

19 NOVEMBER 2015

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: YM-522

Detainee ISN:	YM-522
Detainee Name:	Yasin Qasim Muhammad Ismail
Detainee Aliases:	Al Ibby, Abdul Rahim al-Yemeni, Abu Zarna Rab'i, Abu Ya'ala, Rabie, Rahman, Rebea, Ribibe, Rub'ee, Yala, Ya'la, Yasen al-Taazi Roubi, Zara, Zar'a
Nationality:	Yemeni
Date of Birth:	1979
Arrival at Guantanamo:	May 2002

Yasin Qasim Muhammad Ismail (YM-522) traveled to Afghanistan in 1999, underwent extensive combat training, and probably fought alongside al-Qa'ida members. Upon his arrival in the country—purportedly to train for the Chechen jihad—he stayed in Afghanistan and Pakistan until his capture at Tora Bora in late 2001, suggesting that he found common cause with extremists there. YM-522 received training at three camps and completed basic and advanced weapons instruction, as well as training on landmines. He stayed at al-Qa'ida guesthouses, studied at a religious institute affiliated with the group, and probably fought and led teams of al-Qa'ida fighters in Bagram and Tora Bora. YM-522 has made conflicting statements about the extent of his affiliation with al-Qa'ida; we judge that he had connections with and access to some senior members but did not play an organizational role in the group.

YM-522's behavior and statements while at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility indicate that he retains extremist views, although he has told US officials that he does not intend to reengage in terrorist activity. He has repeatedly expressed interest in extremist conflicts and a strong dislike for the US and has attempted at times to incite other detainees against the guard force. His own compliance record is mixed, with most of his 558 infractions occurring during the widespread detainee hunger strike from 2013 to 2014, and he has repeatedly threatened to harm himself in an effort to manipulate the detention staff. YM-522 has provided little information of value during debriefing sessions. He has expressed a desire to be transferred to an Arab or other Muslim country and probably would struggle to integrate into a culture different from his own.

Should YM-522 return to Yemen, he probably would seek out support from family members or other former associates, some of whom have ties to AQAP. His paternal cousin, Rashad Muhammad Sa'id Ismail, is a longtime al-Qa'ida affiliate and AQAP recruiter who would be well-placed to help YM-522 reengage in terrorism. Rashad's brother is former Guantanamo detainee Sadiq Ismail (YM-069), who was repatriated to Yemen in 2007. There is no reporting indicating that YM-069 has reengaged in terrorism, nor do we know whether he has reintegrated successfully into society.