Moath Hamza Ahmed al-Alwi (YM-028) was an al-Qa’ida-affiliated fighter who spent time with Usama Bin Ladin’s security detail but probably was not one of Bin Ladin’s bodyguards. He traveled to Afghanistan to participate in jihad by 2000, probably trained with al-Qa’ida, and possibly helped manage an al-Qa’ida guesthouse. He also developed relationships with many prominent extremists in Afghanistan and spent time with al-Qa’ida and Taliban fighters on the frontlines, although we do not know whether he engaged directly in combat.

YM-028 has caused a great deal of trouble for the staff at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. He has committed numerous disciplinary infractions, instigated noncompliance activity among other detainees, and threatened cooperative detainees, suggesting that he continues to consider US personnel his enemies. While YM-028 openly admitted that he traveled to Afghanistan to participate in the jihad, he almost certainly has tried to conceal the extent of his involvement in terrorist activities and has provided no information of value since October 2007.

YM-028’s record of noncompliance at Guantanamo, history of expressing hatred and threats toward Americans, and empathy for fighters in Syria, strongly suggest that he would at least be open to reengaging if he was not fully rehabilitated and given an opportunity to reintegrate into society. He does not appear to have any direct associations with at-large extremists, although a cousin possibly was involved in extremist activities in 2006, and he has corresponded with several former Guantanamo detainees. He probably would prefer to be transferred to Saudi Arabia, where most of his family lives, but remains interested in developments in Yemen.