



Shebaab al-Mujahideen Issues Biography of American Jihadist October 4, 2008

“Shebaab al-Mujahideen Media Wing: Millat Ibrahim – Stories from the Immigrants – Amir Abdul Muhaimen (Abu Hurriyah).” Released October 4, 2008



[This document is the translation of an Arabic-language document obtained by NEFA investigators and translated on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. On February 29, 2008, the U.S. State Department designated Shabaab al-Mujahideen (a.k.a. the Mujahideen Youth Movement (MYM) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. According to the U.S. State Department, the Shabaab movement includes “a number of individuals affiliated with al-Qaida. Many of its senior leaders are believed to have trained and fought with al-Qaida in Afghanistan.”]

“Praise be to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon Allah’s messenger. I write these lines with various emotions swirling in my stomach, some sad and some happy. I am sad for losing my brother, whose face I will not see again on this earth. But I also am happy at the fate of my brother, and how Allah made him steadfast on the path of righteousness until he was martyred on the frontlines, may Allah have mercy upon him. We consider him so and Allah is the judge.”

“His youth: the story begins in the city of Seattle in the state of Washington in the United States. This brother was born to Christian parents—a black American father and a Mexican mother. His skin color was a mixture of black and brown. His parents named him Ruben Shumpert. He was raised in a pure Christian household—when he was martyred, the brother still had a tattoo of a large cross on his arm. Our brother had a rough childhood and was jailed several times during his youth. Recently, another brother who was close to [Shumpert] told me that he had carried a gun from the age of 12, which is why he became so skilled at using firearms. He vowed to his brothers that he had never missed after aiming a gun at someone. Ruben grew up in the company of narcotics rings in the state [of Washington] until he became one of the biggest drug traffickers [in the region]. He purchased many houses and other buildings. As frequently occurs with drug dealers, they became involved in certain activities that led the police to pursue them. Ruben was chased by the American police and the FBI. The same source told me that Ruben had spoke of never sleeping during those days, and he installed security cameras on all the roads leading to his hiding place in order to carefully monitor any activity outside the house.”

“His imprisonment, his conversion to Islam, and his journey among deviant groups in search of the truth: As a result of these actions [drug trafficking], he was given a lengthy jail sentence, during which he proclaimed his faith in Islam and selected the name Amir Abdul Muhaimen as a replacement for his previous name. Following his release from prison, he was eager to study and



seek understanding of Shariah law. The winds of fate deposited him in the arms of the hope of this era, the new Salafists, and occasionally into the circle of the Takfir wal Hijrah Movement. He remained unconvinced by their corrupt belief system. Afterwards, he joined the Hizb ut-Tahrir (HUT) movement based in Britain—although he never traveled there—but later renounced [HUT] for abandoning the cause of jihad. The brother became confused after seeing the injustice of the crusader forces in Muslim lands, and their massacre of Muslims. The conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq ignited the light of faith in his heart... He began to search for weapons and jihad. He could not accept having been so powerful prior to converting to Islam, and yet being so weak as a follower of Islam, even though he had only recently become a Muslim..."

"His release from prison: after our brother was freed from prison, as he floated between various [Islamic] movements... he opened a barbershop in a place whose population consisted mostly of African-Americans. Everyone in the area had known the brother before he had converted to Islam. All of them feared and respected him. When they found out that the brother had embraced Islam, they saluted him with the greeting of Islam, 'Salaamu Alaykum.' The barbershop was always busy and prospered thanks to the young people in the neighborhood, both Muslims and infidels, because the barbershop was akin to a missionary center run by our departed brother. Thanks to him, many of his old friends from his pre-Islamic days became Muslims. Through the means of our brother, Allah guided many sons of the local Muslim community, most of whom were from the Somali community..."

"His second prison term on charges of terrorism and belonging to Al-Qaida, and his emigration to Somalia: [Ruben] did not grow weary of seeking an understanding of Shariah law. Allah guided him to the path of righteousness, when he met some brothers who had returned from Chechnya. He became acquainted with them, and they provided him with some educational and jihadi video recordings. Our knight was very fond of Shaykh Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, may Allah have mercy on him, and he hoped to join [Zarqawi] in Mesopotamia. The barbershop was on the second floor of a building (located on the main street), which consisted of an upper floor and a ground floor. The upper floor had a staircase that passed in front of the ground floor. An individual of Muslim origin used to live on the ground floor—but his words and deeds caused him to abandon the religion of Mohammed, prayers and peace be upon him. Besides his statements and sacrilegious actions, he used to sell alcohol and also worked as a pimp who traded in prostitution—truly, a loathsome human being. One day, after watching various jihadi videos, one of the eager new Muslim brothers descended from the upper floor to the ground floor and witnessed serious evil. The brother attempted to advise that lewd individual, but only received slaps and kicks in response. Soon, the [store owner] wished he had not done so, because the new brother was a muscular American Muslim who beat the man to the ground in a matter of seconds. One of the customers, perhaps the man's wife, called the police. When the police questioned the apostate about who had attacked him, he claimed that [Ruben] and 10 other brothers had beaten him up. Our brother had a long police record from before becoming a Muslim, and [the police] were angry at his [conversion to] Islam, and the way in which the young people of the neighborhood were rallying around him. They obtained an arrest warrant for him, despite the fact that the brother who had attacked the man admitted to the police that it was he, not [Ruben], who had beaten him up."

"The case involved other dimensions, and the FBI quickly intervened and seized control of events. The FBI produced footage from four cameras that were planted inside the barbershop. They accused [Ruben] of terrorism, incitement to terrorism, and even conducting military training inside the barbershop. The case developed from the issue of a fistfight to the issue of terrorism—for which the brother was eventually imprisoned. While held in prison, he met with the imam of the mosque where he had prayed. The imam advised him not to discuss jihadi topics and to steer clear of all these matters. [Ruben] asked him, 'O' Shaykh, I have always talked to people about jihadi concerns. On the other hand, you have not read one verse about jihad in your life, and yet, now we are in the same cell.' This imam had been imprisoned during the context of a terrorism case, even though he was classified as a moderate Salafist. The imam laughed about what he had said, and agreed with him, because the infidels will never be satisfied with anything that we

do. The brother remained in prison for several months. They pressured him to admit that he was part of Al-Qaida, that he met with Shaykh Usama Bin Laden, that he intended to carry out terrorist attacks, and so forth, in a long chain of accusations which our brother refused to admit to. He was temporarily released on bail after admitting to weapons possession and accepting a jail sentence to be determined by the merciless judge.”

“One day... he met some Somali brothers who held jihadi beliefs. One of them advised him to pretend to confess until he was able to find a way to escape from America and to join the cause of jihad in Somalia. This was during the era of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU). The latter [brother] convinced him of the idea and the brothers conducted the necessary preparations for the forgery of documents to exit America for Somalia. While en route, he transited through Dubai and was stopped by the Emirates security services. They were investigating the identity of any person traveling to Somalia at that stage, may Allah punish them. Praise be to Allah, he was able to slip away from the policeman while he was busy talking with some of his work colleagues, and [Ruben] was able to catch a flight headed for Mogadishu. When he disembarked at the airport, there was a moment when two joys blended into one: happiness at escaping an American prison—and we all are aware of the extremes and brutality of American prisons—and happiness at joining the jihad in the cause of Allah.”

“His arrival in Somalia: in the days of the Islamic Courts Union, the Mogadishu Airport was under the control of the brothers. When he arrived at the airport, there was a group of brothers who received the new immigrants. Upon arrival, you must tell them that you are looking for a camp, or to conduct jihad, or a weapon. You say exactly what you want without fear of the intelligence services. They do not become agitated, and instead, they will take you to the camps or to the immigrant bureau. While in Mogadishu, a new phase of [Ruben]’s life began. Upon his arrival, he only was interested in purchasing an AK-47. Thanks be to Allah, he was able to purchase an AK-47 and joined the ranks of the mujahideen in the Al-Muhajireen Brigade. During the famous battle of Adale, where at least 2,000 Ethiopian soldiers were killed, the brother was wounded by a shot in his back. He was evacuated to Mogadishu with the wounded for treatment, because the war was raging outside Mogadishu. After the withdrawal of the Islamic Courts Union from Mogadishu, [Ruben] retreated with the brothers from the same brigade to the forests of southern Somalia, where he remained for a period of time.”

“The story of his martyrdom: [Ruben] tried to leave the forest with some of the brothers in order to accomplish something that only Allah knows of. One of them, who later turned out to be a spy for the Americans, betrayed them. As soon as the brothers jumped off the small boat they were traveling in, they were immediately targeted with missiles. Three of them were martyred, including our knight Amir Abdul Muhaimeen. The purpose in retelling the story of our brother is for Muslims to examine how a man who became a Muslim so quickly took up the responsibilities he had towards his religion and his nation. May Allah have mercy upon my brother and my friend. May Allah grant him a home in paradise and accept him among the martyrs. I ask almighty Allah to allow us to re-join each other in paradise. O’ how I wish that I could see him once again on the frontlines, but Allah had predestined this fate, and he shall do as he wants.”