



6 August 2007

SUBJECT: DAB Assessment of Guantanamo Detainee, ISN DJ9SO-010027DP (S)

Detainee Assessment

1. (S//NF) Personal Information:

- JDIMS/NDRC Reference Name: Abdullahi Sudi Arale
- Aliases and Current/True Name: Abdullahi Sudi Arale, Ismail Arale, Mohamud Samatar Bachir, Shuayb, Ali Omar Mohamed
- Place of Birth: Mogadishu, Somalia (SO)
- Date of Birth: 1964
- Citizenship: Somalia
- Internment Serial Number (ISN): DJ9SO-010027DP



2. (U) DAB Assessment:

a. (S//NF) Executive Summary: Detainee is assessed to be a member of the East Africa al-Qaida (EAAQ) organization.¹ Detainee served as a courier and facilitator between EAAQ and al-Qaida operatives in Pakistan (PK). Detainee is associated with numerous individuals involved in extremist activities. DAB has determined this detainee to be:

- A **HIGH** risk, as he is likely to pose a threat to the US, its interests and allies
- Of **HIGH** intelligence value

3. (U) Detainee's Account of Events:

¹ Analyst Note: EAAQ is also referred to as al-Qaida in East Africa (AQEA). EAAQ is a Priority 1A National Intelligence Priority Framework (NIPF) counterterrorism (CT) target due to its assessed association with the al-Qaida Network. Priority 1A targets are defined as terrorist groups, countries that sponsor terrorism, or countries that have state organizations involved in terrorism that pose a clear and immediate danger to US persons or interests. This includes those preparing to employ weapons of mass destruction.

CLASSIFIED BY: MULTIPLE SOURCES
REASON: E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, SECTION 1.4(C)
DECLASSIFY ON: 20320806

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The following section is based, unless otherwise indicated, on detainee's own account. These statements are included without consideration of veracity, accuracy, or reliability.

a. (S//NF) Prior History: Detainee was born in Mogadishu but moved to Hargeysa, SO, when the Siad Barre government collapsed in January 1991. Before leaving Mogadishu, detainee worked as a translator for the Chinese Embassy, translating documents from Somali into English. Detainee started the first newspaper in Hargeysa, *The Voice of Hargeysa*, and also worked as an English teacher at the Puntland School from 1992 to 1996. In 1996, he became involved in the Habr Yunis political group, where he first made contact with Islamists. He was appointed to the school's committee, a position he held until 1999. Detainee also owned a library. Detainee wanted to study abroad, and he traveled to Syria in 1999. Detainee was unable to get a scholarship in Syria, but by the end of the year was admitted to the Islamic University in Islamabad, PK. Detainee began at the Islamic University in 2001, and he stayed at the Kuwaiti Hostel from 2001-2002. Detainee received a bachelor's degree in Islamic studies and English literature from the Islamic University.²

b. (S//NF) Recruitment and Travel: In 2001, prior to the 11 September 2001 attacks, 17 people from Somalia, including Ibrahim Hajj Jama³ and Aden Ayrow,⁴ came to Islamabad to meet with the Somali community there. Some members like Jama traveled openly. Ayrow and other members of the group traveled secretly and later moved on to Afghanistan without detainee. After 11 September 2001, due to detainee's tribal links to Jama, Jama established contact with detainee from Somalia. Jama passed the contact information to Nabil, who was sent from Faisalabad to link-up with detainee to find Abd al-Rashid. In 2002, detainee returned to Somalia when his mother died and then returned to Pakistan with his immediate family. When he returned to Pakistan, detainee met Abd al-Rashid, who worked for the Dahabshiil Hawala and the al-Haramayn organization. Abd al-Rashid helped detainee get a house and establish himself in the Somali community in Pakistan.⁵ During this time detainee worked as a travel agent for the now-defunct Damal Airways. [REDACTED]

² TIR SO-10027 018-07

³ Analyst Note: Ibrahim Hajj Jama, aka (Ibrahim Afghani), was an al-Ittihad al-Islami (AIAI) military commander known for his religious knowledge as well as loyalty and support for al-Qaida and the Taliban and for his continuing links to Afghanistan. Jama was one of the first founders of al-Qaida affiliated AIAI cells and one of the instigators of terrorist attacks in Somaliland (see TD-314/40749-06).

⁴ Analyst Note: Aden Ayrow was an Afghan veteran who trained in Afghanistan and became the head bodyguard for AIAI top military commander Hassan Dahir Aweys. As of late May 2006, Ayrow was a radical militant and jihadist and leader of al-Qaida affiliated AIAI cells. Ayrow was the leader, coordinator, and initiator of attacks against foreigners in Somaliland, including attacks on Western interests (see TD-314/40749-06).

⁵ Analyst Note: The al-Haramayn International Foundation is a NIPF priority 1B Terrorist Support Entity (TSE). Priority 1B TSEs have demonstrated sustained and active financial support for terrorist organizations willing to attack US persons or interests, or provide witting operational support to Priority 1B terrorist groups.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In 2006, detainee returned to Mogadishu.⁷

c. (S//NF) Training and Activities: Detainee arrived in Mogadishu after the Somali Council of Islamic Courts (CIC) captured the city.⁸ Ahmed Abdi Aw Muhammad, aka (Ahmad Awe Abdi Godene), invited detainee to join the CIC. Detainee met with CIC chairman Shaykh Shariff Shaykh Ahmed and Abdi following their return from a conference in Sudan, and they offered detainee a position on the executive council, but detainee felt he had to build his reputation before he could hold the position. They discussed the need for building a strong coalition. Shariff was afraid of the internal conflict within the CIC, much of it caused by EAAQ. For example, when Indha Adde jailed the killer of a non-Muslim woman in Somalia, Abu Ibrahim⁹ put out fliers and posters saying that Indha Adde was a non-Muslim and should be killed for jailing the killer of a non-Muslim.¹⁰ Detainee set up *Bayt Wahida* (House of One), which was located near Shaykh Shariff's office. At this site, detainee was part of the CIC power-sharing committee, which worked to bring the various groups into the CIC and reach a consensus. In early October 2006, Hassan al-Turki conspired with Abu Ibrahim to use the CIC to capture Kismayo and then abandon the CIC. Ahmed Medobe and CIC military leaders left to go capture Kismayo. In mid-October, detainee and a group of administrators were dispatched by air to establish the CIC administration in Kismayo. Detainee felt that the Kismayo administration should be locally run and based upon local ideas. Detainee stayed in Kismayo from approximately 15 October to 15 November 2006. Detainee returned to Mogadishu, but left the city after Ethiopian forces took over.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

⁷ TIR SO-10027 018-07

⁸ Analyst Note: CIC is also often referred to as the Islamic Courts Union (ICU).

⁹ Analyst Note: As of 2003, Abu Ibrahim, aka (Abu Talha al-Sudani), aka (Tariq Muhammad Nur), was al-Qaida's point man for handling al-Qaida's remaining business interests in Sudan. Al-Sudani's expertise was in facilitation and business management, and that he was also involved in the support of al-Qaida families living in Sudan (see TD-314/31574-03).

¹⁰ Analyst Note: Yusif Indha Adde, formerly one of AIAI senior military commanders, commanded his own jihadist fighting group and had close links to Mogadishu-based al-Qaida members. Adde and his group served as a reinforcement fighting unit working with other Somali jihad groups to protect al-Qaida cells in Mogadishu (see TD-314/40749-06).

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(S//NF) On 23 May 2007, detainee arrived in Djibouti (DJ) from Burao, Somaliland.¹¹ Detainee was en route to Asmara, Eritrea, at the invitation of Shaykh Shariff, who had since been deposed from his position as CIC chairman. Detainee intended to attend an Eritrean-sponsored conference for the deposed CIC in late May 2007, to be followed by a separate conference in Qatar in June 2007. Detainee was traveling on a Somali passport using the alias Bachir Mohamed Samatar. Upon arrival in Djibouti City, DJ, per instructions from Shaykh Shariff, detainee went directly to a public telephone center and placed a call to deposed CIC Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khalif Mahamoud Warsama, aka (Mohamed Ali Omar). Khalif instructed detainee to come to the Hotel Dar Es Salaam. Detainee took a taxi to the hotel, met with Khalif, and was assigned to a room. On 26 May 2007, Khalif went to a Djiboutian money transfer service to retrieve \$15,000 US which detainee's brother, Ali Mahamud Mohamed, had sent from Burao. The funds, originally provided by the Eritreans and given to Shaykh Shariff to cover travel expenses for the group, had been wired by Shariff to Khalif in Mogadishu and then on to detainee in Burao. Rather than traveling from Burao to Djibouti with this large sum, detainee instructed his brother Ali to forward the money to Djibouti. Once in Djibouti, Khalif was instructed to retrieve the money and distribute it among the group as needed. On 27 May 2007, Abu Muslim took detainee's passport to the Eritrean Embassy in Djibouti for processing. The Eritreans were sponsoring the onward travel of the seven individuals attending the conference, which included the issuance of visas and the purchase of airline tickets. Abu Muslim and detainee traveled to the Eritrean Embassy at approximately 1400 hrs to obtain detainee's visa. When given the passport, Eritrean second secretary Omar Mohamed Omar, the main Eritrean point of contact for the group, noticed that detainee's name was not on the list of invitees sent by Shaykh Shariff and thus no preparations had yet been made. Detainee called Shaykh Shariff, who was already in Asmara, to resolve the problem. Later in the day, although too late to make the scheduled 27 May 2007 flight, detainee's name was added to the list and Shaykh Shariff instructed him to travel on the 31 May 2007 flight to Asmara. As a result of detainee's travel delay, the rest of the group decided to delay their travel to Asmara as well.¹²

4. (U) Capture Information:

a. (S//NF) At 1000 hrs on 31 May 2007, Abu Muslim went to the Eritrean Embassy and retrieved the passports with visas and Eritrean airlines tickets to Asmara. That evening, the group began moving to the airport with Omar, who facilitated the departure of the group, including personally completing mandatory exit documents. While passing through

¹¹ Analyst Note: Somaliland is an area in northern Somalia that has functioned as an independent nation since 1991, although it has not been recognized as such and is technically still part of Somalia.

¹² TD-314/44270-07

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Djiboutian passport control, Djiboutian authorities arrested detainee for passport fraud.¹³
Detainee was transferred to US control at Camp Lemonier, DJ, on about 3 June 2007.¹⁴

b. (U) **Property Held:** None.

c. (S) **Transferred to JTF-GTMO:** 5 June 2007

5. (U) **Detainee Threat:**

a. (S) **Assessment:** Detainee is assessed to be a **HIGH** risk, as he is likely to pose a threat to the US, its interests and allies.

b. (S//NF) **Threat Indicators:** Detainee is assessed to be a member of EAAQ. Detainee functioned as a courier and facilitator between EAAQ and al-Qaida in Pakistan. Detainee was a leader in the Somali Islami Courts Union. Detainee is associated with numerous members of EAAQ, the al-Qaida leadership in Pakistan, and various other East African extremist groups.

- (S//NF) Detainee is assessed to be a member of EAAQ, and served as a courier and facilitator between EAAQ and al-Qaida in Pakistan.

[REDACTED]

- (S//NF) Ahmed Abdi was an al-Ittihad al-Islami (AIAI) mid-level commander. Ahmed Abdi was previously an Afghan veteran who trained in Afghanistan and had been actively linked to al-Qaida since the mid-1990s. He had close relations with al-Qaida networks in Pakistan and Afghanistan until 2004, and was considered by AIAI members to be the “caretaker” of al-Qaida cells in Mogadishu and in the Horn of Africa. Ahmed Abdi was the leader, coordinator, and initiator of attacks on foreigners in Somaliland.¹⁷

¹³ TD-314/44270-07

¹⁴ DMO Manifest May 2007

■ [REDACTED]
■ [REDACTED]

¹⁷ Analyst Note: AIAI is an NIPF CT Priority 2A target. Priority 2A targets are defined to include: terrorist/extremist groups that have demonstrated both the intention and the capability to attack US persons and interests, but are believed to pose somewhat less of a threat to US interests around the world than Priority 1B

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- (S//NF) Salim Awadh Salim, in the custody of the Ethiopian National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), reported that detainee operated a facility in Mogadishu called the *Bayt Wahida*. This house was used to bring together Somalis of different tribes to demonstrate that they could all live together. Salim said Harun Fazul visited the house to train the Somalis, and that foreigners also moved into the house. Salim described detainee as a CIC official and al-Qaida courier, and stated detainee was responsible for putting Fazul in touch with al-Qaida in Pakistan.¹⁸
 - (S//NF) Salim described detainee as an associate of Fazul.¹⁹ In a January 2007 conversation with Salim about al-Qaida's operational priorities, Fazul stated that in late 2006, he had asked an al-Qaida operative located in Pakistan to reach out to senior al-Qaida leadership, including UBL, and ask them to provide Fazul with operational advice. According to Salim, Fazul stated that UBL had responded to Fazul's request for advice and had told Fazul that he wanted al-Qaida's East Africa cell to focus on operations outside Somalia.²⁰
 - (S//NF) Al-Qaida affiliate Ahmed Madobe, also detained by the NISS, reported that detainee had ties to Fazul.²¹ (Analyst Note: Ahmed Madobe, the top AIAI military commander in the Ras Kambooni, was a close associate of radical AIAI commander Hassan al-Turki.²²)
 - (S//NF) Senior al-Qaida facilitator Abu Bakr Muhammad Bulghiti described Fazul as handling operational issues for the African al-Qaida network.²³ Fazul reportedly owned a house in Mogadishu which he used to train operatives from the United Kingdom (UK).²⁴ Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, ISN US9TZ-010012DP (TZ-10012), knew Fazul from both Kenya and Afghanistan, and described him as probably the best document forger in Afghanistan.²⁵
 - (S//NF) Fazul was indicted in the Southern District of New York for his alleged involvement in the 7 August 1998 bombings of the United States Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya (KE).²⁶
- (S//NF) Mohamed Ali Isay, an AIAI operative, reported that detainee, whom Isay described as an al-Qaida member, came to Mogadishu for five days in May 2004 to talk to Ahmed Abdi's group. Detainee's focus was on sending AIAI members to Pakistan, Qatar, and Bahrain to hold discussions with al-Qaida cells there.²⁷

groups; or terrorist/extremist that have demonstrated intention to attack US persons and interests and are taking action to develop or acquire WMD capability

¹⁸ TD-314/17541-07

¹⁹ TD-314/26639-07

²⁰ TD-314/15657-07

²¹ TD-314/38906-07

²² TD-314/40749-06

²³ TD-314/31574-03

²⁴ TD-314/45155-07

²⁵ TD-314/55876-04

²⁶ FBI MOST WANTED TERRORISTS – FAZUL ABDULLAH MOHAMMED

²⁷ TD-314/59429-04

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- (S//NF) Abdirashid Aidid Samatar, aka (Abdirashid Aidid Ahmed), an al-Qaida courier, reported that detainee returned from Mogadishu to Pakistan in May 2004 and informed Samatar that he wanted to obtain Somali passports so that Ahmed Abdi or other leaders could travel to Pakistan to meet with al-Qaida leadership and discuss cooperation with al-Qaida.²⁸
 - (S//NF) Samatar recounted a meeting in May 2004 between LY-10017, Samatar, and detainee in Islamabad. During this meeting LY-10017 commented that Somalia offered the best operational conditions for mujahideen, better than anywhere else. Samatar said that while al-Qaida lacked confidence in AIAI, al-Qaida enjoyed the support of the new jihadist group led by Ahmed Abdi and Aden Hashi Ayrow. Samatar commented that Somalia's seaside access, the availability of weapons, and the ease of smuggling weapons and explosives throughout the country also increased al-Qaida's attraction to Somalia, making it, in Samatar's opinion, the entry point for al-Qaida into Africa.²⁹
- (S//NF) Detainee was present when Samatar and al-Qaida operative Marwan al-Jabbur discussed Somalis living in the US. Samatar speculated that al-Qaida was interested in recruiting Somalis living in the US to conduct terrorist operations, and possibly act as couriers. Samatar explained that Somalis living the US were attractive to al-Qaida because they could easily travel to Pakistan to meet with al-Qaida members, and could be used to carry messages to al-Qaida members worldwide with little difficulty given their US travel documents.³⁰
- (S//NF) In late 2006, detainee was part of a five-man delegation dispatched by CIC chairman Shaykh Shariff to mediate a dispute between Ahmad Madobe and his associate Abdufatah Mohamed Ali. Detainee had worked in the CIC office in Mogadishu for Shaykh Shariff and had served as an al-Qaida courier ferrying messages and money from Pakistan to Somalia in 2003 and 2004.³¹
- (S//NF) Detainee was a leader in the CIC.³²
 - (S//NF) Abdul Malik Bujabu, ISN US9KE-010025DP (KE-10025), identified detainee as an administrative leader in the CIC. KE-10025 also reported detainee as associated with Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan and Bashir Mohammed Mahmoud.³³ (Analyst Note: Bashir Mohammed Mahmoud was one of Abu-Talha al-Sudani's Mogadishu-based representatives.³⁴ Saleh Nabhan was reportedly involved in consultations with members of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group to agree upon possible strategies for attacking common targets, including those in Somalia.³⁵

²⁸ TD-314/37096-06

²⁹ TD-314/63898-04

³⁰ TD-314/63664-04

³¹ TD-314/45153-07

³² Analyst Note: CICThe Islamic Courts Union is also known as the Council of Islamic Courts (CIC).

³³ 010025 SIR 04-APR-2007

³⁴ TD-314/45156-07, IIR 6 034 0265 07

³⁵ IIR 6 034 0265 07, ACIC Terrorism Summary 9-MAR-05

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- (S//NF) Detainee is described as a leader of the Italian Cemetery Group, aka Salah ul-Din Group, an offshoot of al-Shabaab al-Islamiya, aka (al-Shabaab), the “youth” wing of the CIC. Aden Ayrow was in overall command of al-Shabaab, with other leaders including detainee, Ibrahim Afghani, Ahmed Abdi, Khalif Mahamoud Warsama, and Mahad Karate.³⁶
 - (S//NF) Mahad Karate was security and intelligence chief for al-Shabaab. One of Mahad’s principle duties was to formulate a “death list.”³⁷
 - (S//NF) Issa Osman Issa served as a mobile commander for al-Shabaab forces and had commanded forces on the Idale front southwest of Baidoa, SO, as well as in Mogadishu in April 2007. Issa was involved in the 1998 US Embassy bombing in Nairobi, and the 2002 Mombasa, KE, bombings.³⁸ In May 2007, Issa returned to the Raas Kaambooni triangle area of Somalia to organize forces there.³⁹
- (S//NF) During the Ethiopian National Defense Force campaign to oust the CIC and reestablish the Somali TFG in early 2007, detainee was reportedly in Mogadishu attempting to organize the reconstitution of the CIC and facilitate strikes against TFG senior leadership.⁴⁰

³⁶ TD-314/51358-07

³⁷ TD-314/51358-07

³⁸ IIR 6 854 0069 03

³⁹ TD-314/51358-07

⁴⁰ IIR 6 105 4131 07