcement**

- This is another example of a subway hub targeted for multiple attacks at peak usage hours
- Incidence of attacks perpetrated by North Africans influenced by jihadist ideology is noteworthy
- Imam here exhorted and participated in terror operations
- Two landmark Catholic churches were targeted
- Such individuals may attempt to blend into Western society; radicalizing speech or literature focused on political (vs. religious) and anti-Western themes are distinguishing marks

### **Italy as Terror Crossroads**

- Investigators have described Italy as an important logistical base for the al-Qaeda network, especially for procuring false identity documents and recruiting
- Jihadist cells are very active throughout northern Italy, specifically in Milan, Parma, and Cremona
- Milan acted as headquarters for two top al Qaeda leaders in Europe: Abdelkaber Mahmoud Es Sayed and Essid Sami ben Khemais
- In 2002, four Tunisians (from Meliani cell led by Mohamed bin Sakhria) found guilty in Milan of planning attacks against U.S. targets, including a poison gas attack against U.S. Embassy in Rome
- Another plot originating from Milan was Tunisian Nizar Trablelsi's plan to bomb the U.S. base at Kleine-Brogel outside Brussels (said to house 26 nuclear weapons)
- Also in 2002, nine people affiliated with either Milan's Via Quaranta mosque or the Cremona mosque were arrested in Milan and charged with aiding al Qaeda



**Milan Duomo**



**Cremona Cathedral**

