

18 DECEMBER 2015

## GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: YM-836

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Detainee Name:	Ayyub Murshid Ali Salih
Detainee Aliases:	Akramah, Ayub, Safar
Nationality:	Yemeni
Date of Birth:	29 April 1978
Arrival at Guantanamo:	October 2002

Ayyub Murshid Ali Salih (YM-836) was a low-ranking Yemeni militant who we assess trained in Afghanistan before 9/11 and subsequently met senior al-Qa'ida figures in Pakistan. YM-836 is one of the Yemenis arrested during the 11 September 2002 raids in Karachi, Pakistan later labelled as the "Karachi Six" based on concerns that they were part of an al-Qa'ida operational cell intended to support a future attack. Based on a review of all available reporting, we judge that this label more accurately reflects the common circumstances of their arrest and that it is more likely the six Yemenis were elements of a large pool of Yemeni fighters that senior al-Qa'ida planners considered potentially available to support future operations. Our review of available intelligence indicates that he probably did not play a major role in terrorist operations, leading us to disagree with previous US government assessments that he was involved in a 2002 plot to conduct an attack in Karachi, Pakistan.

- YM-836 traveled from Yemen to Afghanistan in mid-2000, where he probably was trained in military tactics at al-Qa'ida's al-Farouq camp. After 9/11, he tried to return to Yemen by traveling through Pakistan to Iran. An Iranian crackdown on suspected al-Qa'ida associates, however, probably prompted him to return to Pakistan where Pakistani authorities arrested him at an al-Qa'ida safehouse in Karachi in September 2002.
- Much of our knowledge about YM-836's background is derived from his own statements, which have varied over time. His claims have been only partially corroborated but are consistent with other detainees' accounts of their own travel and training.
- Our most credible information about the Karachi plot makes no mention of YM-836 and states that al-Qa'ida planned to recruit Pakistanis to carry out the attack. In addition, several other detainees have reported that YM-836 was waiting to travel to Yemen when he was captured rather than involved in attack planning.

YM-836 probably retains extremist views but has not said whether he intends to reengage in terrorist activity. He has had a poor compliance record at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, including numerous incidents of assaulting or threatening to assault guards. His behavior has improved since 2013, however, possibly because he now views compliance as a way to increase the likelihood of his transfer. YM-836 has provided little information of value, has given contradictory accounts of his background—at one point completely recanting his previous statements—and has not been responsive to interrogators since 2004.



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YM-836 has no known associations with at-large extremists and has offered little insight into his post-detention plans apart from expressing his hope of reuniting with his family. He has negative views of both the Yemeni Government and the Huthis, suggesting that he would find common cause with extremist groups in and around Yemen if he sought to reengage. Given political instability in Yemen, it is unlikely that authorities there would be able to monitor him adequately if he returned to his hometown, where there is a heavy Huthi presence. We do not know whether his family, which has suffered financially during the Huthi occupation, would be able to aid in his reintegration.