



Biography of al-Qaida Commander Saleh Ali Nabhan October 12, 2009

“Biographical Summary of the Martyred Commander, Allah-willing, Abu Yusuf al-Nabhani” Released: October 12, 2009



[This document is the transcript of a communiqué obtained by NEFA investigators and translated on behalf of the NEFA TerrorWatch subscription service. This transcript is provided for educational and informational purposes only.]

“Saleh Ali Saleh al-Nabhani (Abu Yusuf) al-Yamani, native of Mombasa, Kenya, was born in the coastal city of Mombasa in Kenya, and was raised there. He finished his elementary and middle schools’ education and a part of his secondary education in Mombasa itself, then he married, and the story of his wedding is stranger than the story of his Jihad. He told me that one day he left Mombasa in a private car, and he entered one of the nearing villages to Mombasa city. Suddenly, his eyes dropped on a beautiful girl, full of elegance and very presentable. He walked behind her until she went into her parents’ house, and he went in right after her. He sat down with the girl’s mother asking to marry her, so the mother consulted her daughter about her willingness to marry this young man, and she agreed, so they asked him to bring his mother on the third day, and so he did.”

“Marriage occurred this easily. Afterwards, Abu Yusuf joined one of the study groups for one of the most reputable sheikhs in Mombasa who is still alive, may Allah reward him goodness on behalf of Islam. He encouraged them to seek Jihad and martyrdom, and from amongst those who answered his calls was Abu Yusuf al-Nabhani, and thereafter he left to Afghanistan and joined the training camps in Khalden and then Al Farouq consecutively, and he mastered various military skills. He then was chosen to be a trainer, and he survived the American raid on the al-Farouq camp...he was the guard of the camp gate at the time of the raid.”

“He participated in training the 19 [martyrs] chosen to change the course of history; heroes of Manhattan Battle: Muhammad Atta and his companions.”

“He mastered the art of forgery very well, and he told me that he assisted in forging documents for the 19 brothers.”

“He went back to Kenya after September 11th, with a small group led by Abu Talha al-Sudani—may Allah accept his martyrdom—and they planned the Paradise Hotel operation in Mombasa against the Jews, and in it hundreds of soldiers died, unlike what they say that 13 soldiers only, and Abu Yusuf was the knight of this operation, its planner and coordinator. Also, he was the one who provided and prepared with explosives the car that barged into the hotel, and its driver was the martyred brother Abu Aamer al-Sudani, may Allah have mercy on him. Abu Yusuf, on his end, launched a missile that targeted a Jewish passenger jet leaving Mombasa airport, and that happened just a few days after his release from prison on bail, as he was arrested while carrying out a special operation that is relevant to the execution of the [Mombasa] operation. Mombasa Operation has a long story but the summary here is brief.”

"And directly after executing the operation, Abu Yusuf crossed the Kenyan borders to join his brothers in Somalia, and stayed with them for a long time, and throughout which he trained more than 3,000 mujahideen on various fighting arts."

"He was married to four wives; three in Somalia and one in Kenya, and Allah gave him sons and daughters. And, after the Ethiopian forces entered Somalia, Abu Yusuf went back to Kenya and remained underground there for a while, then he went back to Somalia, and the mujahideen were happy with his comeback. During his last trip from Kenya, the Crusader enemy raided the Sheikh Abu Yusuf Center, and that was after he made a phone call by which the enemy was able to locate the place, and he was in the Somali city Bobla, near the Kenyan borders."

"But, with the grace of Allah, the commander left the targeted place and Allah rescued him from the raid. Commander Abu Yusuf used to have a very strong memory with quick understanding, and Allah rewarded him with modesty to the highest degrees—may Allah have wide mercy on him."

"He used to not know laziness or incompetence, and nothing was impossible to him within the borders of human capability, and you would never have seen him sitting as it is without working. He was heightened with elegance and honorable appearance, and no one offended him because of his smiley face and social engagement with his soldiers. He was a wise commander and a great trainer, and he followed the best methods of training, and both newcomers and graduates understood him on the same level. He was superior in various military fields, especially in the fields of tactics and explosives, additional to his mastery of heavy weaponry."

"Abu Yusuf was the planner and commander for an operation to assassinate the so-called Abdulqader Yehya in Somalia, and the international Kufr Council cried over his death. He was the first to build [explosive] devices in Somalia, and [also] the first to use remote-controlled devices, and the first to rig a car with explosives in Somalia."

"Abu Yusuf was one of the most important military and intellectual commanders for al-Shabab al-Mujahideen Movement, even one of its founders. The commander Abu Yusuf martyred with three of his companions near the city of Brawa in southern Somalia, during an American attack, which more than nine helicopters participated in, on 25th of Ramadan, may Allah have a wide mercy on him."

"Muslims were affected by his death in Mombasa, and jurists mourned him in high tones. One of the elder jurists said that brother Saleh al-Nabhani was one of Allah's verses, and the mujahideen will receive from Allah someone better than him, or like him."

[Verse]

"The Kenyan government was scared from the general chaos [caused] by the number of sympathizers towards the incident of commander al-Nabhani's martyrdom; even one of the governmental officials in the Christian Kenyan Government declared that 'America still singularly makes decisions that harm our private affairs.' But in Somalia, the response was very quick, and the spokesman for al-Shabab al-Mujahideen Movement, Sheikh Ali Mahmoud Raghi, spoke about the incident and said in brief words 'the blood of our commanders will not go to waste and we will take revenge with the permission of Allah.' And after two days only, martyrdom operations were prepared and caused great damage in the ranks of the crusaders, through which 16 NATO officers were killed, who came on a mission to train and encourage the African mercenaries. Also, commander of the Burundi forces and the general representative of the African mercenaries' command were killed, and commander of the Ugandan forces and the general commander of the African mercenaries were wounded, additional to tens of African officers, and from amongst those was the security official for the African crusaders. These operations were enough and satisfactory, and it healed the grudge in the hearts of unifiers [mujahideen]."

"Abu Yusuf had a keen love for martyrdom, and once he became very ill that he almost died, and he was very sorrowful fearing he was to die on his bed. He joked with the young men, saying 'brother, do you want to martyr? Come accompany me to receive martyrdom Allah-willing,' and thus Allah awarded him his wishes and received martyrdom in the highest degrees—may Allah accept him."

"Abu Yusuf was 'the man of difficult missions' so Allah rewarded him for what he had offered Islam, and he raised his degree in Eleyeen (high levels of paradise)."

"The brave man has journeyed away from Jihad and his family; the beloved Saleh al-Nabhani has journeyed away."