

25 SEPTEMBER 2015

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: YM-576

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Detainee Name:	Zahir Umar Hamis bin Hamdun
Detainee Aliases:	Abu Thar, Ayash, Ayash Zahir al-Hadhrami, Shabuhu al-Hadrami, Zahir al-Yemeni, Zahir Umar Khamis al-Hamdi
Nationality:	Yemeni
Date of Birth:	13 November 1979
Arrival at Guantanamo:	May 2002

Zahir Umar Khamis bin Hamdun (YM-576) traveled to Afghanistan in 1999 and trained at al-Qa'ida's al-Farouq camp before acting as a weapons and explosives trainer. He probably fought under the command of an al-Qa'ida leader during Operation Enduring Freedom and possibly commanded foreign fighters. YM-576 fled to Pakistan after the start of Operation Enduring Freedom and was captured by Pakistani officials at a safehouse in Karachi along with several al-Qa'ida members. The IC has linked phone numbers found among his documents to senior al-Qa'ida-associated extremists, although we do not know the extent of his relationships with them or whether he formally joined al-Qa'ida.

YM-576's compliance record at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility has been mixed, although the severity of his infractions has decreased since late 2009. He usually has been polite but uncooperative toward interrogators, has been uncooperative when asked about his activities in Afghanistan, and has sought to avoid providing additional information or discrediting his narrative that he did not take part in terrorist activity. YM-576 dislikes the US, an emotion that probably is motivated more by frustration over his continuing detention than by a commitment to global jihad, and he probably sympathizes with but is not deeply devoted to extremist causes. He has expressed nonextremist goals to interrogators but provided few specifics about what he would do if he were transferred.

We have seen no indications that YM-576 or his family members have close ties to terrorists outside of Guantanamo. If transferred, YM-576 probably would try to return to his family in Yemen's Hadramawt Province, where AQAP has grown more active in recent years. He also has relatives in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, although we do not know whether they would be able to support him or dissuade him from returning to Yemen if he were transferred to one of those countries.