


**TERRORIST SUSPECT PROFILE**

NAME OF TERRORIST:	OTHER NAMES/ALIASES:	PHOTOGRAPH
Anwar Al Awlaki	Anwar Aulaki Anwar Awlaki	
NAME OF TERRORIST GROUP		
None		
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION		
<p>Dates of Birth: April 22, 1971</p> <p>Place of Birth: Las Cruces, New Mexico but returned to Sana'a, Yemen at the age of 7.</p> <p>Height: 6' 5"</p> <p>Weight: Average</p> <p>Build: Thin</p> <p>Language: English, Arabic</p> <p>Scars and Marks: No known scars or marks</p> <p>Last known address: Kor Awalk region in Shabwa Province, Yemen</p>		<p>Hair: Dark Brown</p> <p>Eyes: Brown</p> <p>Citizenship: American, Yemeni</p>
POSITION AND FUNCTION IN HIERACHY		
<p>Awlaki's main function is to inspire people with the desire to commit acts of terrorism. Via talks, papers and lectures which are all available on the internet, many for free, he preaches in English. His positions on various key points of Sharia that relate to terrorism are quite similar and even identical in some instances to those of Osama Bin Laden. Although Awlaki has given support via interviews and articles to Al Qaeda, he is not known to be a member of the organization. Rather he sees himself as a caller to Islam and a defender of Islamic ummah and views Al Qaeda as a legitimate organization involved in defending the ummah. He is therefore willing to offer his support to and encourage others to join Al Qaeda while himself remaining separate from the organization.</p>		

## Background

Anwar Al Awlaki was born in 1970 in Los Cruces New Mexico into a powerful Yemeni family, while his father was studying for a PhD.<sup>1</sup> His great grandfather was the sheikh of one of the largest and most powerful tribes of southern Yemen.<sup>2</sup> A gifted student, after only a few weeks in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade he was moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. When the family returned to Yemen in 1978, to become minister of Agriculture and eventually president of Sana'a University, Awlaki was 7 years old and he was so accustomed to life in American that he could hardly speak Arabic. In Sana'a, he attended the Azal Modern School, an elite private school at which his peers included several of the President's children. The school provided one of the best educations available in Yemen at the time. Ever the high achiever, on the 1988-9, "General Certificate of Secondary Education" Awlaki earned one of the highest scores in Yemen.<sup>3</sup>

Awlaki returned to the United States for college, studying at Colorado State University; graduating with a B.S. in civil engineering.<sup>4</sup> He lied about his place of birth in order to obtain a government scholarship available only to students born outside of the US. In 1994 he returned to Yemen to marry a cousin. Fellow students remembered that while his English was flawless he lacked knowledge of popular culture and often failed to understand allusions to popular culture in the conversations of his peers. Whereas several years later he gained success lecturing on Islamic topics due to his ability to reference popular culture while relating it to Islamic themes.<sup>5</sup> In Colorado he was a member of the Muslim student association and successfully beat a much more conservative Saudi member, in a race for the position of Association President. Considered a moderate by his peers in the society, it was during this period that he discovered his talent for preaching. Awlaki and others took turns voluntarily preaching at a small mosque in the town of Ft. Collins. Despite his lack of formal Islamic education he received a job at the Denver Islamic Society; he began his career as an imam, moving from there to consistently larger mosques. Awlaki left this position and Colorado shortly after being chastised by a more senior mosque official for counseling a young Saudi to travel to participate in armed Jihad in Chechnya. At this time he never publicly expressed support for armed jihad. Those who attended his lectures at Ft. Collins reported that Awlaki never expressed any anti American views.<sup>6</sup>

In 1995, at the age of 25 he moved to San Diego where studied for an MA program at San Diego State University in Education Leadership.<sup>7</sup> In San Diego, Awlaki worked at the mosque Arribat al Islami. He enjoyed a good relationship with his non Muslim neighbors. His children often played at the neighbor's house and he and his neighbor enjoyed meeting and discussing a variety of subjects including travel and fishing. This period seems to have been a period of transition and personal conflict for Awlaki. He preached family values in his sermons and yet he began to frequent prostitutes. On two occasions, in 1996 and 1997, he was arrested by the San Diego police for soliciting sex with a prostitute as well as for

<sup>1</sup> "أنور العولقي". *AlJazeera.net*. Al Jazeera, 2 Feb. 2010.

<sup>2</sup> "Dr. Nasser Awlaqi; Father of Sheikh Anwar Awlaqi- Yemen Post English Newspaper Online." *Yemen Post Newspaper Online*. 10 Apr. 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Madayash, Arafat. "Anwar Al-Awlaki: Al-Qaeda's New Pied Piper ". *Asharq Alawsat Newspaper (English)*. 17 Jan. 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Al Awlaki, Anwar. "Washingtonpost.com: Live Online." Interview. *Washingtonpost.com*. 19 Nov. 2001.

<sup>5</sup> Shane, Scott, and Souad Mekhennet. "Anwar Al-Awlaki - From Condemning Terror to Preaching Jihad." *The New York Times*. 08 May 2010.

See: YouTube Imam Anwar Awlaki: Death and Michael Jackson and New Imam Anwar Awlaki- Islam and Couch Potatos

<sup>6</sup> Shane, Scott, and Souad Mekhennet. "Anwar Al-Awlaki - From Condemning Terror to Preaching Jihad - NYTimes.com." 08 May 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Al Awlaki, Anwar. "Washingtonpost.com: Live Online." Interview. *Washingtonpost.com*. 19 Nov. 2001.

- <sup>8</sup> "Terror Cleric." *Fox News*. Fox. 22 May 2010. Web.
- <sup>9</sup> Shane, Scott, and Souad Mekhennet. "Anwar Al-Awlaki - From Condemning Terror to Preaching Jihad". *NYTimes.com*. 08 May 2010.
- <sup>10</sup> Salafi Manhaj Research Team. *A Critique of the Methodology of Anwar Al Awlaki and His Errors in the Fiqh of Jihad in Light of the Qur'an, Sunnah and Classical to Contemporary Scholars of Ahl Us-Sunnah*. *SalafiManhaj*. 12 Sept. 2009.
- Shane, Scott, and Souad Mekhennet. "Anwar Al-Awlaki - From Condemning Terror to Preaching Jihad." *The New York Times*. 08 May 2010.
- <sup>11</sup> Schmidt, Susan. "Imam From Va. Mosque Now Thought to Have Aided Al-Qaeda." *Washingtonpost.com*. 27 Feb. 2008.
- <sup>12</sup> Al Awlaki, Anwar. "Washingtonpost.com: Live Online." Interview. *Washingtonpost.com*. 19 Nov. 2001.
- <sup>13</sup> USA. National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States. *The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States*. By Thomas H. Kean and Lee Hamilton. Washington, DC: National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, 2004. Print
- <sup>14</sup> العولقي أنور. "الجزيرة." *AlJazeera.net*. Al Jazeera, 2 Feb. 2010.
- <sup>15</sup> "Terror Cleric." *Fox News*. Fox. 22 May 2010.
- <sup>16</sup> العولقي أنور. "الجزيرة." *AlJazeera.net*. Al Jazeera, 2 Feb. 2010.
- <sup>17</sup> Schmidt, Susan. "Imam From Va. Mosque Now Thought to Have Aided Al-Qaeda" *Washingtonpost.com*. 27 Feb. 2008.
- <sup>18</sup> Al Awlaki, Anwar. "Washingtonpost.com: Live Online." Interview. *Washingtonpost.com*. 19 Nov. 2001. "Understanding Ramadhan: A Day in the Life of an Imam Anwar Al-Awlaki." *YouTube*. The Washington Post, 18 Nov. 2001.
- <sup>19</sup> "Imam Anwar Al-Awlaki- Do Not Trust Them Part 1." *YouTube - Broadcast Yourself*. 2009.
- <sup>20</sup> العولقي ضد أدلة تسللنا لم واشنطن: لقربيا *Islam Memo*. 11 Apr. 2010.
- Shane, Scott, and Souad Mekhennet. "Anwar Al-Awlaki - From Condemning Terror to Preaching Jihad." *The New York Times*. 08 May 2010.
- <sup>21</sup> USA. National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States. *The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States*. By Thomas H. Kean and Lee Hamilton. Washington, DC: National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, 2004. Print
- <sup>22</sup> "أنور العولقي." *AlJazeera.net*. Al Jazeera, 2 Feb. 2010.
- <sup>23</sup> "العولقي أنور حماية تتعهد العرب جزيرة قاعدة." *Aaram.net*. Web. 02 June 2010.
- <sup>24</sup> Schmidt, Susan. "Imam From Va. Mosque Now Thought to Have Aided Al-Qaeda" *Washingtonpost.com*. 27 Feb. 2008.
- <sup>25</sup> Shafawi, Mustafa, and Imelda Saad. "Self -radicalised 20-year-old NSman Detained under ISA." *Channel NewsAsia*. 6 July 2010.
- <sup>26</sup> Madayash, Arafat. "Anwar Al-Awlaki: Al-Qaeda's New Pied Piper Asharq Alawsat Newspaper (English)." *دولة آل العرب جريدة - الأوسط الشرق*. 17 Jan. 2010.
- <sup>27</sup> "YouTube - Anwar Awlaki 1st Interview after Release from Prison 1/2." *YouTube - Broadcast Yourself*. 15 Jan. 2008.
- <sup>28</sup> "YouTube - Anwar Awlaki 1st Interview after Release from Prison 2/2." *YouTube - Broadcast Yourself*. 15 Jan. 2008.
- <sup>29</sup> العولقي أنور. "الجزيرة." *AlJazeera.net*. Al Jazeera, 2 Feb. 2010.
- <sup>30</sup> "العولقي أنور حماية تتعهد العرب جزيرة قاعدة." *Aaram.net*. Web. 02 June 2010.
- <sup>31</sup> شبوة بمحافظه ( الكور ) جبال يسس وتوطنون القاعدة من عنصرا 350 قرابة : "التغبير" لـ مصادر" *Al-Tagheer*. 25 Dec. 2009.
- <sup>32</sup> الجزء 1 العولقي أنور الشبخ مع الملاحم لقاء *YouTube*. 22 May 2010.
- <sup>33</sup> الجزء العولقي أنور الشبخ مع الملاحم لقاء *YouTube*. 22 May 2010.
- <sup>34</sup> Lysiak, Matthew, and Samuel Goldsmith. "Fort Hood Suspect Nidal Malik Hasan Attended Same Mosque as Two 9/11 Terrorists." *NY Daily News*. 8 Nov. 2009.
- <sup>35</sup> الجزء العولقي أنور الشبخ مع الملاحم لقاء *YouTube*. 22 May 2010.
- <sup>36</sup> Hutchinson, Bill. "Army Brass Promoted Fort Hood Gunman Nidal Malik Hasan Even after Attempt to Contact Al Qaeda." *NY Daily News*. 10 Nov. 2009.

loitering around a school and was sentenced to probation.<sup>8</sup> He still outwardly behaved and projected an image of moderation though he began to have contacts with extremists. Two of the 9/11 hijackers prayed at his mosque. Between 1998 and 1999 he served as VP of Charitable Society for Social Welfare Inc. which is now defunct. The charity was founded by and associate of Osama Bin Laden and the Federal Prosecutors in New York assert that it was a front for financing Al Qaeda.<sup>9</sup>

In 2000, at the suggestion of a mosque member Awlaki began to record and sell his lectures. He produced a set of 3 boxed sets, 53 CDs, on the "Life of Muhammad, Moses, Jesus, other prophets and companions of the prophets' lives which brought him both fame and income. Sections of many of these lectures are now available on You Tube for free. The lectures while conservative and Salafi in tone do not concentrate on the issue of Jihad or non-Muslims. Rather they focus on history and topics which are relevant to everyday life, as well as moral and political lessons which can be extracted from the texts and stories and that relate to issues that Muslims face living in the west. Awlaki references in his analysis of the Islamic texts a variety of sources including: Sayid Qutub, Malcom X, the US constitution and H.Rap Brown lacing in allusions to pop culture; creating an informal and approachable persona.<sup>10</sup> Foreshadowing his later more public position on armed Jihad, he failed to condemn suicide tactics-defining self sacrifice as a separate issue from suicide. He left San Diego in 2000 but returned briefly in August of 2001. When he left San Diego for the final time in 2001, he told his neighbor that he would not be back and that soon his neighbor would soon know why.<sup>11</sup>

In 2001 Awlaki enrolled in a PhD program at George Washington University in Human Resource Development.<sup>12</sup> He promptly took a job at an even larger mosque Dar al Hijra, in Fall's Church Virginia. Khalid al Midhar and Nawf al Hazmi the two 9/11 hijackers who prayed at his mosque in San Diego also came to pray at Awlaki's new mosque in Washington.<sup>13</sup> According to several other worshipers, Awlaki held long closed door meetings with the two.<sup>14</sup> By this time he had come under the scrutiny of the FBI.

<sup>37</sup> الجزء ال عولقي أنور الشخيخ مع الملاحم لقاء . YouTube. 22 May 2010.

<sup>38</sup> الجزء ال عولقي أنور الشخيخ مع الملاحم لقاء . YouTube. 22 May 2010.

<sup>39</sup> Herridge, Catherine. "Investigators Recover SIM Cards During Searches of Homes Tied to Abdulmutallab." *FOXNews.com*. 28 Dec. 2009.

<sup>40</sup> "In Bomb Plot Probe, Spotlight Falls On Yemeni Cleric." *NPR : National Public Radio*. 30 Dec. 2009.

<sup>41</sup> "شبووة في ي عيش ابني: ال عولقي والد." *Al Jazeera*. 17 Jan. 2010.

<sup>42</sup> "Sheikh Anwar Aulaqi; Suspected & Wanted Terrorist- Yemen Post English Newspaper Online." *Yemen Post Newspaper Online*. 10 Apr. 2010.

<sup>43</sup> Newton, Paula. "CNN Exclusive: Al-Awlaki's Father Says Son Is 'not Osama Bin Laden'" *CNN.com International*. 11 Jan. 2010.

<sup>44</sup> Madayash, Arafat. "Anwar Al-Awlaki: Al-Qaeda's New Pied Piper Asharq Alawsat Newspaper (English)." *ال دولية العرب جريدة - الأوسط الشرق*. 17 Jan. 2010.

<sup>45</sup> "شبووة في ي عيش ابني: ال عولقي والد." *Al Jazeera*. 17 Jan. 2010.

<sup>46</sup> الجزء ال عولقي أنور الشخيخ مع الملاحم لقاء . YouTube. 22 May 2010

<sup>47</sup> "قاعة جزيرة العرب تتعد حمية أنور ال عولقي." *Aaram.net*. Web. 02 June 2010.

<sup>48</sup> الجزء ال عولقي أنور الشخيخ مع الملاحم لقاء . YouTube. 22 May 2010

<sup>49</sup> Nelson, Katie. "Cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki Puts 'Everybody Draw Mohammed' Cartoonist Molly Norris on Execution Hitlist." *NY Daily News*. 12 July 2010.

*Al-* من القاعة يستوطنون جبال ) الكور ( بمحافظة شبوة ال يمنية." "مصادر ل- "التغنيير" : قرابة 350 عنصر *Tagheer*. 25 Dec. 2009.

<sup>50</sup> Calabresi, Massimo. "Times Square Bomber Shahzad Linked to Imam Al-Awlaki." *TIME.com*. Web. 15 July 2010.

Shafawi, Mustafa, and Imelda Saad. "Self-radicalised 20-year-old NSman Detained under ISA." *Channel NewsAsia*. 6 July 2010.

<sup>51</sup> Gosh, Bobby. "U.S. Targets Radical Cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki." *TIME.com*. 13 Jan. 2010. Web

Rovzar, Chris Chris. "Would-be New Jersey Terrorists Listened to Tapes of Anwar Al-Awlaki." *New York Magazine*. 7 June 2010

When he was again caught purchasing the services of prostitutes and transporting the prostitutes across state lines. The FBI considered charging him under the Mann Act in order to justify further investigation into his activities and connections.<sup>15</sup>

During the investigation of the events of 9/11 Awlaki's phone number was found in the phone memory of a Hadrami named Ramzi bin Sheeba, a Guantanamo Bay detainee and 9/11 plotter who lived in Germany as well as another apartment searched by services also in Hamburg Germany. The FBI was also concerned about his connections with al Midhar and Nawf al Hazmi the two 9/11 hijackers who prayed at both his mosque in Virginia and San Diego.<sup>16</sup>

Following his investigation by the FBI, Awlaki left America, in 2002, telling friends that he no longer felt the environment in America was suitable for Muslims. He wrote an article in Arabic that was published on IslamOnline, one of the largest and most respected Islamic websites on the internet, claiming that Israelis were actually responsible for the 9/11 attacks and not Muslims.<sup>17</sup> In 2002, he relocated to London where he gave his first extremist lecture in public entitled, "Never Trust a Kufar". The lecture represented a dramatic change in his public persona from the person who had once been known for his tolerance of others that can be seen in a video made by the Washington Post called "Understanding Ramadhan: A Day in the Life of an Imam Anwar Al Awlaki".<sup>18</sup> In his "Never Trust A Kufar" lecture Awlaki cautions listeners that when they think of Kufar they should not think of their nice friend, neighbor, or co-worker. Rather Muslims should think of the leaders, political and military, because these are the people to whom the Koran is referring when it discusses the Kufar. These people, the leaders, Awlaki insists are against Muslims as evidenced by the existence of the state of Israel. The ordinary people have no power. They are easily swayed by their leaders to turn against Muslims; as happened in Bosnia. So while they seem nice, they are still Kufar and Kufar should not be trusted.<sup>19</sup>

Returning briefly to the US in 2002, he visited Ali Al Tamimi a cleric in the Washington DC area who was later convicted of inciting Muslims to fight the US forces in Afghanistan. Awlaki tried to discuss with al Taimimi the recruitment of young Muslims to wage jihad but al Tamimi refused, suspecting that the visit was an attempt at entrapment by the American government. Awlaki's friends however, find it unlikely that he worked for the US government and feel Awlaki was sincere in his words with al Tamimi.<sup>20</sup> In 2003, was still living overseas and was unavailable to the American government for further questioning at that time, regarding his connections to the events of 9/11.<sup>21</sup>

Until he moved back to Yemen, he earned a living by giving lectures to young students-urging them to lead more Islamic lifestyles.<sup>22</sup> One student reported that Awlaki became the main translator of Jihad to young English speaking Muslims. As he prepared to return to Yemen, Awlaki was uncertain of his plans for the future. He discussed with friends the possibility of getting a TV show of his own in the Arab Gulf or running for parliament in Yemen.<sup>23</sup>

Upon his return to Yemen in 2003 or 2004 he delivered lectures on Islamic history at Dar al Iman University. The University is run by a veteran of the Afghan jihad and UN designated terrorist, Sheikh Abd al Majid al Zindani. Several of the university's students, most notably John Walker Lindh, have gone on to perpetrate acts of terrorism.<sup>24</sup> Having gained a reputation for its association with terrorism, foreign students have enrolled at the University with the intention of contacting Awlaki or engaging in acts of terrorism but were unsuccessful on both fronts. Locally the school is known for its rigidity of doctrine and Salafi ideology.<sup>25</sup> After Awlaki's connections with two terrorist attacks in the US were revealed, the school administration attempted to deny that Awlaki ever had any connection to Dar Al Iman. However, Awlaki's Facebook page listed that he had indeed been a lecturer there.<sup>26</sup>

In 2006 Awlaki was imprisoned by the Yemeni government for 1 1/2 years in the political prison in

Sanaa. According to him the reason for his imprisonment was that he became involved in resolving a tribal matter that the government would have preferred to have resolved. After his arrest his period of imprisonment was lengthened because the American government wished to speak with him, and he was under the impression that the length of his imprisonment was beyond the control of the Yemeni government and that he was being held upon the orders of the US government. Several American government FBI agents did come and speak with him while he was in prison.<sup>27</sup> For the 9 months he was kept in solitary confinement in an underground cell, passing the time by reading Sayid Qutub, the Koran and Dickens, and for the last 1.5 months he shared his room with one other prisoner. The entire time of his imprisonment his family stood by him and supported him, visiting him and bringing him food as often as they were allowed. Prison guards informed him that there were Al Qaeda prisoners held there, but much to his regret he was unable to meet them.<sup>28</sup> His release was brought about due to a combination of pressure from his family and pressure from his tribe, which is one of the largest and most powerful tribes in southern Yemen. According to his father, his son's time in prison hardened him and resulted in him becoming more rigid and more Salafi in his interpretation of Islam.<sup>29</sup>

Upon Awlaki's release he lived for a short period in Sana'a. He complained that while living in Sana'a, after his release, he was constantly followed by Yemeni security services prompting him to move to his family's province of origin, Shabwa. However, before moving he released his most prominent internet publication "44 Ways to Support the Jihad" which has become a key source of information for Muslims who self radicalized. In October 2009 he heard a drone overhead and fled to a more remote mountainous area within Shabwa called Kor Awalk where it is believed he remained, along with his wife and children, until at least July 2010<sup>30</sup> A newspaper report from December 25, 2009 states that when Awlaki first returned to Shabwa he immediately began to teach at a local mosque every Friday; quickly gathering a group of young male followers around him. Until he was forced to re-locate to the mountains he remained active holding gatherings and giving speeches throughout the area. Al Qaeda activity increased in the area upon his return and Awlaki, through his speaking engagements, was involved in inspiring people to become affiliated with the local Al Qaeda elements. The mountain area where Awlaki relocated to is a haven for Islamic extremist and those avoiding the government due to its extremely remote nature.<sup>31</sup> It is very possible that when Awlaki thanked the Al Qaeda media network for going through so much trouble to reach him, in the interview he gave to Al Qaeda in May 2010, that the interview took place in his mountain hideout.<sup>32</sup> Despite his claims in the interview with Al Qaeda that he frequently travels freely amongst the tribes all over North and South Yemen, it seems likely that he remains fairly physically isolated in the Kor Awalk area of Shabwa.<sup>33</sup>

Awlaki gained international notoriety beyond Islamic circles after it was revealed that he was connected to Nidal Hasan, the US Army major who shot and killed 13 people at an American army base in Texas. Hasan prayed at Awlaki's mosque in Virginia before Awlaki's return to Yemen, and the two reconnected via email.<sup>34</sup> The two exchanged 10 to 20 emails in which Hasan asked questions regarding the legality of serving in the American army as a Muslim and the killing of fellow Muslims. Awlaki answered Hassan saying that a Muslim serving in the US Army is attacking the umma and is therefore betraying Islam. Muslims owe their loyalty to the ummah above all else and America is the Pharaoh of yesterday, it is the enemy of Islam. Serving in the US military is, in Awlaki's view not permissible for Muslims.<sup>35</sup> Shortly after the attack Awlaki posted on his blog "Nidal Hassan is a hero, Nidal opened fire on soldiers who were on their way to be deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. How can there be any dispute about the virtue of what he has done?"<sup>36</sup> In a subsequent interview Awlaki stated that he was proud to call Hassan one of his students. He also explained that his role in the Fort Hood attack was limited to providing "intellectual guidance" and not operational guidance.<sup>37</sup>

Awlaki also provided an Islamic legal justification for Nidal Hassan's actions saying in his interview with Al Qaeda that the terms civilian and non civilian are un-Islamic. Rather, within the framework of

Islamic law, there exists two types of people mukatil (combatant), who he defines as a person taking part in the war and non-mukatil, a person with no connection to the war. All Americans are mukatil and therefore legitimate targets. The reason for this is that American's elected rulers who support wars against Muslims, when they could have done otherwise. Additionally, American's pay taxes and that money is used to support the wars against Muslims. Therefore all Americans are mukatil and are taking part in the wars.<sup>38</sup>

The spotlight of the international media was once again shone on Awlaki following Nigerian Omar Farouq Abdul Muttalib's failed attempt at blowing up an American commercial airliner on December 25, 2010. In the subsequent investigation it was revealed that Muttalib was a fan of Awlaki's and an avid follower of Awlaki's videos.<sup>39</sup> It is possible that Muttalib traveled to Yemen specifically to meet Awlaki.<sup>40</sup> The Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense claimed that Awlaki and Muttalib met with each other in Shabwa; something that Awlaki's father believes is not only not false but also impossible.<sup>41</sup>

The Kor Awalk area, where Awlaki is said to be living, is remote and according to his father his son does not even have clean drinking water, yet Awlaki was still able to access television and the internet, at least on occasion, though he was no longer in direct communication with his family; after discovering via the Washington Post newspaper that the US government had been monitoring his email and other communications for over a year.<sup>42</sup> In an interview with CNN, Anwar Awlaki's father asked the governments of Yemen and America to leave his son alone and to stop considering Anwar Awlaki a terrorist if his son agreed to stop calling for violence against America. He said he had not discussed this compromise with his son but hoped that his son would hear of it via CNN.<sup>43</sup>

By all accounts the Awlaki family is frustrated by the negative publicity surrounding Anwar Al Awlaki. His father, Naser Al Awlaki, refused to comment on his son when asked to by the London based newspaper al Sharq al Awsat.<sup>44</sup> Naser Al Awlaki has discussed his son Anwar in total of 4 interviews given to CNN, Al Jazeera Arabic and The Yemen Post. In the interview with The Yemen Post Awlaki's father stated that his son was a good Muslim and that the reason he is being accused of wrong doing is that America and Great Britain are jealous of Anwar Al Awlaki's success in calling people to Islam. Both governments, Nasser Al Awlaki, stated are seeking to prevent the spread of Islam by imprisoning his son. Anwar al Awlaki, his father said in his January 17 interview with Al Jazeera, was living under the protection of their tribe and that it was possible that members of Al Qaeda were protecting his son, not because his son shared their ideology but simply because they were members of the same tribe.<sup>45</sup>

Awlaki has never made any public statements to the effect that he is a member of Al Qaeda. Further evidence of his lack of membership in Al Qaeda can be found in his interview with the Al Qaeda media network. In the interview Awlaki refers to that interviewer and the Al Qaeda organization as "you" thus, clearly indicating that he is separate from them.<sup>46</sup> Furthermore, Al Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula issued a video statement, telling Awlaki that if he came to their lands they would protect him, indicating that his whereabouts were at that time unknown to the organization and that it had no private means of connecting with Awlaki.<sup>47</sup> His video lectures make it clear that he is in agreement with many of the theological views of Al Qaeda including the issues of sacrifice vs. suicide attacks, the definition of non-combatants, and the authority of a person to like Osama Bin Laden to issue binding fatwa (Islamic legal rulings).<sup>48</sup> Despite his lack of membership, he has however, been willing to offer the Al Qaeda organization his support as evidenced by the inclusion of an article he wrote in Al Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula's first English language e-magazine in 2010 and other reports of his involvement in recruitment for jihadi activities.<sup>49</sup>

The media spotlight on Anwar al Awlaki has greatly expanded his reach and influence. The amount of

videos made from excerpts of his lectures dramatically increased in number following the media blitz resulting in instances where young Muslim men, such as Faisal Shazad the man who attempted to detonate a self made car bomb in New York's Times Square, becoming self radicalized via watching Awlaki's lectures.<sup>50</sup> His fans included: the men who committed the 7/7 suicide bombings in London, a group plotting terror attacks in Toronto in 2006, the 6 men who planned to attack Ft. Dix in 2007, and 2 New Jersey men who plotted to kill US soldiers but were apprehended as they attempted to travel to Somalia for training in 2010<sup>51</sup> By far Awlaki's greatest impact is his ability to inspire Muslims to want to commit acts of terrorism via lectures which can be downloaded for free, in audio and video form, from numerous websites. These lectures will continue to be sources of radicalization regardless of whatever fate may have in store for Anwar al Awlaki.

<b>POLITICAL DISPOSITION</b>
Salafi. . Agrees with Al Qaeda's political and religious ideology.
<b>STATUS</b>
In hiding.
<b>INDICTMENTS</b>
None

## LINKS TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS

Two of the 9/11 hijackers prayed at his mosques in San Diego and in Virginia.

7/7- Bombings of the London Underground- The bombers were found to have downloaded Awlaki's lectures.

2006- Toronto a group of Muslims planned to attack various sites around Ontario. They were fans of Awlaki's lectures.

2007 Ft. Dix- A group of 6 men planned an attack at Ft. Dix. It was later discovered the men drew inspiration from Awlaki's lectures along with other sources.

November 5, 2009. US Army Major Nidal Hassan, received intellectual encouragement to kill US soldiers at the Ft. Hood Army base, directly from Awlaki via email. Hassan killed 12 and wounded 30 when he opened fire randomly at the base.

December 25, 2009 attempt by Nigerian Abdul Faruk al Muttalib's attempt to explode a bomb hidden in his underwear on a US commercial airline flight.

May 1, 2010-Faisal Shazad- attempted to detonate a self made car bomb in New York's Times Square after self radicalizing via watching Awlaki's lectures.

2010-2 New Jersey men, who plotted to kill US soldiers, were apprehended as they attempted to travel to Somalia for training in 2010, were inspired by Awlaki's internet lectures.

## WRITINGS/SPEECHES/INTERVIEWS

Numerous lectures on the life and times of the Prophet and his companions.

Interviews:

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