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27 OCTOBER 2015 GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: PK-1094

PK-1094
Saifullah Abdullah Paracha
Sayf Paracha; Sharafuddin Shamim
Pakistani
17 August 1947
September 2004

Saifullah Paracha (PK-1094) was a Pakistan-based businessman and facilitator on behalf of al-Qa'ida senior leaders and operational planners. He met Usama Bin Ladin in the early 2000s and later worked with external operations chief Khalid Shaykh Muhammad (KU-10024) to facilitate financial transactions and to develop media. In 2003, Paracha and his US-based oldest son, Uzair, tried to help an al-Qa'ida operative travel to the US—an effort for which Uzair was convicted in November 2005 and is now serving a 30-year sentence in the US. Prior to his detention, Paracha also conducted research on CBRN materials, probably on his own initiative, and offered operational suggestions to al-Qa'ida, including advice on how to smuggle explosives into the US that al-Qa'ida planners probably did not take seriously.

Since his arrival at Guantanamo, Paracha has shown no indication of extremist sympathies in his interrogations, interactions with other detainees and guard staff. However, he also has shown no remorse for having worked with al-Qa'ida before his detention. While in Guantanamo, Paracha has been very compliant with the detention staff and espouses moderate views and acceptance of Western norms. He has focused on improving cell block conditions and helping some detainees improve their English-language and business skills. Paracha regularly participated in interrogations until early 2015 and has offered some information about al-Qa'ida operatives but generally has avoided incriminating himself or Uzair, his son. Paracha continues to deny that he knew of any al-Qa'ida plotting and claims he undertook his terrorist activities for profit rather than out of loyalty to the group.

Paracha probably would consider relocating to an English speaking country and has expressed interest in returning to the US, where he attended graduate school and lived throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. If he returned to Pakistan, Paracha probably would resume running the family businesses and would seek out opportunities to begin new ventures. However, the extensive extremist business contacts he established before his detention—which also include members of the Taliban and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba —could provide him opportunities to reengage in extremist activity should he choose to do so. While at Guantanamo, he befriended former detainee Jarallah al-Marri (QA-334), who had ties to AQAP and possibly ISIL.

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