

22 DECEMBER 2015

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: YM-837

Detainee ISN	YM-837
Detainee Name	Bashir Nasir 'Ali al-Marwalah
Detainee Aliases	Abu Fida, Abu al-Fida, Abu al-Fida al-Sanani
Nationality	Yemeni
Date of Birth	December 1979
Arrival at Guantanamo	October 2002

Bashir Nasir 'Ali al-Marwalah (YM-837) was a low-level Yemeni militant who traveled to Afghanistan in the fall of 2000 to support the jihadist cause in Chechnya and train to fight with Muslims against the Russians. He received instruction at an al-Qa'ida camp, returned to Sanaa, Yemen in December 2000, and then travelled again to Afghanistan in fall 2001 and received additional militant training. After 9/11, YM-837 briefly went to the front lines against the Northern Alliance near Bagram, Afghanistan, although he claimed he never saw action. YM-837 subsequently moved through a series of safehouses in Afghanistan and Pakistan, possibly waiting to return to Yemen.

YM-837 is one of the Yemenis arrested during the 11 September 2002 raids in Karachi, Pakistan later labelled as the "Karachi Six" based on concerns that they were part of an al-Qa'ida operational cell intended to support a future attack. We judge that this label more accurately reflects the common circumstances of their arrest and that it is more likely the six Yemenis were elements of a large pool of Yemeni fighters that senior al-Qa'ida planners considered potentially available to support future operations. Although his role in al-Qa'ida operational plotting is unverified, his last will and testament found in the Karachi raids included a martyrdom statement.

During his time at the Guantanamo, YM-837 has been highly compliant with the guard staff and has committed no significant disciplinary infractions apart from participating in one non-religious hunger strike in 2013. In debriefings, YM-837 has never admitted to an affiliation with al-Qa'ida, has never expressed anti-American sentiment, and has denied any role in or knowledge of future terrorist activity against the U.S. Some of his statements, however, suggest deception and withholding of information, including an unwillingness to expand on his activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan, his knowledge of senior al-Qa'ida members, and his understanding of al-Qa'ida operations and martyrdom. As a result, while YM-837 has voiced a desire to return to his family, get married, and get a job upon release, we do not know if this intent is genuine.

YM-837 has maintained close contact with his Sanaa-based family, including two brothers who probably are involved with AQAP, one of whom is currently in prison in Sanaa. Should he reconnect with his brothers upon release, they could provide him access to extremist networks in Yemen and the opportunity to reengage.