Khalid Ahmed Qasim (YM-242) traveled from Yemen to Afghanistan in late 1999 for extremist training. He received basic and advanced instruction from al-Qa'ida at the al-Farouq camp before 9/11, possibly taught militants to use weapons, and may have fought for the Taliban in or near Kabul and Bagram, Afghanistan, before fleeing to the Tora Bora mountains in late 2001. While in Afghanistan, YM-242 was closely affiliated with al-Qa'ida, briefly met Usama Bin Ladin at Tora Bora, and possibly became a member of al-Qa'ida, although during debriefings he has denied joining the group and there is no reporting that he swore allegiance to Bin Ladin.

YM-242 has committed hundreds of infractions during his detention at Guantanamo Bay, including persistent and serious offenses against the guard force, and he probably views his detention as a continuation of his jihad. He has been a long-term participant in the recent widespread detainee hunger strike and repeatedly has physically attacked, threatened to kill, splashed with bodily fluids, and otherwise harassed detention staff. Throughout his detention, YM-242 has expressed extremist views and anti-American sentiments during conversations with guards.

YM-242 while in detention has communicated regularly with family members who are involved in or sympathetic to extremist activities. These family members include one brother who was implicated in the attack on the USS Cole in 2000 and who as of 2011 reportedly was a member of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). Another family member has maintained contact with senior AQAP members. The family's support for terrorism probably has fueled YM-242's noncompliance at Guantanamo and would give him a possible conduit to reengage, particularly in Yemen or Syria.

If repatriated to Yemen, YM-242 probably would resettle in Aden, where he grew up and where much of his family currently lives. His family maintains contacts with or involvement in AQAP's activities in Aden.