

Expert Report II: U.S. v. Amawi et al.

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INTRODUCTION

My full name is Evan Francois Kohlmann. I am an International Terrorism Consultant who specializes in tracking Al-Qaida and other contemporary terrorist movements. I hold a degree in International Politics from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (Georgetown University), and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. I am also the recipient of a certificate in Islamic studies from the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (CMCU) at Georgetown University. I currently work as an investigator with the Nine Eleven Finding Answers (NEFA) Foundation and as an on-air analyst for NBC News in the United States. As part of my research beginning in approximately 1997, I have traveled overseas to interview known terrorist recruiters and organizers (such as Abu Hamza al-Masri) and to attend underground conferences and rallies; I have reviewed thousands of open source documents; and, I have amassed one of the largest digital collections of terrorist multimedia and propaganda in the world.

I have testified as an approved expert witness in eight U.S. federal cases and, additionally, in four criminal cases in the United Kingdom. In United States v. Uzair Paracha, Federal District Judge Sidney Stein held a Daubert hearing on my qualifications as an expert witness and issued a ruling concluding: “Evan Kohlmann has sufficient education, training, and knowledge to be qualified as an expert, and... Kohlmann’s methodology—that is, his process of gathering sources, including a variety of original and secondary sources, cross-checking sources against each other, and subjecting his opinions and conclusions to peer review—is sufficiently reliable to meet the standards for admissibility of expert testimony set by the Federal Rules of Evidence.” A copy of my complete curriculum vitae is attached to this document.

In January 2008, I was asked by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio to review several packages of material, including the following:

- Two DVD-ROM discs from Case #315Q-CV-69185, marked respectively as “1B4-CRIM (1B22), 1B13 (QCV140), 1B5-CRIM (QCV09)” and “1B1 File export, 1-18-08.”
- Two CD-ROM discs, marked respectively as “1A6 Email copy” and “Amawi Cell phone videos (2), Amawi’s mom Re: Shaheed.”
- Transcripts of consensual recordings produced by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for CDs 1D001 (10/14/2004), 1D12 (11/23/2004), 1D24 (02/06/05), and 1D91 (7/27/05).
- An Excel spreadsheet produced by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) marked as “File Reconciliation Spreadsheet II.”

Upon reviewing the aforementioned material, I have concluded that this material is very likely to be useful to a person or persons attempting to join a terrorist organization or preparing an act of terrorism, insofar that:

- It communicates the general aims and ideology of Al-Qaida and affiliated groups to a wide, global audience.
- It further communicates specific instructions and guidance on the use of Al-Qaida's preferred military tactics such as assassinations, kidnappings, and suicide bombings.
- It fosters a sense of organization and purpose for isolated extremists living in Western countries who are drawn towards joining Al-Qaida.
- It encourages even those who have no direct connection to Al-Qaida to join its cause and execute military operations on its behalf around the world, including the use of suicide bombings.

I: The Decentralization of Al-Qaida's Terrorist Network

For almost a decade between 1991 and 2001, Saudi exile Usama Bin Laden worked tirelessly to build a new militant alliance known as Al-Qaida from the very foundation. Much of his efforts were often expended on consolidating leadership, training, and financial assets that had previously been divvied up amongst a variety of different sub-entities such as Al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya (the Egyptian Islamic Group), the Egyptian Islamic Jihad Movement, Jemaah Islamiya in Indonesia, and beyond. According to founding Al-Qaida Shura Council member Mamdouh Mahmud Salim (a.k.a. Abu Hajer al-Iraqi), "Abu Abdullah [Bin Laden] had tendency to favor a policy of centralization... and felt obligated to assemble the Arabs in one location, train and prepare them to be a single mobilized fighting brigade."¹ As a result, by September 2001, even some semi-autonomous Arab training camps in Afghanistan were closed down by the Taliban in deference to other local facilities directly overseen by Al-Qaida and the Taliban.²

However, Bin Laden had apparently overestimated the importance of group centralization, neglecting the benefits afforded to him by Al-Qaida's loose, amalgamated infrastructure. Already by the late 1980s, those around Bin Laden warned him that their attempts to create strict administration and hierarchy within Al-Qaida were ending in disaster. Mamdouh Salim—appointed by Bin Laden to assist him in the regimentation of the Arabs in Afghanistan—admitted in mujahideen memoirs, "we tried our best to correct the brothers, but I should admit that... I was mistaken about the task of management. I thought of people what I had read about them in books—if you were to say to someone, 'Fear Allah', then that's fine, he would fear Allah! ...I believed that just like I could flip

¹ Muhammad, Basil. *Al-Ansaru l'Arab fi Afghanistan*. The Committee for Islamic Benevolence Publications; ©1991. Page 199.

² "Testimony of Detainees Before the Combatant Status Review Tribunal." U.S. Defense Department Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) and Administrative Review Board (ARB) documents released on March 3, 2006. Page 66. http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/foi/detainees/csrt/Set_1_0001-0097.pdf.

a switch to make a light turn on and off, I could also similarly handle people!”³ After a short period of time, Salim grew so exasperated that he offered his resignation to Bin Laden as chief administrator of his nascent organization.

Bin Laden also failed to fully grasp how the relative “openness” of his movement and the perceived lack of hierarchy appealed to young jihadist recruits. In the world of Al-Qaida and the Arab-Afghans, even the most junior of operatives could potentially gain high status within the organization by either demonstrating useful skills, or else by volunteering to sacrifice themselves on behalf of the mission. In other words, Al-Qaida offered an equal opportunity at fame and recognition to nearly any sympathetic soul willing to risk death or imprisonment. When agents from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) apprehended a junior Al-Qaida operative who helped build the suicide truck bombs used to attack two U.S. embassies in East Africa in 1998, he boasted of his own role in the plot and explained that he “was attracted to Usama Bin Ladin and the group Al Qaeda because it did not matter what nationality you were” and because Al Qaeda members did not explicitly follow “orders from a chain of command” in the same way as more traditional terrorist organizations.⁴

Faced with a resounding defeat on the peaks of Tora Bora on the Afghan-Pakistani border, a group of high-ranking Al-Qaida commanders decided to re-think Al-Qaida’s military campaign against the West. In 2002 and 2003, Bin Laden’s shift in strategy became noticeable following a series of dramatic kamikaze bombing attacks targeting Westerners in a host of countries, from Indonesia to Morocco. Al-Qaida’s then-official website—the Al-Neda Center for Islamic Studies and Research—published a landmark book by Shaykh Yousef al-Ayyiri acknowledging that these attacks marked a new phase in evolution for Al-Qaida: “the al-Qaidah Organization has adopted a strategy in its war with the Americans based on expanding the battlefield and exhausting the enemy, who spread his interests over the globe, with successive and varied blows... Expanding the battlefield has invaluable benefits. The enemy, who needed to protect his country only, realized that he needed to protect his huge interests in every country. The more diversified and distant the areas in which operations take place, the more exhausting it becomes for the enemy, the more he needs to stretch his resources, and the more he becomes terrified.”⁵ Addressing those who had criticized Al-Qaida for killing innocent Arab civilians during the May 2003 suicide bombing attacks in Riyadh, al-Ayyiri scoffed, “Whoever asks why in [Saudi Arabia] should ask himself—if he was honest—why in Chechnya, why in Kabul, why in Jerusalem, why in Bali, and why in Mombassa. These countries are ruled by agent Karzai-type rulers and occupied by Americans or Jews who are considered infidels and untrustworthy in Allah’s book.” Moreover, according to al-Ayyiri, “this war is based on a strategy to widen the battlefield. The entire world has become a battlefield in practice and not in theory.” An original Arabic-language copy of al-Ayyiri’s book, “The Operation of 11 Rabi al-Awwal: The East Riyadh Operation and

³ Muhammad, Basil. *Al-Ansaru l’Arab fi Afghanistan*. The Committee for Islamic Benevolence Publications; ©1991. Page 196.

⁴ Government Exhibit GX-6 (Interview of Mohammed Sadiq Odeh by FBI Agent John Anticev). *U.S. v. Usama Bin Laden, et al.* S(7) 98 Cr. 1023 (LBS). United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

⁵ Al-Neda Center for Islamic Studies and Research. “The Operation of 11 Rabi al-Awwal: The East Riyadh Operation and Our War With the United States and its Agents.” August 2003. Translated into English by the United States Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS).

Our War With the United States and its Agents”, is contained in the DVD-ROM folder marked QCV140, also known as Exhibit 1B13.⁶

Al-Qaida recruiters in Europe who had previously encouraged others to travel to mujahideen training camps in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Chechnya began radically changing their message. Their new philosophy emphasized the individual nature and responsibility of jihad. At a conference in Leicester organized by the radical Al-Muhajiroun faction in October 2002, Abu Hamza al-Masri (a.k.a. Mustafa Kamel) admonished his audience, “We need to resist, we need to fight, even alone. And you can’t go now to learn in Afghanistan or Eritrea as before. Now, a war zone is a war zone. There is no need for camping, there is no facilities for camping... A lot of the skills you need for the frontline, you can learn from here... Where are you? What can you do in your area?”⁷ Al-Muhajiroun leader Shaykh Omar Bakri Mohammed echoed these comments and added, “the Ummah [should] know it is obligatory upon them to engage in... preparation and to engage in the jihad. And each one must find their own way. There is no need yourself to contact somebody here or there. You find your own way! Sincerely, you will get it. You do not want to put someone else in trouble. You, look for yourself! ...Seek it! You will get it!”⁸

Even before U.S.-led forces began their campaign to unseat the Taliban, Al-Qaida had already emptied its former training camps in Afghanistan in anticipation of devastating coalition air strikes. Driven into narrow border regions straddling Pakistan and Afghanistan, Al-Qaida’s mujahideen were now deprived of their primary training locale. Faced with growing scrutiny from the Pakistani government, jihadist volunteers also found it increasingly difficult to approach the conflict zone. In October 2003, a group of eager but unrefined would-be mujahideen volunteers from the Portland, Oregon area pled guilty before a U.S. federal judge to an elaborate conspiracy to enter Afghanistan via its border with China in order to support the Taliban and kill U.S. soldiers. The men—who included at least one previous veteran of Al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan—desperately sought on several occasions to cross the border, all of which failed.⁹

Given the situation on the battlefield, Al-Qaida no longer had the luxury of importing large numbers of unskilled operatives into Afghanistan solely for the purpose of training, only to then immediately export them elsewhere. With the Afghan camps closed and Al-Qaida recruiters emphasizing the need for self-financed, self-trained, and self-motivated terrorist cells, Bin Laden’s aides began ardently working to spread their collective knowledge, insights, and practical skills to the public at large. According to a widely respected Al-Qaida online theorist who goes by the pseudonym “Louis Atiyatullah”, the advantage of such a strategy is that “collective organized work is not affected by the loss of individuals, because individuals are easily replaced with others. The organization exists not on any individual; rather it operates as number of distributed

⁶ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]سرية محمد الشهري\مجاهد\وصية الأبطال شهداء الحرمين - سرية محمد الشهري\الأول.zip.

⁷ Speech given at “Iraq Today Mecca Tomorrow.” National Conference held in Leicester, United Kingdom; organized by Al-Muhajiroun, P.O. Box 349 London N9 7RR. October 27, 2002.

⁸ Speech given at “Iraq Today Mecca Tomorrow.” National Conference held in Leicester, United Kingdom; organized by Al-Muhajiroun, P.O. Box 349 London N9 7RR. October 27, 2002.

⁹ “Plea Agreement.” United States v. Jeffrey Leon Battle. U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. Criminal Case No. 02-399-01-JO. October 16, 2003.

responsibilities where the loss of individuals is redundant. This is one of the secrets of the effectiveness of Al-Qaida and their success in group operations.”¹⁰

II: Al-Qaida’s As-Sahab Media Foundation

In approximately mid-2000, in recognition of the growing importance of audiovisual propaganda, Al-Qaida established its own corporate entity responsible for producing “official” multimedia releases from Usama Bin Laden and other prominent terrorist commanders hiding in Afghanistan: the As-Sahab Media Foundation. In recent testimony before a U.S. Department of Defense Combatant Status Review Tribunal, Al-Qaida organizational planner Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has admitted serving as the “Media Operations Director” at the As-Sahab Foundation.¹¹ In order to help with editing and translating the videos into English, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed employed other technically-skilled individuals, such as American Al-Qaida operative Adam Gadahn (a.k.a. Azzam al-Amriki). During an official video recording released in September 2005, Gadahn explained the role of As-Sahab’s multimedia in recruiting new Al-Qaida members:

“Allah is our witness that the numerous audio and videotapes issued by Shaykh Usama Bin Laden, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, and other leaders of the jihad have not been released merely to dispel rumors of their death—or, as the Americans once ridiculously claimed, to send coded messages to their followers. No, these communiqués have been released to explain and propound the nature and goals of the worldwide jihad against America and the crusaders, and to convey our legitimate demands to friend and foe alike, so that the former may join us on this honorable and blessed path...”¹²

The materials provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio contain a wide variety of terrorist recruitment materials originally produced by Al-Qaida’s As-Sahab Media Foundation—including an assortment of major excerpts from As-Sahab’s landmark first video release from 2001, “The State of the Ummah” (a.k.a. “The Destruction of the U.S.S. Cole”).¹³ The video—which has been released in various language editions (including one featuring English subtitles)—opens by explaining its purpose: to reveal the “illnesses” of the Muslim nation and then “to describe the cure, whilst giving... encouragement to remain firm and be steadfast for the sake of the future generation.” After bombarding viewers with relentless scenes of conflict and bloodshed in various Muslim countries, “State of the Ummah” presents what it advertises as “The Solution”: actual military training courses held at Al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan, including Al-Farouq and Tarnak Farms. Addressing the camera from one such Afghan camp, Bin Laden urges his supporters to “head to the lands that make ready

¹⁰ Atiyatullah, Louis. “The Badr Al-Riyadh Tape: A Well Organized Al-Qaida’s Media Strategy Revealed.” The Global Islamic Media Centre (GIM). 2004. Page 2.

¹¹ http://www.defenselink.mil/news/transcript_ISN10024.pdf. Page 17.

¹² As-Sahab Media Foundation. “A Message to the People of the West from the fighting brother Azzam the American on the Fourth Anniversary of the Battles of New York and Washington.” <http://www.as-sahaab.com>. MPEG Video; 12 minutes in length. November 6, 2005.

¹³ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\New Folder, 1.rm and 2.rm; \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet], 1usskol.zip, 2usskol.zip, and State.of.the.Ummah.Part_1.ram.

for them the path of jihad. Let them come to these bleak mountain passes so that their hearts may be purified and Iman [faith] be rooted in their chests.” The video covers various aspects of this training in depth—including mujahideen calisthenics, urban warfare tactics, and even shoulder-fired Surface-to-Air missiles. As mujahideen practice mock assassinations of world leaders (including former U.S. President Bill Clinton), they are lectured by senior Al-Qaida military commanders in the underlying purpose of this training:

“My beloved brothers—Allah has ordained upon us a great obligation... our goal is to humiliate the enemies of the Muslim Ummah, and to degrade the tyrant idols and the worshippers of the grandsons of apes and pigs... Dear brothers, you are raising the banners of brothers who gave their souls for the cause of Allah... My dear brothers, here, we are preparing ourselves to avenge them and retaliate for their blood that was spilled to please the apes and pigs—America and the Jews. Here, we are preparing to tell the world, ‘we are coming.’”

It should be noted that during the transcript of recording 1D12 from November 23, 2004, the participants appear to be watching Usama Bin Laden read a poem about the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. Cole in footage originally included in the video “State of the Ummah.”¹⁴ Separately, excerpts of the video itself appear to be playing during recording 1D001 from October 14, 2004.¹⁵

The folders on the DVDs and CDs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio are rife with other material either produced or facilitated by the As-Sahab Media Foundation—including:

- Video recordings of Usama Bin Laden and Al-Qaida deputy commander Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri discussing the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States.¹⁶
- An audio recording of Usama Bin Laden released on approximately December 15, 2004, wherein Bin Laden hails his supporters: “We ask God Almighty to have mercy on the mujahideen who stormed the consulate of the Americans in Jeddah. How do they want to enjoy security while they sow destruction and kill our people in Palestine and Iraq? Targeting America in Iraq in terms of economy and losses in life is a golden and unique opportunity. Do not waste it only to regret it later. One of the most important reasons that led our enemies to control our land is the theft of our oil. Do everything you can to stop the biggest plundering operation in history - the plundering of the resources of the present and future generations in collusion with the agents and the aliens... Be active and prevent them from reaching the oil, and mount your operations accordingly, particularly in Iraq and the Gulf, for this is their fate.”¹⁷

¹⁴ File#: CV69185 1D12. November 23, 2004. Page 20.

¹⁵ File#: CV69185 1D001. October 14, 2004. Pages 39-40.

¹⁶ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\New Folder; kalima.ram, man.ram. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]; خسانر امریکه کلمه .zip (kalima.ram), من سیرد اسرائیل .zip (man.ram),

¹⁷ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\New Folder; jazeera1.wma, jazeera2.wma, jazeera3.wma, jazeera4.wma. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\البحار\رسالة الشيخ لاهل الحجاز\jazeera1[1].zip,

- An audio recording (and matching Arabic-language transcript) of Usama Bin Laden, titled “To the Muslims in Iraq in Particular and The Islamic Nation in General,” and released on December 27, 2004:

“I believe that the Mujahid Amir, dignified brother Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and the groups affiliated with him are good, and are from the group that fights according to the orders of God. God sufficeth them. We were pleased with their daring operations against the Americans and Allawi's renegade government... We, in the Al-Qaida Organization, warmly welcome their union with us. This is a great step toward rendering successful the efforts of the Mujahidin to establish the state of right and annihilate the state of injustice. We hope that God would accept and bless this step. It should be known that Mujahid brother Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi is the commander of Al-Qaida's network in Mesopotamia. The brothers in the group there should heed his orders and obey him in all that which is good... You should become diligent in carrying out martyrdom operations; these operations, praise be to God, have become a great source of terror for the enemy. They have perturbed its movement, frustrated its plans, and challenged its weapons and soldiers. These are the most important operations.”¹⁸

- Exclusive footage obtained by television network CNN of an Al-Qaida-run terrorist training camp in Afghanistan in approximately 2000 during a personal visit by Usama Bin Laden.¹⁹

III: Al-Qaida's Network in Saudi Arabia

In May 2003, Al-Qaida terrorist cells launched a dramatic series of suicide bombing attacks on various targets inside the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. The bombings heralded the emergence of a new, functioning Al-Qaida operational branch within the Saudi Kingdom. Al-Qaida's network in Saudi Arabia was highly innovative, and it was among the first of Bin Laden's regional “branches” or “affiliates” to adopt the Internet as a primary means to distribute communications and propaganda messages. Many electronic documents, magazines, audio, and video recordings produced by Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia and distributed over the Internet have become classic works in the annals of the mujahideen and Al-Qaida.

The author or inspiration for much of this material was the original founder of Al-Qaida's operational network in Saudi Arabia, and the mastermind behind the May 2003 suicide bombings in Riyadh: Shaykh Yousef al-Ayyiri (a.k.a. “The Swift Sword”). Al-Ayyiri was a Saudi national who left his home at age 18 to join the jihad in Afghanistan, eventually rising to become the commander of a mujahideen training camp.²⁰ Before

jazeera2.wma, jazeera3.wma, jazeera4.wma. See also:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4103137.stm.

¹⁸ \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\; messege to iraqi ben ladin.WMA. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\مجاهد\وصية الأبطال شهداء الحرمين - سرية محمد - شيخ بن لادن\اجهاد.wma. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\كلمة الشيخ أسامة الأخيرة\الشهري

¹⁹ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\بن لادن\ram. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\بن لادن\ram

²⁰ As-Sahab Media Foundation. “Martyrs of the Confrontations.”

<http://www.page4free.biz/freepage/vnew>. December 2003. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\;

long, senior figures in Al-Qaida began to respect al-Ayyiri as a “seasoned military man... a genius and theorizer who served jihad... He is an inspired genius and a miracle of the age. Had he been in another nation, they would not have made him walk on the ground. They would have carried him on their heads.”²¹ According to another digital magazine later distributed by Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia, when al-Ayyiri learned of the September 11, 2001 suicide hijackings in New York and Washington D.C., he “was so joyous he nearly floated on air.”²² [This aforementioned information about Yousef al-Ayyiri was contained in the Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia propaganda film, “Martyrs of the Confrontations,” which is among the files included on the DVDs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio.]²³

Al-Ayyiri was one of the first Al-Qaida commanders of his generation to embrace the potential benefits offered by the Internet. He established the website Al-Neda in order to distribute communiqués and booklets about Al-Qaida’s activities in the Arabian Peninsula and elsewhere. In his book “The Path to the Land of Battle”, Yousef al-Ayyiri encourages Muslims around the world to join in Al-Qaida’s cause, whether directly or indirectly—because, in his words, “The Virtue of Whosoever Falls Down in the Path of Allah, and Dies, Then He is One of Them... Then he is one of them: Meaning, he is of the Mujahidin.”²⁴ Al-Ayyiri goes on to implore his readers to “try hard, and walk to the path of the Jihad. Those who reached (the land of) the Jihad—they were not ‘supernatural’ people; rather, they were humans, Muslims. They merely tried sincerely to reach the lands, and Allah facilitated it for them—after they wore out their eyes and ears in search for this Path... And how many paths there are to Jihad! ...it is absolutely impossible for a sincere slave of Allah to miss all these pathways to the Jihad... If only one million (1,000,000) Muslims attempted to arrive at the lands of the Jihad, then 100,000 of them would have definitely reached—and they would have been sufficient for the Mujahidin to continue in the lands of the Jihad.”²⁵ An original Arabic-language copy of al-Ayyiri’s book titled “The Path to the Land of Battle” is located in the DVD folder QVC140.²⁶

Al-Ayyiri was also remarkably specific as to what Al-Qaida’s campaign against the West would require of its faithful soldiers. In his book “The Truth of the New Crusader War”, al-Ayyiri justified acts of violence such as the September 11 suicide hijackings even when they cause major loss of lives among innocent civilians:

“It is permitted for Muslims to kill inviolable infidels [that is, children, women, and the elderly] in order to repay in kind. If the infidels target Muslim women, children, and

MuB2.ram, MuB3.ram. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\شهداء المواجهات - وصية عبدالإله العتيبي\; MuB1.ram. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; MuB1.ram, MuB2.ram, and MuB3.ram.

²¹ As-Sahab Media Foundation. “Martyrs of the Confrontations.”

<http://www.page4free.biz/freepage/vnew>. December 2003. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\; MuB2.ram, MuB3.ram. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\شهداء المواجهات - وصية عبدالإله العتيبي\; MuB1.ram, MuB2.ram, and MuB3.ram.

²² Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Arabian Peninsula. Sawt al-Jihad (“Voice of Jihad”) Magazine #2. <http://www.cybcity.com/suondmag2/magallh-a.zip>. October 2003.

²³ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\; MuB2.ram, MuB3.ram. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\شهداء المواجهات - وصية عبدالإله العتيبي\; MuB1.ram. See also:

²⁴ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\العلماء والقاده الشيخ يوسف العييري\; الطريق إلى أرض المعركة.zip.

²⁵ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\العلماء والقاده الشيخ يوسف العييري\; الطريق إلى أرض المعركة.zip.

²⁶ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\العلماء والقاده الشيخ يوسف العييري\; الطريق إلى أرض المعركة.zip.

elderly, then it is permitted for Muslims to repay them in kind and kill [their women, children and elderly] as they killed... It is permissible for Muslims to kill inviolable infidels if they are aiding the fighting in deed, word, opinion, or any other way... It is permitted for Muslims to kill inviolable infidels when there is a need to burn the fortifications or the fields of the enemy in order to weaken his strength, to breach the ramparts, or to topple the country, even if the inviolable ones die as a result... It is permitted for Muslims to kill inviolable infidels if they need to use heavy weapons that cannot differentiate between those who are inviolable and the warriors.”²⁷

An original Arabic-language copy of al-Ayyiri’s book titled “The Truth of the New Crusader War” is located in the DVD folder QVC140.²⁸

Among both Arabic and English-speaking Al-Qaida supporters, one of Yousef al-Ayyiri’s books has been particularly popular and enduring: “Constants on the Path of Jihad.” The book attracted so much attention that Shaykh Anwar al-Awlaki—an alleged associate of two 9/11 hijackers in San Diego—dedicated an entire lecture series to explaining al-Ayyiri’s underlying message in “Constants on the Path of Jihad” to an English-speaking audience:

“Jihad does not end with the disappearance of a person. Jihad must continue regardless because it does not depend on any particular leader or individual... Jihad does not depend on any particular land. It is global. When the Muslim is in his land, he performs jihad... No borders or barriers stop it. The message cannot be conveyed without jihad. If a particular people or nation is classified as... ‘the people of war’ in the Shariah, that classification applies to them all over the earth. Islam cannot be customized to suit the conditions where you are, for instance Europe.”²⁹

According to Awlaki, al-Ayyiri also instructed that “victory” cannot be limited to mere “military victories” alone, and should also include “sacrifice. The Mujahid sacrificing ‘his self’ and his wealth is victory. Victory of your idea, your religion. If you die for your religion, your death will spread the da’wa... Allah chooses Shuhada (martyrs) from amongst the believers. This is a victory.”³⁰ An original Arabic-language copy of al-Ayyiri’s book titled “Constants on the Path to Jihad” is located in the DVD folder QVC140.³¹

It should be noted that the DVD folder QVC140 actually contains an impressive reference library of various literature authored by Yousef al-Ayyiri—including a total of at least seventeen Arabic-language books, focusing on topics such as the presence of U.S. forces in the Arabian peninsula, the treatment of Al-Qaida suspects held prisoner in Saudi Arabia, the legitimacy of the Taliban movement in Afghanistan, and justifications for suicide bombing attacks executed by Muslim women.³² Several of these books are marked with the official logo of al-Ayyiri’s Al-Neda Internet website.

Shaykh Yousef al-Ayyiri was finally killed in mid-2003 during a fierce clash with Saudi security forces following the May 2003 suicide bombings in Riyadh. The local Al-

²⁷ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet] مجاهد\العلماء والقاده\الشيخ يوسف العبييري

²⁸ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet] مجاهد\العلماء والقاده\الشيخ يوسف العبييري

²⁹ <http://sabiluna.sitesled.com/Constants%20on%20The%20Path%20of%20Jihad.pdf>.

³⁰ <http://sabiluna.sitesled.com/Constants%20on%20The%20Path%20of%20Jihad.pdf>.

³¹ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet] مجاهد\العلماء والقاده\الشيخ يوسف العبييري; ثوابت على درب الجهاد

³² \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet] مجاهد\العلماء والقاده\الشيخ يوسف العبييري

Qaida leadership vacuum was quickly filled by one of al-Ayyiri's top lieutenants, Saudi national Abdelaziz al-Muqrin (a.k.a. Abu Hajer al-Najdi), a 33-year old Al-Qaida operative with over 15 years of experience among the mujahideen. Despite his relatively brief tenure as commander, al-Muqrin had a powerful influence on the development of Al-Qaida's global tactics and operations post-9/11—due in no small part due to his reliance on the Internet. In a clear reflection of that influence, the DVD folder marked QCV140 includes an entire sub-directory labeled “Abu Hajer” containing an assortment of audio recordings from al-Muqrin, including his reaction to an Al-Qaida terrorist attack on foreign workers at a compound in Khobar, Saudi Arabia and a strong admonishment to jihad supporters “who have abandoned their weapons.”³³

While serving at the helm of Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia between 2003 and 2004, Abdelaziz al-Muqrin became famous for pioneering two remarkably innovative online “jihadist publications”—namely, Sawt al-Jihad Magazine (“The Voice of Jihad”) and the Al-Battar Training Manual Series. In Issue #10 of Al-Battar, al-Muqrin later explained why Al-Qaida's leaders in Saudi Arabia were so intent upon publishing articles and interviews on the Internet, in a missive titled “To All Those Desiring Jihad in the Arabian Peninsula”:

“...through these books, [those seeking jihad] can discover the way to operate and study the best ways and policies listed there for the purpose of achieving our objective and realizing our goals. [These publications] give us a summary of the method and provide us with the experiences of those prior to us. Those in the know are aware that al Qaidah is an organization which utilizes a system of cells... Qaedat al-Jihad pursues the publication of the concept [of Jihad] and spreads the word to the greatest extent possible while the various, disparate cells guarantee—Allah willing—the greater continuity of [carrying out the Jihad].”³⁴

With this goal in mind, al-Muqrin concludes that the duty of carrying out jihad and establishing Muslim rule is “incumbent upon every legal aged adult including the scholars and public, the righteous and the immoral, the rich and poor, men and women; for it is absolutely necessary that people understand that this obligation isn't restricted to the wanted 19 or 26 [referring to Al-Qaida fugitives in Saudi Arabia].” He concluded, “One's duty, then, is the undertaking, endeavor and pioneering, of the obligation of Jihad for Allah's sake. The Muslim should not seek to rely on a few Mujahidin, but rather direct his [own] efforts toward this [obligation].”³⁵

Indeed, this is precisely what the founders of Sawt al-Jihad hoped to inspire among their loyal readers. DVD folder QCV140 contains an original Arabic-language copy of Sawt al-Jihad #11, featuring (among other things) an article by “Salih al-Hassan” titled “O' Rearguards – You Are On Good!”³⁶ Al-Hassan addresses Al-Qaida's “home front”: the faceless multitude of likeminded extremists around the world who have grown

³³ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\العلاء والقاده\أبو هاجر\بيان حول عملية الخير; \مجاهد\العلاء والقاده\أبو هاجر\بيان للأمة عبد العزيز, ra. رسالة إلى من ترك السلاح, ram, and \مجاهد\العلاء والقاده\أبو هاجر\بيان حول عملية الخير, ram.

³⁴ <http://jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2368053>.

³⁵ Al-Neda Center for Islamic Studies and Research. “The Operation of 11 Rabi al-Awwal: The East Riyadh Operation and Our War With the United States and its Agents.” August 2003. Translated into English by the United States Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Pages 101-102. See also:

³⁶ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\; s11pdf.zip.

restless about living under the control of “non-Islamic” governments but who have been genuinely unable—for one reason or another—to join the mujahideen on an active frontline. In the article, al-Hassan reassuringly explains:

“...you are the cornerstone of the jihadi movement and it is not established without you whatever your places and positions are, which, maybe in your eyes petty and small... for wars in our age are established by numerous parts, each completing others and whoever takes up these roles, regardless of how marginalized they may seem... working on support and providing logistic help and the like from the necessities... as for our wars today, then the mujahid is required to prepare himself to be from the guerrilla fighters... so if the mujahid prepares himself the sufficient military requirements, then let him not after that be disappointed with a front that the Amir [commander] decides to place him in, or a duty that is necessary, regardless of its smallness.”³⁷

Elsewhere in the eleventh issue of Sawt al-Jihad, Al-Qaida spokesmen crowed about the success of their latest propaganda video “The Battle of Badr in Riyadh”, boasting that the video had been digitally accessed by nearly 400,000 people in less than five days: “This video had a great impact on the tyrants of the [Arabian] Peninsula, it baffled them, it destroyed everything they had done... Months, and even years of organized deceit went to waste in a mere 90 minutes.”³⁸

Beyond simply encouraging people to carry out acts of terrorism, the magazine also carried biographies of Al-Qaida commanders and interviews with most wanted operatives. The ninth issue of Sawt al-Jihad included an article written by Al-Qaida spokesman Louis Atiyatallah in which he explained to Al-Qaida supporters, “for a long time now, I have posed a simple yet specific and clear question to some individuals who are connected to Al-Qaida, asking them if there will be a second, bigger strike [than 9/11]. Among the answers... the following are the most prominent: ‘It will be an innovative attack, in the sense that it will be completely unexpected, and impossible for them to even conceive or visualize the means by which it will be executed because it is beyond the limits of a normal imagination’ [and] ‘It will be bigger, in the sense that the loss from which America and the Western world will suffer [is greater] because it will be enormous and immeasurable.’”³⁹ Under a subsection marked “Instructions to the Mujahideen”, Atiyatallah urged budding jihadists to “be patient for the strike of jihad”: “the infidels will suffer like we do, and will suffer from strain, fear, and losses of men and wealth as we do, but on a much greater scale.”⁴⁰ An original Arabic-language copy of Sawt al-Jihad Issue #9 is located in the DVD folder QCV140.⁴¹

The eighteenth issue of Sawt al-Jihad in June 2004 featured an interview with Fawwaz al-Nashmi (a.k.a. Turki al-Mutairi), who served as commander of Al-Qaida’s Al-Quds Brigade that took responsibility for the May 29, 2004 attack on foreign nationals working in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, during which 22 people were killed.⁴² The victims included a British employee of the Saudi company Apicorp, whose body was reportedly

³⁷ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\ s11pdf.zip.

³⁸ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\ s11pdf.zip.

³⁹ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\ s9pdf.zip.

⁴⁰ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\ s9pdf.zip.

⁴¹ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\ s9pdf.zip.

⁴² \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\ s18pdf.zip.

... tied to a car by jubilant Al-Qaida members and dragged behind as a trophy.”⁴³ Al-Nashmi was later identified by Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia as “the one chosen by Shaykh Usama Bin Laden to be the 20th martyrdom-seeker [hijacker] in the raid on September 11, 2001.”⁴⁴ During his interview with Sawt al-Jihad, al-Nashmi boasted:

“As soon as we entered [the Khobar complex], we encountered the car of a Briton, the investment director of the company, whom Allah had sent to his death. He is the one whose mobile phone on the seat of his car, with the blood on it, they kept showing [on television]. We left him in the street. We went out, and drove our car. We had tied the infidel by one leg [behind the car]. We left the company [compound]... [and] when the patrols blocked the way, [we] had no chance of returning by the same route, so we went another way via the coast... a distance of four kilometers. The infidel’s clothing was torn to shreds, and he was naked in the street. The street was full of people—as this was during work hours—and everyone watched the infidel being dragged behind, praise and blessings be to Allah.”⁴⁵

An original Arabic-language copy of Sawt al-Jihad Issue #18 is located in the DVD folder QCV140.⁴⁶

In exchange for providing access to these valuable insights and experiences, the editors of Sawt al-Jihad requested the assistance of their cyber-savvy readers in helping to re-broadcast copies of the magazine to those with less intimate knowledge of technology and the Internet. The ninth issue of the magazine featured an appeal from the editorial board to supporters worldwide, “If you intend to make the pilgrimage, or know someone who is planning to do so, take with you issues of Sawt al-Jihad, printed out on sheets of paper or copied onto CD, to distribute to all the Arab pilgrims.”⁴⁷ An original Arabic-language copy of Sawt al-Jihad Issue #9 is located in the DVD folder QCV140.⁴⁸

[It should be further noted that of 30 total versions of Sawt al-Jihad published by Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Arabian Peninsula between 2003 and 2007, the folder QCV140 contains at least thirteen separate issues—including #4, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, and #18—all in their original Arabic-language formats.]⁴⁹

The DVD folder marked as QCV140 also contains an impressive collection of classic video recordings produced by Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Arabian Peninsula during 2003 and 2004. In chronological order, the first of these video productions is “The Wills of the Heroic Martyrs of the Two Holy Cities”, released over the Internet on October 17, 2003, which features the “last will and testament” of several volunteer suicide bombers who had participated in the May 2003 terror attacks in the Saudi capital Riyadh.⁵⁰ The video includes an audio recording of the bombing itself, and Al-Qaida

⁴³ Nakhoul, Samia. “Westerners massacred by al-Qaeda in Saudi siege.” The Scotsman. May 30, 2004.

⁴⁴ <http://www.al-hesbah.org/v/showthread.php?t=68653>. June 2006.

⁴⁵ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\; s18pdf.zip.

⁴⁶ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\; s18pdf.zip.

⁴⁷ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\; s9pdf.zip.

⁴⁸ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\; s9pdf.zip.

⁴⁹ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]امجاهد\مجلة صوت الجهاد\; s4pdf.zip, s6pdf.zip, s7pdf.zip, s8pdf.zip, s9pdf.zip, s10pdf.zip, s11pdf.zip, s13pdf.zip, s14pdf.zip, s15pdf.zip, s16pdf.zip, s17pdf.zip, s18pdf.zip.

⁵⁰ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]امجاهد\وصية الأبطال شهداء الحرمین - سرية محمد الشهري\; 1.zip, 2.zip, 3.zip, 4.zip, 5.zip, 6.zip, 7.zip. See also: <http://www.cybcity.com/image900/index.htm>. See also: <http://1.anwar-islam.com/V/L/>. October 2003.

operatives can be heard shouting “Allahu Akhbar!” and “O’ Allah, expel the polytheists from the Arabian Peninsula!” The audio recording ends with the clear sound of gunfire. According to the Al-Qaida memorial video, Mohammed Shazzaf al-Shehri (a.k.a. Abu Tarek al-Aswad)—a former math teacher—was the tactical commander of the May 2003 suicide bomb squad. The video also features lengthy recordings in Arabic and English by other Al-Qaida operatives who volunteered as suicide bombers in the May 2003 attacks in Riyadh. One of the men, Mohammed Hazem al-Kashmiri (a.k.a. Abu Umar al-Taifi)—the son of a retired top Saudi internal security officer—issued an open message to all Muslims:

“I swear by Allah that the Jews and the Christians will not leave the Arabian Peninsula unless by Jihad, as the ancients expelled them. Do not denigrate yourselves and do not underestimate your abilities. Grasp your weapon and kill the Jews and the Christians wherever they are to be found. You are the offspring of the companions of the Prophets... who broke the noses of the Jews and the Christians, and stepped with their feet on the kings of Persia and Byzantium... [I have a] message to the American soldiers [in English]: for the American soldiers we say [to them], you have to know that your government had become a big evil, killing innocent people, destroying homes, stealing our money, and holding our sons in jail. We promise that we will not let you live safely, and you will not see from us anything else just bombs, fire, destroying homes, cutting your heads. Our mujahideen is coming to you—very soon—to let you see what you didn’t see before.”⁵¹

A second operative featured in “The Wills of the Heroic Martyrs of the Two Holy Cities”, Ashraf bin Ibrahim al-Sayyed (a.k.a. Abu Tamim al-Madani), repeatedly urged all Muslims “to kill the Americans, and not to protect them... If you are a pilot, you must, my brother, try to attack the aircraft carriers in the Gulf or attack any American settlement within the Arabian Peninsula or outside it... By Allah, if only I had a thousand souls so that I could sacrifice them all cheaply for the sake of Allah and kill with each soul a thousand thousand Americans, a thousand thousand tyrants, a thousand thousand Jews.”⁵² The DVD folder QCV140 not only contains the complete video, but also an Arabic-language text transcript of the aforementioned “martyrdom” wills.⁵³

In December 2003, Al-Qaida’s Committee in Saudi Arabia released a second major video production on the Internet, titled “Martyrs of the Confrontations,” in honor of Al-Qaida fighters killed or captured in clashes with Saudi Arabian security forces.⁵⁴ Copies of this video can be found in several sub-directories under DVD folder QCV140, and separately in the DVD marked 1B1. “Martyrs of the Confrontations” includes audio

⁵¹ Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Arabian Peninsula. “The Wills of the Heroic Martyrs of The Two Holy Cities.” <http://www.cybcity.com/image900/index.htm>. See also: <http://1.anwar-islam.com/V/L/>. October 2003.

⁵² Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Arabian Peninsula. “The Wills of the Heroic Martyrs of The Two Holy Cities.” <http://www.cybcity.com/image900/index.htm>. See also: <http://1.anwar-islam.com/V/L/>. October 2003.

⁵³ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\وصية شهداء الحرمين ;امجاهد اوصية الأبطال شهداء الحرمين - سرية محمد الشهري\وصية شهداء الحرمين.zip.

⁵⁴ As-Sahab Media Foundation. “Martyrs of the Confrontations.” <http://www.page4free.biz/freepage/vnew>. December 2003. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\; MuB2.ram, MuB3.ram. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\شهداء المواجهات - وصية عبدالإله العتيبي\; MuB1.ram. . See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; MuB1.ram, MuB2.ram, and MuB3.ram.

excerpts from speeches by Usama Bin Laden, wherein Bin Laden urges, “By Allah, the happy person is the one who is martyred today... Let each and every one of them step forward to kill these Jews and Americans, for killing them is one of the most urgent duties and one of the most pious acts... We incited the nation to expel this usurper and occupier enemy from the land of the two holy mosques. Some of the youths responded favorably to this... They enabled the nation to hold its head high and removed a large part of the disgrace that has enveloped us... We regard these youths as great heroes and mujahideen who walked in the footsteps of our messenger, may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him. We initiated the instigation, and they responded favorably to this.”

The video continues on and an unidentified commentator explains, “They were followed by convoys of martyrs and caravans of fedayeen who did not desist from waging jihad against the Crusaders and those who protect them inside and outside our Peninsula. Even in the heartland of the Crusaders, they carried out operations that were really successful by all standards... men who are willing to sacrifice their lives to uphold the cause of God... Yes, they went out seeking death in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and elsewhere in the lands of the Muslims. Nonetheless, they were destined to achieve martyrdom on the lands of the peninsula of Mohammed... May Allah bless them.” As scenes of the 9/11 hijackers and attacks in New York are shown, the commentator adds, “The United States was struck in its own backyard. The youth of Islam attacked it on that memorable day... a great change overcame the youth of Islam... praise be to Allah and to those young men who died so that their blood would revive their nation once again and make it live as Allah wanted it.”

Notably, “The Martyrs of the Confrontations” includes footage of the legendary commander Shaykh Yousef al-Ayyiri conducting terrorist instructional courses at covert Al-Qaida training camps inside Saudi Arabia. Al-Ayyiri is shown lecturing to a class of young students: “In the first stage, the stage of attrition and engaging the enemy in battle, you need to make your enemy tired more than you need to kill a large number of its members. You need to scatter the enemy, demoralize it, spread it out over a large area, and cause it to get tired. If the enemy is spread out, it will need supply armies and a lot of other things. You need to make the enemy reach this stage. In this stage, you should strike, run, and disappear. Strike at the weak points.” Both the DVD folder marked as QCV140 and, separately, the DVD marked 69185_1B1 contain multiple copies of the video “Martyrs of the Confrontations” produced by Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia.⁵⁵ Additionally, excerpts of the video itself appear to be playing in the background during recording 1D14 from January 10, 2005.⁵⁶

On February 5, 2004, Al-Qaida’s Committee in Saudi Arabia released its third full-length video released, titled “The Battle of Badr in Riyadh,” which purports to tell the story behind the November 8, 2003 Al-Qaida suicide bombing attacks on the Muhaya civilian housing compound in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.⁵⁷ The video includes martyrdom

⁵⁵ As-Sahab Media Foundation. “Martyrs of the Confrontations.” <http://www.page4free.biz/freepage/vnew>. December 2003. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\; MuB2.ram, MuB3.ram. See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\وصية عبد الإله العنبي\مجاهد\شهداء المواجهات - وصية عبد الإله العنبي\; MuB1.ram. . See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; MuB1.ram, MuB2.ram, and MuB3.ram.

⁵⁶ File#: CV69185 1D14. January 10, 2005. Page 56.

⁵⁷ Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Arabian Peninsula. “Badr al-Riyadh.” <http://www.hostinganime.com/image990/bdr.htm>. February 5, 2004.

wills by the bombers, detailed footage of the construction of suicide car bombs used in the attacks, scenes from covert Al-Qaida terrorist training camps in Saudi Arabia, and actual video of the attack itself transmitted using the cell phone of one of the bombers. During the video, suicide bomber Ali bin Hamid al-Madabi al-Harbi smugly boasted, “We sacrifice ourselves for the sake of establishing an Islamic state and to remove injustice against Muslims everywhere... Many youths are eager to carry out such martyrdom operations. In fact, these operations currently constitute an effective weapon against the enemies.” A second bomber, Nasser bin Abdallah al-Sayyari al-Khalidi, admonishes viewers, “He who does not die in the arena of jihad or does not die for the cause of Allah, then he will die in some other way. Death is the same. However, if death is for the cause of Allah, then it is the goal of every Muslim and believer.” The terror cell members are subsequently shown gathered together at an Al-Qaida guesthouse waiting to carry out their mission. As they prepare to execute their attack on the Muhaya compound, the men begin to enthusiastically sing a martyrdom song “Zifou Shaheed” while brandishing a fearsome array of weapons:

“Welcome the martyr and let the believers celebrate, Allah, Allah; Welcome the martyr that has a second home in paradise, Allah, Allah; Welcome the martyr that sacrifices with his wounds, blood and clothes, Allah, Allah; His forehead became perfumed and you should not disturb his grave, Allah, Allah; Welcome the wedding groom and let his beloved ones pray for the rest of us, Allah, Allah; The name of the martyr will be repeated over and over in paradise, Allah, Allah; Around the martyr the beautiful virgins shall be gathering, Allah, Allah.”

Both the DVD folder marked as QCV140 and, separately, the DVD marked 69185_1B1 contain original Arabic-language copies of the video “The Battle of Badr in Riyadh” produced by Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia.⁵⁸ [Separately, excerpts of the same video appear to be playing during recording 1D001 from October 14, 2004.⁵⁹] Moreover, the cached “Web Favorites” index contained in DVD folder QCV140 contains hyperlinks to at least two separate Internet websites which offer the “Badr al-Riyadh” video for download.⁶⁰ One of those websites—<http://www.pages4free.biz/image444>—was the official temporary website of Al-Qaida’s Committee in the Arabian Peninsula in April 2004. While on this website—aside from accessing “The Battle of Badr in Riyadh”—visitors were also provided direct links to copies of Al-Qaida’s Sawt al-Jihad Magazine (editions #1-15), the accompanying Al-Battar training manual (editions #1-9), and audio recordings from Abdelaziz al-Muqrin. Because this temporary website was being hosted on a free online provider with limited bandwidth, Al-Qaida was forced to jump from provider to provider on an almost monthly basis. This account, “image444” on pages4free.biz, was only active for approximately two months, in April and May 2004.

⁵⁸ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\big1.ram, big2.ram, big3.ram, big4.ram, big5.ram, big6.ram, max1.ram. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\; badr1.ram, badr2.ram, big1.ram, big2.ram, big3.ram, big4.ram, big5.ram, big6.ram, max1.ram.

⁵⁹ File #: CV69185 1D001. October 14, 2004. Pages 11, 14.

⁶⁰ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\Favorites\jehad\ بدر الرياض (<http://www.neda2-friend.co.uk/bdr.html>). See also: \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\Favorites\jehad\ مركز الدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية – النداء (<http://www.pages4free.biz/image444/>).

Merely being aware of its existence would require a user to be engaged in an active, routine pursuit of information about Al-Qaida and its franchise unit in Saudi Arabia.

IV: Al-Qaida’s Network in Iraq / Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

Though Al-Qaida’s operatives in Saudi Arabia were among the first of their colleagues to successfully broadcast high-quality propaganda video recordings over the Internet, the true flowering of the digital video phenomenon occurred in the context of the war in Iraq and under the watchful eye of Jordanian national Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (a.k.a. Ahmad al-Khalaylah). From November 2004 until his death in June 2006, Zarqawi served as the leader of Al-Qaida’s local franchise in Iraq and became a highly visible icon for second and third-generation terrorist sympathizers and recruits. His penchant for and glorification of extreme violence—particularly hostage beheadings and suicide bombings—were an inspiration for like-minded militants around the world. In May 2004, Italian police monitored Egyptian terrorist recruiter Rabei Osman El Sayed Ahmed in Milan as he played a video of Zarqawi decapitating U.S. hostage Nicholas Berg for a suicide bomber-in-training. Rabei excitedly crowed, “This is the policy we need to follow, the policy of the sword. Come and see our brother Abu Musab [al-Zarqawi]... This is the policy. Allahu Akhbar, Allahu Akhbar. Allahu Akhbar. Go to hell, the enemy of Allah. Kill him, kill him. Yes, like that, slaughter him well, cut his head off... Everyone must end up like this.”⁶¹

Both the DVD folder marked as QCV140 and, separately, the DVD marked 69185_1B1 contain numerous videos of hostage executions, beheadings, and mutilations that took place in Iraq during 2004 and 2005.

- A video released by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s Al-Qaida faction in Iraq (then known as the “Tawheed wal-Jihad Movement”) on the Internet in August 2004.⁶² The video shows a man sitting in front of the three masked men with his hands tied behind his back. A caption under the hostage reads, “From the Arab Republic of Egypt. Mohammed Fawzi Abdaal Mutwalli. I was working as a spy with the Americans in Iraq.” The video then cuts to a scene of the Egyptian hostage Mutwalli lying on the ground, whereupon a Zarqawi lieutenant decapitates him with a knife and places his severed head on his back. The masked executioner then boasts to the camera in Arabic, “Today, we are executing the punishment of Allah on this criminal by beheading him.” An accompanying statement explained that Mutwalli was a “traitor spy” working for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): “This criminal confessed that he was taking electronic devices from the Americans to throw them into the hideouts of the mujahideen so that the Americans would be able to identify the targets and bombard them with aircraft and missiles.”⁶³

⁶¹ <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/front/etc/rabei.html>. January 2005.

⁶² \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\العميل المصري.wmv. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; العميل المصري.wmv.

⁶³ http://www.gameroom.com/tawheed3/ameel_masry.htm. August 2004.

- It should be noted that during the transcript of recording 1D91 from July 27, 2005, the participants appear to be discussing the aforementioned execution video of alleged Egyptian spy Mohammed Mutwalli.⁶⁴
- A copy of a reprocessed video clip downloaded from the website OGRISH.COM containing footage originally released by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Tawheed wal-Jihad faction in Iraq in September 2004.⁶⁵ The video appears to depict the graphic beheading of U.S. hostage Olin Eugene Armstrong.⁶⁶
- A copy of a reprocessed video clip downloaded from the website OGRISH.COM containing footage originally released by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Tawheed wal-Jihad faction in Iraq in October 2004.⁶⁷ The video appears to depict the graphic beheading of British hostage Kenneth Bigley.⁶⁸

However, it was Zarqawi's tragic suicide bombing attacks—carefully documented on film—that most sparked the imagination of Al-Qaida supporters around the world. Beyond depicting the mere explosions themselves, videos released by Al-Qaida in Iraq focused heavily on planning phases and the pre-execution rituals for “martyrs-in-waiting.” The importance of suicide bombers to Zarqawi's propaganda was self-evident even as early as his first full-length propaganda film, “The Winds of Victory,” released in July 2004.⁶⁹ The video principally pays homage to various suicide bombings carried out by Al-Qaida against Western and Iraqi government targets in 2003 and 2004, including the devastating truck bomb attack on the United Nations compound in Baghdad and the attempted seaborne attack on an oil terminal in the Arabian Gulf off Basra. The video contains footage of senior Al-Qaida leaders, martyrdom wills read by suicide bombers of Iraqi, Kuwait, and Saudi origin, and footage of several actual suicide attacks carried out inside Iraq. Perhaps the most memorable single clip from the entire “Winds of Victory” film was a nighttime suicide truck bomb attack carried out by Iraqi national Abul-Harith Abdelrahman al-Dosari on a U.S. checkpoint at Khaldiya Bridge in early 2004. Al-Dosari is first shown reading his will and then subsequently demonstrating the use of his bomb-triggering device.⁷⁰

“To my mother, father, wife, brothers and sisters, and all my beloved ones... I have not forgotten you and will not forget you... I have not left you because of anxiety, but to answer the call from almighty Allah for jihad... we see death as more enjoyable than a thousand steps you take on the flowers among you... All it takes is the press of a button. Following that, with the help of Allah, the banner of ‘No God but Allah’ will prevail, and the person will be finished with this world after fulfilling his mission.”

⁶⁴ File#: CV-69185 1D001. October 14, 2004. Page 43-47.

⁶⁵ <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=15238>. September 20, 2004.

⁶⁶ \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; \الرهينه الثاني.wmv.

⁶⁷ <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=16758>. October 10, 2004.

⁶⁸ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد افيديو\ ogrish-dot-com-kenneth-bigley-beheading-video-full.wmv.

See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; \ogrish-dot-com-kenneth-bigley-beheading-video-full.wmv.

⁶⁹ http://209.51.152.42/~aqcorpo/other_images/v_01.jpg. April 2005.

⁷⁰ http://209.51.152.42/~aqcorpo/other_images/v_02.jpg. April 2005.

As al-Dosari walks towards his destiny and a truck carrying nearly four tons of explosives, he is surrounded by senior Al-Qaida members who celebrate his anticipated sacrifice and chant the lyrics to the song, “Zifou Shaheed”: “Hurry the martyr, Allah, Allah. Hurry the martyr to his second home in paradise. The wedding procession of nymphs, passionate lovers. Hurry the martyr with his wounds, with his blood, with his clothes on. Pray for him, Oh beloved ones. I say goodbye as a stranger, if we do not meet on this earth, I say goodbye to you... I see that you are leaving and not coming back.” The DVD folder QCV140 and the DVD marked as 69185_1B1 contain multiple excerpted portions taken from “Winds of Victory” of specific suicide operations, including the Khaldiya Bridge truck bombing mission executed by Abul-Harith al-Dosari.⁷¹ Additionally, the “My Pictures” folder stored within QCV140 contains at least two screen shots taken from the video “Winds of Victory” depicting the postmortem remains of Abul-Harith al-Dosari.⁷² During audio recording 1D14 from January 10, 2005, participants appear to be discussing the same postmortem images of al-Dosari: “See, look. This is the guy who committed, May God be praised, the martyrdom driving the car... This is a brother who made martyrdom car bombing on the bridge of Khalidya. Look brother, after – after the whole blow... explosion; when they returned him. My brother, look at his face. I swear to Allah he is smiling... And the whole explosion. Glory be to Allah. Look, I mean Praise be to God, he’s still in one piece.”⁷³

Separately, the DVD folder QCV140 and the DVD marked as 69185_1B1 also contain another relevant video excerpt from “Winds of Victory” documenting a coordinated, multi-pronged suicide bombing attack in the Iraqi city of Karbala in mid-2004.⁷⁴ The bombers included three Saudis (Abu Saad al-Makki, Abu al-Zubair al-Najdi, and Abu Amshah al-Shomari); a Libyan (Abu Abdullah al-Liby); and a Syrian (Abu Abdelkarim al-Suri). As the men are shown reading their martyrdom wills, a narrator explains in Arabic:

“These knightly angels gathered together without any prior arrangements or prior relationships. Strangers arrived from various tribes... Abu Saad al-Makki, Abu al-Zubair al-Najdi, Abu Abdullah al-Liby, Abu Amshah al-Shomari, Abu Abdelkarim al-Suri. The heavens invited them to an immortal wedding. They could see with their hearts the beautiful nymphs, while wearing fancy silks, laying on luxurious couches, opening their arms, waiting for the time to get together and waiting for the hour of our reunion [in paradise]... This blessed convoy marched forward and mounted the saddles of death in a charge towards paradise... They refused to live a life of humiliation like some people; instead, they insisted on inscribing the glory of Islam with their blood.”⁷⁵

An accompanying text caption on the video explained, “the mujahideen decided to wipe out the following targets: Polish troops (Abu Abdullah al-Liby will pave the way for Abu Saad al-Makki so that he can accomplish the mission); a coalition hospital (Abu

⁷¹ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\غزوه الخالديه.zip. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\; غزوه الخالديه.zip.

⁷² \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\My Pictures; adosry1.jpg, adosry2.jpg.

⁷³ File#: CV69185 1D14. January 10, 2005. Page 115.

⁷⁴ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\غزوة كربلاء.zip. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\; غزوة كربلاء.zip.

⁷⁵ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\امجاهد\غزوة كربلاء.zip. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\; غزوة كربلاء.zip.

Abdelkarim al-Suri will pave the way for his brother Abu Amshah al-Shomari), and the Karbala provincial building.”⁷⁶ Once again—just as with the aforementioned clip of Abul-Harith al-Dosari—this file has the identical name and size as the excerpted version that was first officially released by Al-Qaida over the Internet in August 2004.⁷⁷ Likewise, the “My Pictures” folder stored under QCV140 contains at least five still JPEG images taken from this same video clip.⁷⁸

Folder QCV06 includes copies of two memorable suicide bombing videos released by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s Al-Qaida faction in mid-November 2004. The first video contains footage of a dramatic suicide car bombing on a U.S. convoy in the restive Iraqi city of Ramadi.⁷⁹ [During the transcript of recording 1D12 from November 23, 2004, there is a discussion as participants apparently watch video of the same suicide attack in Ramadi.⁸⁰] The second video features apparent footage of a November 4, 2004 suicide car bomb attack on a checkpoint about 20 miles southwest of Baghdad manned by soldiers from the Scottish Black Watch regiment in the United Kingdom.⁸¹ The blast killed three of the soldiers and wounded eight others. A civilian Iraqi interpreter working with the regiment also died in the bombing. The masterminds behind the attack were apparently seeking to deliberately kill British soldiers on station in Iraq.⁸² The same video appears to be playing during audio recording 1D24 from February 6, 2005.⁸³

Folder QCV09 contains copies of another film released by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s Al-Qaida faction in January 2005.⁸⁴ This video contains apparent footage from multiple camera angles of a December 29, 2004 suicide truck bomb attack on a building used as a base by the U.S. military in Mosul.⁸⁵ Subsequent letters from Al-Qaida associates identified the bomber as 20-year old Saudi medical student Ahmed Said al-Ghamdi (a.k.a. Abu al-Miqdad al-Ghamdi). According to their accounts, al-Ghamdi “was able to enter [Iraq] after only a single week in order to join the Martyrs Brigade of Al-Qaida’s network in Mesopotamia... Ahmed purchased a truck and purchased explosives with his own personal money... Three days after entering [Iraq], he executed his blessed operation targeting the Americans.”⁸⁶ Insurgents filmed al-Ghamdi’s suicide truck bombing attack from three separate angles. The video footage was subsequently released on the Internet by Al-Qaida’s Jihad Committee in Mesopotamia.

Folder QCV09 also contains a video of an Al-Qaida suicide bomber in Iraq, “Aqil al-Ansari”, first released on June 18, 2005.⁸⁷ A grinning al-Ansari—who is ultimately

⁷⁶ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\مجاهد كربلاء.غزوة كربلاء.zip. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\غزوة كربلاء.zip.

⁷⁷ <http://www.gameroom.com/tawheed3/krbla1m.zip>. August 2004.

⁷⁸ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\My Pictures\; krbla1.jpg, krbla2.jpg, krbla3.jpg, krbla4.jpg, krbla5.jpg.

⁷⁹ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\; file55.wmv. See also: <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=19046>. November 7, 2004.

⁸⁰ File#: CV-69185 1D12. November 23, 2004. Page 37.

⁸¹ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\; file56.wmv.

⁸² Al-Qaida in the Land of the Two Rivers. “A Martyrdom Operation Against the British Forces.” <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=19021>. November 7, 2004.

⁸³ File #: CV69185 1D24. February 6, 2005. Page 28.

⁸⁴ \QCV09\[root]\; 1104668114.zip. See also: \QCV09\[root]\1104668114\; mousel day.wmv.

⁸⁵ <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=23922>. January 1, 2005.

⁸⁶ <http://www.hkmah.net/showthread.php?t=7374>. May 18, 2005.

⁸⁷ \QCV09\[root]\; شريط عملية الرضوانية الإستشهادية.rmvb.

shown executing an attack in Radwaniya—is feted by other Al-Qaida members who chant the nasheed song, “Zifou Shaheed” (“Welcome the Martyr”): “...Welcome the groom who has a second home in paradise, Allah, Allah; Welcome the groom who sacrifices with his wounds, blood and wealth, Allah, Allah... The name of the martyr will be repeated over and over in paradise, Allah, Allah; Around the martyr the beautiful virgins shall be gathering, Allah, Allah... Welcome Aqil, who has a second home in paradise, Allah, Allah; Welcome Aqil, and let his beloved ones pray for the rest of us, Allah, Allah.”⁸⁸ The same folder QCV09 contains yet another video of an Al-Qaida suicide bomb attack released in April 2005, this time targeting an alleged U.S. intelligence (CIA) base in Tikrit.⁸⁹ The same video appears to be playing during audio recording 1D91 on July 27, 2005.⁹⁰

The folders on the DVDs and CDs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio contain an extensive collection of other multimedia produced by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s Al-Qaida faction in Iraq—including audio recordings of Zarqawi’s deputy Abu Anas al-Shami, roadside bombings, sabotage operations, executions, and sniping attacks.⁹¹ The files all appear to have been originally released by Al-Qaida during a specific nine month period, from September 2004 to June 2005. One item of particular interest from this group is a video that was released by Zarqawi’s Tawheed wal-Jihad Movement in October 2004 depicting the destruction of the civil defense headquarters in the city of Ar-Ramadi.⁹² The video appears to show Iraqi soldiers in camouflage clothing fleeing the building as Tawheed wal-Jihad members position a large, truck-borne improvised explosive device made primarily from discarded artillery shells.⁹³ It should be noted that during the transcript of recording 1D12 from November 23, 2004, the participants appear to be discussing the aforementioned Tawheed wal-Jihad video from Ramadi.⁹⁴ Separately, the same video appears to be playing during recording 1D24 from February 6, 2005.⁹⁵

The DVD folder QCV09 even contains a digital multimedia presentation produced by “At-Tibyan Publications” featuring the English translation of an audio recording from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi titled “Such are the Messengers Tested.”⁹⁶ The recording was initially released on the Internet by Al-Qaida’s network in Iraq on January

⁸⁸ <http://www.al-hesbah.org/v/showthread.php?t=24872>. June 18, 2005.

⁸⁹ \QCV09\root\; مقطع للعملية الاستشهادية على مقر الاستخبارات الامريكية في تكريت. See also: <http://www.inn4news.net/inn/showthread.php?t=31711>. April 16, 2005.

⁹⁰ File#: CV-69185 1D91. July 27, 2005. Page 82.

⁹¹ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\; File9.wmv. See also: \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\New Folder\; 11111.WMV, Untitled.WMV, hh.WMV, mkeshafa.rm. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\; عملية قتل بفرجون عربية همر لأصحاب الأتصار الضعيف \; جهاد\QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\; الكلاب المأجورة zip. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\; شريط تدمير الية zip. الثار لأهل السنة وكانت آخر نتائجها أن قتل 150 Yusifia.rmvb, Qans wathani.rmvb, Yusifia.rmvb, 150 zip. مدرعة أمريكية في تلعفر ونطابر اشلاء صليبية لنقل الجنود في تلعفر من وحي الفلوجة \; مجاهد\QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\; ram. من وحي الفلوجة

⁹² \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\New Folder\; 11111.WMV, Untitled.WMV. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\; لأصحاب الأتصار الضعيف \; جهاد\QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\; zip.

⁹³ <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=16953>. May 12, 2004.

⁹⁴ File#: CV-69185 1D12. November 23, 2004. Page 60.

⁹⁵ File #: CV69185 1D24. February 6, 2005. Page 28.

⁹⁶ \QCV09\root\; Abu.Musab.Eid.Khutbah.rm.

20, 2005.⁹⁷ Conversely, the At-Tibyan version begins with an audio clip of radical Palestinian cleric Abu Qatada al-Falastini: “This Deen – O Brethren! For it to have a state, for it to exist, for it to have authority, it is in need of blood. It is in need of limbs. It is in need of sacrifice.” As photos and video of “martyred scholars” are shown, a song plays in the background extolling, “Admirable you are, O you who bravely sacrificed himself. We hope you have an eternally blissful live... Where is the daring knight who comes to shatter the shackles, that we breathe in relief?”⁹⁸ The purpose of At-Tibyan in adding English-language narration and subtitles to such multimedia was twofold: first, to strike terror among Al-Qaida’s enemies in the West and, secondly, to recruit sympathetic non-Arabic speakers for purposes of jihad (and most particularly, those living in English-speaking Western nations).

V: Other Iraqi Insurgent Groups

The DVDs and CD discs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio also contain an assortment of propaganda from other insurgent and militant groups active in Iraq aside from Zarqawi’s Al-Qaida faction. Those groups include, most notably, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army (JAAS), the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI), and the Mujahideen Army of Iraq.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army was formed in 2003 from mixed Kurdish and Arab remnants of the Ansar al-Islam terrorist group based in northern Kurdistan. Ansar al-Sunnah is one of the few Iraqi insurgent groups other than Al-Qaida to openly advocate its support for Usama Bin Laden, to carry out suicide bombing attacks, and to distribute beheading videos on the Internet. In August 2004, Ansar al-Sunnah operatives kidnapped a group of 12 civilian contract workers from Nepal, accusing them of working with the United States. A week after the abduction, frustrated at the lack of media attention, Ansar al-Sunnah militants brutally massacred the twelve men with knives and automatic weapons. A video of the execution was subsequently distributed on the Internet. Four months later, in December 2004, a locally-recruited Ansar al-Sunnah suicide bomber detonated an explosive inside a dining area at a U.S. base in Mosul, killing 22 and wounding dozens. The attack itself was video-recorded by JAAS representatives positioned nearby, and the video was subsequently distributed on the Internet.

JAAS is distinct from Al-Qaida in the sense that it is comprised primarily of native Iraqi Salafists, including many Kurdish Islamist fighters. In fact, JAAS is the only major insurgent group in Iraq to publish its magazines and propaganda materials in both Arabic and Kurdish language versions. Several notable targets chosen by JAAS for bomb attacks—such as the offices of secular Kurdish political parties and the Turkish embassy in Iraq—distinctly reflect the Kurdish origins of the group. Today, Ansar al-Sunnah operates across a vast swath of northern and western Iraq, and has been particularly active in the cities of Mosul and Baghdad. Despite its peculiar ethnic disposition, Ansar al-Sunnah has been more closely associated with Al-Qaida in Iraq than any other major insurgent group still independent of Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State.” In September 2006—even prior to the foundation of Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State”—reports

⁹⁷ <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=25657>. January 20, 2005.

⁹⁸ Operation Praline. Exhibit NM13 – F559 – LNJ195. AVSEQ01.mpg.

began to circulate that serious discussions and “planning sessions” were being held in the western Anbar province between representatives of Al-Qaida’s Mujahideen Shura Council and Ansar al-Sunnah, with the ultimate objective of formulating an acceptable merger between the two groups.⁹⁹ According to a representative from Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State of Iraq” interviewed in April 2007, “the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, they are true lions and we do execute joint operations with them” but “there are internal reasons and circumstances inside the ranks of Ansar al-Sunnah that have prevented them from [openly] supporting the Islamic State of Iraq.”¹⁰⁰

The DVDs and CD discs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio contain the following items of note relating to the Ansar al-Sunnah Army in Iraq:

- In March 2004, Ansar al-Sunnah released its first full length-propaganda film titled “Banners of Truth.”¹⁰¹ The video contains an entire sub-section on “Martyrdom Operations”, offering recorded “martyrdom” wills of Iraqi and Saudi Arabian suicide bombers responsible for attacks on the U.S. military, Iraqi security forces, Kurdish politicians, and even the Turkish embassy in Baghdad in mid-2003. Shortly before departing on his suicide mission, a young Iraqi Kurd named “Barwa” addressed the camera and explained, “I am carrying out this martyrdom operation and all Muslims should know that they do not have any excuse anymore for not confronting the infidels while we see the Muslims insulted and humiliated at the hands of these crusaders under the command of the United States whose hands have become covered with the blood of thousands of Muslims. Jihad has become today the individual duty of all Muslims so as to restore the rule of the shariah of Allah, praise and glory be to Him. Let the Muslims know that the infidels are weaker than they think and I hope Allah will accept this from me.” A recording is also included of another operative known as Abu Thabet al-Muhajir, who is credited with carrying out a December 2003 suicide attack on U.S. forces west of Mosul. Al-Muhajir addresses a message to moderate leaders in the Arab world: “be warned O’ you brokers of the West: we are coming and will trample you underfoot. To all the mujahideen, continue and we are with you until we get back Al-Aqsa and Andalusia and know that victory comes with patience and the jihad in the cause of Allah.”¹⁰²
 - In addition to the video itself, folder QCV140 also contains at least three still images from the video featuring the above-described suicide bombers.¹⁰³
 - Folder QCV09 also contains what appears to be a partial video excerpt from “Banners of Truth”, including footage of the aftermath of an insurgent attack on a Spanish intelligence unit near Mahmudiya in November 2003. While the personal identification documents of the

⁹⁹ “Allahu Akhbar: Information Indicating the Imminent Merging of the Ansar al-Sunnah Army and the Mujahideen Shura Council.” <http://www.alhesbah.org/v/showthread?t=85659>. September 17, 2006.

¹⁰⁰ Paltalk Online chat session with “Abu Adam al-Maqqdisi.” April 27, 2007. <http://www.globalterroralert.com/pdf/0507/isimaqqdisi0507.pdf>.

¹⁰¹ <http://www.d3wa.net/free/ansaransar/Rayat.zip>. March 2004.

¹⁰² \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\رايات الحق\; Rayat.wmv.

¹⁰³ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\My Pictures\; ryah7.jpg, ryah8.jpg, ryah10.jpg.

Spaniards are shown on camera, a narrator explains that Ansar al-Sunnah fighters had “observed and followed two vehicles belonging to the Spanish Intel... the platoon performed a close ambush in... the Mahmudiya sector west of Baghdad around 4 P.M. and by the grace of god they were able to hit both vehicles which were carrying eight Intel personnel. Seven were instantly killed and the eighth suffered severe injuries. The mujahideen in that operation collected three automatic weapons, a video camera, and then withdrew to their bases safely.”¹⁰⁴

- DVD folders QCV140 and 69185_1B1 both contain identical copies of a video released by the Ansar al-Sunnah Army in Iraq in September 2004.¹⁰⁵ The video appears to depict the grisly beheading of three Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) members accused of working as American agents and assisting in the transport of U.S. military vehicles.¹⁰⁶
- DVD folder QCV09 contains a copy of a video released by the Ansar al-Sunnah Army in Iraq in May 2005.¹⁰⁷ The video contains video footage of the bloodied body of Japanese hostage Akihiko Saito. According to a message accompanying the video, Saito succumbed to his injuries after being shot many times during a JAAS-led insurgent ambush in Iraq.¹⁰⁸
 - It should be noted that during the transcript of recording 1D91 from July 27, 2005, the participants appear to be discussing the aforementioned Ansar al-Sunnah propaganda video featuring the body of Akihiko Saito.¹⁰⁹

Founded by ex-Iraqi military, paramilitary, and intelligence personnel in 2003, the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) has since grown into one of the largest and most influential Sunni insurgent groups active in Iraq. The IAI has routinely used terrorist tactics as part and parcel of its military operations. Between 2003 and 2006, the IAI has admitted responsibility or has been otherwise implicated in the kidnapping and abduction of nearly a dozen foreign civilians in Iraq; including French journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, Christian Science Monitor journalist Jill Carroll, U.S. security consultant Ronald Schultz (who was murdered during his captivity), and Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni (who was also murdered during his captivity).

The DVDs and CD discs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio contain the following items of note relating to the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI):

- The CD-ROM disc marked as “1A6 Email copy” contains a copy of an e-mail sent from “marwan elhindi” at marwanelhindi@yahoo.com to “darren griffin” at abu_jihad@sbcglobal.net. The e-mail consists of a forwarded Arabic-language

¹⁰⁴ \QCV09\[root]\مغ أسر ياباني.zip.

¹⁰⁵ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\عملاء اكراد.zip. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\عملاء اكراد.zip.

¹⁰⁶ <http://ansar-alsunnah.8k.com/Demokraty.htm>. September 19, 2004.

¹⁰⁷ \QCV09\[root]\مقتل الياباني.zip.

¹⁰⁸ <http://j-a-alsunnah.i8.com>. May 28, 2005.

¹⁰⁹ File#: 315Q-CV-69185 ID91. July 27, 2005. Page 69.

- message originally distributed over an online mailing list known as “iairaq”—which served as the official mailing list of the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) in early 2005. The message includes detailed photos regarding the placement and aftermath of improvised explosive devices in Iraq.¹¹⁰
- In November 2003, the IAI organized and videotaped a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile attack on a DHL Airbus A300 leaving from Baghdad International Airport.¹¹¹ Copies of the video are contained on both DVD folders QCV140 and 69185_1B1.
 - In December 2004, the IAI released footage of failed attempts by its fighters to down U.S. military cargo flights over central Iraq with shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile launchers.¹¹² Folder QCV09 contains a copy of this footage.
 - In April 2005, the IAI helped organize and videotape a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile attack on a civilian Blackwater Mi-8 helicopter twelve miles north of Baghdad. The video showed IAI personnel summarily executing the lone survivor of the crash, co-pilot Lyubomir Kostov.¹¹³ Folder QCV09 contains a copy of this video.
 - Furthermore, during the transcript of recording 315Q-CV-69185 1D91 from July 27, 2005, there is an apparent discussion of the video and the execution of Kostov.¹¹⁴
 - In April 2005, the IAI released a graphic video recording showing a massive improvised explosive device attack on an Iraqi security forces foot patrol.¹¹⁵ Folder QCV09 contains a copy of this video.

The Mujahideen Army (in Arabic, “Jaish al-Mujahideen”) first emerged publicly in late 2004 and early 2005 as a close ally of the IAI. For several months during mid-2005, the two groups issued joint propaganda statements—and even conducted military operations together, such as the May 2005 downing of a Blackwater Mi-8 helicopter north of Baghdad. Like the IAI, the Mujahideen Army is comprised almost exclusively of native Iraqi Sunni Muslims, including suspected former members of Saddam Hussein’s military. Despite this, the Mujahideen Army is virulently opposed to the Baath party and refers to the former Iraqi dictator as “the tyrant Saddam.” The group has also boasted in press releases that many of its weapons were originally stolen from abandoned Iraqi army depots. Fighters loyal to Jaish al-Mujahideen specialize mostly in small-scale mortar, rocket, IED, and sniper attacks, as opposed to spectacular suicide car bombings. During 2006, its most noteworthy operations included the alleged downing of U.S. Apache helicopters with shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles and an unusual succession of attacks specifically targeting British military forces in Baghdad and Basrah.

¹¹⁰ \1A6_COPY\ELHINDI EMAIL OF 02 25 05 SHOWING IED PLACEMENT.htm.

¹¹¹ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\العراق\امجاهد\اجيم الأمريكان في العراق\almuqawama_dhl_low[1].wmv. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; almuqawama_dhl_low[1].wmv.

¹¹² \QCV09\[root]; اصقاط طائرات.WMV.

¹¹³ \QCV09\[root]; 2005-4-21\البيان اسقاط الطائرة البلغارية.zip.

¹¹⁴ File#: 315Q-CV-69185 1D91. July 27, 2005. Pages 61-63.

¹¹⁵ \QCV09\[root]; up1001.ram.

According to the U.S. military, the Mujahideen Army and its leaders have been, at various times, “associated” with Al-Qaida’s network in Iraq.¹¹⁶ MNF forces in Iraq have accused the former Baghdad-based propaganda chief of the Mujahideen Army of “record[ing] videos and digitiz[ing] them to compact disc for distribution to various Jaysh al-Mujahideen and al Qaeda in Iraq terrorist groups... the videos would be used to recruit terrorists and foreign fighters, as well as to provide information on potential targets for other terrorists.”¹¹⁷ In late January 2006—in response to Danish and Norwegian political cartoons lampooning the Prophet Mohammed—the Mujahideen Army issued a furious edict calling “upon all our platoons in Jaish al-Mujahideen to attack whatever they possibly can in these two countries specifically, and in other countries who also follow in their lead.”¹¹⁸ The group’s language grew more dire in response to public comments by Pope Benedict that were likewise viewed by extremists as defamatory to the Prophet Mohammed. The group threatened in an official statement to “smash the crosses in the house of the Roman dog.”¹¹⁹ It even claimed credit for a joint mortar attack on November 20, 2006 targeting a U.S. base in the town of Dili Abbas (north of Baqubah) alongside fighters from Al-Qaida’s “Islamic State of Iraq.”¹²⁰ Folder QCV09 contains at least four video recordings produced by the Mujahideen Army in Iraq, including footage of various sniping and improvised explosive device attacks on U.S. and Iraqi security forces.¹²¹

VI: Izzadeen al-Qassam Brigades / Palestinian Hamas Movement

Aside from documents and multimedia produced by Al-Qaida and Iraqi insurgent groups, the DVDs and CD discs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio also contain relevant material from other organizations designated by the U.S. government as “Foreign Terrorist Organizations”, or FTOs—most notably, the Izzadeen al-Qassam military wing of the Palestinian Hamas movement. According to the April 2003 edition of the U.S. State Department Publication Patterns of Global Terrorism:

“Formed in late 1987 as an outgrowth of the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Various HAMAS elements have used both political and violent means, including terrorism, to pursue the goal of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel... HAMAS activists, especially those in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, have conducted many attacks—including large-scale suicide bombings—against Israeli

¹¹⁶ “Jaysh al-Mujahideen terrorist lieutenant and propaganda chief captured.” http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3079&Itemid=128. November 24, 2005.

¹¹⁷ “Jaysh al-Mujahideen terrorist lieutenant and propaganda chief captured.” http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3079&Itemid=128. November 24, 2005.

¹¹⁸ “The Mujahideen Army Issues a Communiqué Regarding the Grave Offense Against the Blessed Prophet Mohammed.” <http://www.alhesbah.org/v/showthread?t=50528>. January 30, 2006.

¹¹⁹ “The Mujahideen Army Shariah Council Issues a Statement Regarding the Statements by the Pope in the Vatican.” <http://www.alhesbah.org/v/showthread?t=85431>. September 16, 2006.

¹²⁰ “A Joint Operation With Our Brothers from the Mujahideen Shura Council.” <http://www.alhesbah.org/v/showthread?t=97072>. November 21, 2006.

¹²¹ \QCV09\root\العوبات الناسفة (تفجير وتدمير همرات ومدركات للعدو الصليبي).zip, قنص عدد من العلوج, عمليات القنص (قنص عدد من العلوج, zip, عملية قنص لقائد كبير في المنطقة الغربية, rar, عملية تدمير همر في ضواحي بغداد, rar, رائج جداً

civilian and military targets... The group has not targeted US interests—although some US citizens have been killed in HAMAS operations.”¹²²

Both DVD folders QCV140 and 69185_1B1 contain a wide variety of assorted video clips that were apparently downloaded from the official website of the Izzadeen al-Qassam Brigades, hosted at various times between 2003 and 2007 on web domains including Alqassam.info, Alqassam.net, Alqassam.ps, Alqassam.ws, and Ezzedeem.net. These two folders contain a matching set of at least eight video clips originally downloaded from the Izzadeen al-Qassam website showing Hamas militants alongside homemade al-Qassam unguided rockets.¹²³ The same disk also contains part one and two of a video produced by the Izzadeen al-Qassam Brigades to document an innovative terrorist attack on an Israeli outpost in the southern Gaza strip in June 2004.¹²⁴ The video appeared to depict masked Hamas militants digging a 350-yard tunnel at the Gush Qatif junction directly underneath part of the Orkhan military base. The militants then were shown as they carefully packed the tunnel with explosives. The video concludes with video of the subsequent explosion, which killed one soldier and wounded five others.¹²⁵ It should be further noted that the web “Favorites” index contained under folder QCV140 contains links to 24 “jihad” Internet websites, including <http://www.alqassam.net>.¹²⁶

VII: Other Combat Zones: Bosnia, Chechnya, Afghanistan, Algeria

The DVDs and CD discs provided to me by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio contain several additional items of note relating to jihadi frontlines in Bosnia, Chechnya, Afghanistan, and Algeria.

- **Bosnia**
 - DVD folder QCV07 contains a copy of the mujahideen propaganda video “Operation BADR,” produced by the Mujahideen Brigade of Bosnia-Herzegovina.¹²⁷ The video documents the participation of foreign fighters from the Arabian Gulf, North Africa, and Europe in the final battles of the Bosnian civil war in September 1995. The recording includes footage of known terrorist leaders, such as deceased Egyptian Al-Gama’at al-Islamiyya commander Shaykh Anwar Shaaban. On the video, Shaykh Anwar Shaaban—with his head wrapped in a turban—is seen speaking

¹²² Office of the Secretary of State and Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. Patterns of Global Terrorism 2002. U.S. Department of State. Released April 2003. Page 107.

¹²³ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\ابطال فلسطين\qassam01.mpeg, qassam03.mpeg, qassam_byan.mpeg, qassam_rocket.mpeg, rocit_25_1_02.mpeg, rocket1.mpeg, rocket.mpeg, rocket_final.WMV. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\فلسطين ابطال\qassam01.mpeg, qassam03.mpeg, qassam_byan.mpeg, qassam_rocket.mpeg, rocit_25_1_02.mpeg, rocket.mpeg, rocket1.mpeg, rocket_final.mpeg.

¹²⁴ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\ابطال فلسطين\aboholy001.WMV, aboholy002.WMV. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]\فلسطين ابطال\aboholy001.WMV, aboholy002.WMV.

¹²⁵ <http://www.alqassam.ws/movies/mpg/aboholy001.wmv> and <http://www.alqassam.ws/movies/mpg/aboholy002.wmv>. August 2004.

¹²⁶ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\Favorites\jehad\http--www.alqassam.net-.

¹²⁷ \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]; Badr_al-Bosna1.dat.

through an interpreter to several men described as Serb prisoners of war.¹²⁸

- **Chechnya**

- In April 2002, the Chechen mujahideen press agency “Kavkaz Center” released video footage of Saudi jihadi commander Abu al-Walid al-Ghamdi shooting down a Russian Mi-24 helicopter in Chechnya with a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile launcher. Copies of the video are contained under DVD folders QCV06 and QCV07.¹²⁹ It should be further noted that the web “Favorites” index contained under folder QCV140 contains links to 24 “jihad” Internet websites, including the video download section of the “Kavkaz Center” site.¹³⁰ In the United States, cooperating defendants from a jihadist network based in Northern Virginia have testified in federal court that watching videos of Saudi commanders Abu al-Walid al-Ghamdi and Ibn-ul-Khattab, and their exploits in Chechnya encouraged them to seek training at mujahideen camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan.¹³¹ A former member of the network, Yong Ki Kwon, testified under oath, “They (the videos) motivated us. It was like they gave us inspiration.”¹³²
 - It should be noted that during the transcript of recording 1D24 from February 6, 2005, the participants appear to be discussing the aforementioned video of Abu al-Walid al-Ghamdi shooting down a Russian helicopter in Chechnya.¹³³ The same video again surfaces as a subject of discussion during the transcript of recording 1D12 from November 23, 2004.¹³⁴

- **Afghanistan**

- DVD folder QCV09 contains a copy of a video produced by the Taliban-linked Labayk Media Foundation in July 2005. The video appears to show local fighters shooting down a U.S. fighter jet in Afghanistan with a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile launcher.¹³⁵
 - It should be noted that during the transcript of recording 1D91 from July 27, 2005, the participants appear to be discussing the aforementioned Labayk Media video of Taliban militants firing a surface-to-air missile at a U.S. fighter jet in Afghanistan.¹³⁶

¹²⁸ Maktabah Al-Ansar Bookshop & Publishers; Birmingham, UK. “Operation BADR.” Cassette tape obtained from <http://www.maktabah.com>.

¹²⁹ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\New Folder\; abualwaled-imc-mi24.rm. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]\; up0159.zip.

¹³⁰ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\Favorites\jihad\; KAVKAZ CENTERnewsfactsanalysis.

¹³¹ Russell, Betsy Z. “Prosecutors wrap up case against student.” Spokesman Review (Spokane). May 25, 2004.

¹³² Erdley, Debra. “Witness testifies against Al-Timimi.” Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. April 10, 2005.

¹³³ File#: CV-69185 1D24. February 6, 2005. Page 26.

¹³⁴ File#: CV-69185 1D12. November 23, 2004. Pages 76-77.

¹³⁵ \QCV09\[root]\; أفغانستان في إسقاط الطائرة الأمريكية في أفغانستان.zip.

¹³⁶ File#: 315Q-CV-69185 ID91. July 27, 2005. Page 77.

- **Algeria**
 - DVD folders QCV140 and 69185_1B1 both contain matching copies of a video, aljazayr.wmv, which consists of original footage of military operations by fighters from the Algerian Salafist Group for Prayer and Combat (GSPC) in 1999.¹³⁷ It should be further noted that the web “Favorites” index contained under folder QCV140 contains links to 24 “jihad” Internet websites, including the first official homepage of the GSPC, <http://www.jihad-algeria.com>.¹³⁸

VIII: Explosives Training Manuals

DVD folders QCV06 and QCV07 each contain two matching Arabic-language introductory guides to the fabrication of homemade explosives.¹³⁹ Though I am not in a position to comment on the technical accuracy of the knowledge presented therein, I am familiar with these manuals as having been distributed on extremist Internet chat forums in 2004 and 2005. Indeed, during audio recording 1D14, participants discuss a document “that shows you how to make bombs” that was downloaded “from the website of the Mujahidin. You have to be registered to get in... You can’t get in.”¹⁴⁰

- One such website that featured these specific explosives guides was <http://www.abualbukhary.net>. During the transcript of recording 1D12 from November 23, 2004, there is a specific discussion of jihad-related files offered for download on <http://www.abualbukhary.net>.¹⁴¹

IX: Additional Evidence Relating to Terrorist Websites and Internet Forums

Muntada al-Ansar was an Arabic-language discussion forum on the Internet catering to supporters of radical Islamic movements, particularly Al-Qaida. The website first opened for visitors on May 2, 2002, offering locally hosted digital copies of speeches by Al-Qaida leaders and supporting clerics, including Usama Bin Laden.¹⁴² According to its founders, Muntada al-Ansar was created as a “place for Sunni Muslims... to meet Sunnis from elsewhere and to share ideas and listen to their lessons and lectures, symposiums and speeches.” However, they also made clear that the purpose of the site was to “champion the causes of the Islamic nation and publishing related news, clerical justifications for Tawheed and Jihad... exposing the Shiites... [and] responding to

¹³⁷ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\; aljazayr.wmv. See also: \69185_1B1\Nov 23 2004 [Joliet]; aljazayr.wmv.

¹³⁸ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\Favorites\jihad\; الجماعة السلفية للدعوة و القتال (<http://www.jihad-algeria.com>).

¹³⁹ \QCV06\Feb 18 2005 [Joliet]\New Folder\; المواد الحساسة أو المحرّضة.doc, مقدمة في الجاتوه.doc. See also: \QCV07\Jan 11 2005 [Joliet]; المواد الحساسة أو المحرّضة.doc, مقدمة في الجاتوه.doc.

¹⁴⁰ File#: CV69185 1D14. January 10, 2005. Page 69.

¹⁴¹ File#: CV69185 1D12. January 23, 2004. Page 78.

¹⁴² <http://www.al-ansar.biz/vb>. October 2003. See also: <http://www.al-ansar.biz/ansar/main/injaz.htm>. October 2003.

Christianity.”¹⁴³ By October 2003, the online administrators of Muntada al-Ansar boasted that they were “holding meetings with a number of the mujahideen in Chechnya and Afghanistan and Palestine.”¹⁴⁴ However, Muntada al-Ansar gained its real prominence in early 2004 when Abu Musab al-Zarqawi chose it as his preferred propaganda mouthpiece and began publishing online communiqués and videos. Starting in May 2004, as a result of Zarqawi’s video-recorded beheading of U.S. hostage Nicholas Berg, the Ansar forum was engaged in a perpetual process of jumping from one commercial Internet hosting provider and one domain to the next in a frantic bid to avoid being wiped out. At approximately the same time, the al-Ansar forum became password protected and open only to registered users—even the registration process itself was quickly closed to new applications. Using these tactics, Muntada al-Ansar was able to stay more-or-less constantly online until April 2005 when it suddenly vanished. After three months of inactivity, the Ansar forum was resurrected briefly on August 4, 2005 but disappeared permanently only two months later on October 2.¹⁴⁵

The most well-known administrators on the Ansar forum were Moheb al-Shaykhayn (a.k.a. “The Tunisian Sheikhs Lover”) and Irhaby007 (a.k.a. “Terrorist 007”). During the last phase of existence for Muntada al-Ansar—between August and October 2005—Moheb al-Shaykhayn had virtually disappeared leaving Irhaby007 as the only noticeable administrator. Irhaby007 has since been identified as London resident Younis Tsouli, who has pleaded guilty to charges in the United Kingdom of inciting the commission of an overseas act of terrorism, specifically murder. Irhaby 007’s expert contributions on the Muntada al-Ansar forum were eagerly welcomed by Zarqawi’s henchmen (among others) and he was openly praised by official Al-Qaida representatives for his critical assistance in advancing forward Al-Qaida’s propaganda machine. In an unprecedented public statement, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi’s celebrated online spokesman Abu Maysarah al-Iraqi expressed his deep gratitude to Irhaby 007: “Bless the terrorist, Irhaby 007. In the name of Allah, I am pleased with your presence my beloved brother. May Allah protect you.”¹⁴⁶ Irhaby007—since identified as London-resident Younis Tsouli—has pled guilty to criminal charges of inciting the commission of an overseas act of terrorism, specifically murder, and has been sentenced by a British court to 18 years in prison.

The web “Favorites” index contained under folder QCV140 contains links to dozens of “jihad” Internet websites, including the notorious Muntada al-Ansar forum run by Irhaby007. The links contained in the “Favorites” index suggest that the individual responsible for creating them was almost certainly a registered user (possessing a unique login and password) of the Muntada al-Ansar forum for an extended period of time throughout 2004 and 2005.¹⁴⁷ Separately, during audio recording 1D14 from January 10,

¹⁴³ <http://al-ansar.biz/ansar/main/Definition.htm>. December 2003.

¹⁴⁴ <http://www.al-ansar.biz/ansar/main/injaz.htm>. October 2003.

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.ansary.info/forums/showthread.php?t=198>. August 4, 2005. See also: <http://www.ansaarnet.info>. October 2, 2005.

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=76510>. October 11, 2004.

¹⁴⁷ \QCV140\Oct 19 2004 [Joliet]\مجاهد\Favorites\1\منتدى الأنصار الإسلامي (<http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=17009>), منتدى الأنصار الإسلامي (<http://www.al-ansar.biz/vb/>).

2005, participants appear to be discussing Muntada al-Ansar: “This one my brother is uh, this is the Al-Ansar forum. This is where they get the tapes and stuff. This is it.”¹⁴⁸

X: Conclusions

The evidentiary materials provided to me the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio contain almost all the necessary ingredients for relative neophytes to form their own homegrown underground terrorist cells for the purposes of violent jihad. The cached material is generally of fairly recent origin and thematically tracks the most extreme wings of Al-Qaida in Iraq and Saudi Arabia that have specialized in fringe tactics such as beheadings and suicide bombings. There is a specific, disturbing emphasis on rituals associated with suicide bombers and justifying such sacrificial actions, even when they result in the deaths of innocent civilians. It is not simply a matter of one or two items easily located via general searches on the Internet, but rather an extensive and impressive reference library of terrorist-related documents and videos that would require many concentrated hours of browsing and downloading to assemble. Many of these items were released and distributed through online discussion forums, which required the use of specialized logins and passwords. The individual(s) responsible for amassing these collections were unusually diligent in their mission—significantly more so than one would expect from a mere curious websurfer with a “passing interest.”

In particular, the vast archive of Sawt al-Jihad Magazine issues raises serious questions as to the intent of the creator of that volume. These documents were specifically designed by senior Al-Qaida commanders to serve as a guide to self-radicalization and training of homegrown terrorist recruits, including in geographical areas that previously were beyond the reach of Al-Qaida. Paired together with countless suicide bombing videos from Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Yousef al-Ayyiri’s spirited endorsements of such suicide operations, and even explicit recipes for producing explosives, a group of individual extremists would together have in their possession sufficient ideological sanction, technical knowledge, and strategic insights to execute an act of terrorism that could wound or kill many innocent victims.

As demonstrated by the above analysis, the evidentiary materials provided to me the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio communicate the general aims and ideology of Al-Qaida and affiliated groups to a wide, global audience; they further communicate specific guidance on the use of Al-Qaida’s preferred military tactics such as suicide bombings; they foster a sense of organization and purpose for isolated extremists living in Western countries who are drawn to Al-Qaida; and, finally, they encourage even those who have no direct connection to Al-Qaida to join its cause and execute military operations on its behalf around the world, including the use of suicide bombings. For these reasons, I conclude that this material is very likely to be useful to a person or persons conspiring to join a terrorist organization or preparing an act of terrorism.

¹⁴⁸ File#: CV69185 1D14. January 10, 2005. Page 126.