

3 FEBRUARY 2015

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: AF-753

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Detainee Name	Abdul Zahir
Detainee Aliases	Abdul Bari; Abdul Zaher; Abdul Zaher Saber; Abdul Zaher Sabir; Abdul Zahir Khawari; Abdul Zahir Logari; Mullah Abdul Zaher Jan; Mullah Sahib Abdul Zaher Khan; Shereen Agha
Nationality	Afghan
Date of Birth	1 January 1972
Arrival at Guantanamo	October 2002

Abdul Zahir (AF-753) was an Afghan insurgent captured by US military forces in July 2002 during a raid targeting an individual named Abdul Bari—an alias used by AF-753—who was believed to be involved in the production and distribution of chemical or biological weapons for al-Qa'ida. Because of Abdul Bari's efforts to coordinate a shipment of unspecified items on behalf of the Taliban, US military forces targeted a compound in Hesarak village, Logar Province, Afghanistan, and captured AF-753. US forces recovered samples of unknown substances in the raid, including a white powder, that were initially believed to be chemical or biological agents, although other information later proved the samples to have been salt, sugar, and petroleum jelly. While AF-753 subsequently admitted during interviews to using the alias Abdul Bari on the phone—a fairly common name in the country—he ultimately provided no actionable information relative to al-Qa'ida's weapons network, and we assess that AF-753 was probably misidentified as the individual who had ties to al-Qa'ida weapons facilitation activities.

AF-753 probably worked as a bookkeeper and Arabic and Pashto translator from mid-to-late 1995 until late 2001 for al-Qa'ida military commander Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi (IZ-10026). During this same time frame, AF-753 probably worked for an Afghan Taliban commander also named Abdul Hadi. From at least as early as March 2002 until his July 2002 capture, he also probably served as a low-level member of a Taliban cell. AF-753 may have been recruited to translate in several al-Iraqi-owned guesthouses in Kabul where he probably had limited access to senior leaders from al-Qa'ida and other extremist groups. While AF-753 has admitted to working for al-Iraqi and the Taliban, he says that he was coerced to do so under threats to his family's safety and he has denied any direct involvement with the Taliban outside of his role as a translator.

AF-753 has been moderately compliant with the staff at Guantanamo and has committed an average number of infractions relative to the full detainee population. We assess he has minimal contact with the broader detainee population and has no official or unofficial leadership roles. AF-753 was receptive to direct questioning and met semi-regularly with interrogators until September 2008, probably assessing that cooperation would increase the likelihood of being repatriated, and because he enjoyed the interaction afforded him during interviews. Since that time, AF-753 has not been interviewed, providing us with low confidence in our ability to assess his current mindset. AF-753 never made statements clearly endorsing or supporting al-Qa'ida—or other extremist ideologies—and since at least 2003 he has sought to distance himself from any allegiance to the group. AF-753 has expressed frustration with the United States over his detention and his perception that he has been charged with a crime, but he does not appear to view the US as his existential enemy. AF-753 has made at least one statement that suggests that he is an Afghan nationalist.

AF-753—who has said his father died when he was a teenager, probably making AF-753 the patriarch—corresponds regularly with his immediate and extended family. These patriarchal and tribal obligations could serve as a deterrent to reengagement should AF-753 view these commitments as more important commitments than reestablishing himself with the Taliban or other extremists.