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17 FEBRUARY 2021

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

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

~~(U//FOUO)~~ Sharqawi Abdu Ali al-Hajj (YM-1457), a.k.a. Riyadh the Facilitator, is a career jihadist who was closely tied to several senior al-Qa'ida members, including Usama Bin Ladin and Khalid Shaykh Muhammad (KU-10024), and acted as a prominent financial and travel facilitator for al-Qa'ida operations, although he may not have had foreknowledge of the plots. He facilitated moving fighters from Yemen to Afghanistan before 9/11, operated a guest house in Karachi, and funneled Saudi Arabian donations to al-Qa'ida when coalition operations began. In October 2013, Riyadh boasted about his involvement in the USS Cole attack, claiming that he recruited for and facilitated the attack.

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