

28 JULY 2016

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE FILE REVIEW

Detainee ISN: YM-1457

Detainee Name	Sharqawi Abdu Ali al-Hajj
Detainee Aliases	Riyadh [the facilitator], Haytham, Aziz
Nationality	Yemeni
Date of Birth	26 May 1974
Arrival at Guantanamo	September 2004

Sharqawi Abdu Ali al-Hajj (YM-1457), a.k.a. Riyadh, is a career jihadist who acted as a prominent financial and travel facilitator for al-Qa'ida and was closely tied to several senior al-Qa'ida members, including Usama Bin Ladin and Khalid Shaykh Muhammad (KU-10024), although he has repeatedly denied being an al-Qa'ida member. During his detention at Guantanamo, Riyadh has been semicompliant with the guard force and, until late 2004, provided his interrogators with a wealth of information on his extremist activities and associations. Riyadh remains a steadfast supporter of extremist causes and groups, most likely continues to view America as his enemy, and has praised recent acts of terrorism. There are no indications that Riyadh's Yemen-based family members have engaged in extremist activities, although connections to extremist networks could offer Riyadh a potential path to reengagement in Yemen.