

14 OCTOBER 2015

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: YM-029

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Detainee Name	Muhammad Ahmad Abdallah al-Ansi
Detainee Aliases	Al-Mu'tasem al-Jahrani; Mu'atasim al-San'ani; Mustasir al-Yemeni; Abdullah; Hani al-Ansi; Uthman al-Adani
Nationality	Yemeni
Date of Birth	1 January 1975
Arrival at Guantanamo	January 2002

Muhammad Ahmad Abdallah al-Ansi (YM-029) traveled to Afghanistan in 1999 after being recruited by well-known radical Yemeni religious scholar, Shaykh Muqbil al-Wadi, in Sana'a, Yemen. He joined al-Qa'ida, swore bayat to Usama Bin Ladin, and served as his bodyguard. Judging from other detainee statements and corroborating information, he participated in advanced combat training and may have met with al-Qa'ida external operations chief Khalid Shaykh Mohammed (KU-10024) in Karachi and been considered for participation in a suicide attack or deployment to the West. YM-029 probably fought alongside other al-Qa'ida members in Afghanistan before being captured by Pakistan authorities after the battle of Tora Bora in 2001. He has consistently denied involvement in al-Qa'ida or any other extremist groups—except for one instance in 2011 which he alluded to his involvement in jihad—and asserts that he went to Afghanistan to teach the Koran despite not speaking any of the local languages.

YM-029 during his detention has posed a low threat towards the guard force, according to Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) compliance reports, and the majority of his infractions have been relatively minor, mostly consisting of non-physical transgressions. He has indicated that his time at Guantanamo has broadened his world view, which differs substantially from his pre-detention mindset, and we assess he is perceived to be a leader now among the more moderate detainees and has assumed a role as a mediator among differing groups since 2011. However, YM-029 probably still harbor sympathies towards extremists and has made statements that could be interpreted as sympathetic to extremist causes. He continues to communicate with former detainees and does not directly communicate with any known extremists outside of Guantanamo.

YM-029 has expressed a desire to go to a country other than Yemen—particularly other Arabic speaking nations such as Qatar, Oman, or Saudi Arabia—but has also said he would relocate anywhere as long as he is treated fairly and given an opportunity to succeed. Furthermore, YM-029 has expressed interest in furthering his education, starting a family and finding a job, which would allow him to support his family. If YM-029 returned to Yemen, he would probably seek to reunite with his family near Sana'a, but the turbulent situation along with past associates who remain in Yemen would provide YM-029 a conduit for reengagement.