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Treasury Designates Anwar Al-Aulaqi, Key Leader of Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula

Treasury Targets al-Qa'ida Leader with Ties to Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab

P925 (AA)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Treasury today designated Anwar al-Aulaqi, a key leader for al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a Yemen-based terrorist group. Aulaqi was designated pursuant to Executive Order 13224 for supporting acts of terrorism and for acting for or on behalf of AQAP. Since its inception in January 2009, AQAP has claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks against Saudi, Korean, Yemeni and U.S. targets. Executive Order 13224 freezes any assets Aulaqi has under U.S. jurisdiction and prohibits U.S. persons from engaging in any transactions with him.

"Anwar al-Aulaqi has proven that he is extraordinarily dangerous, committed to carrying out deadly attacks on Americans and others worldwide," said Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey. "He has involved himself in every aspect of the supply chain of terrorism – fundraising for terrorist groups, recruiting and training operatives, and planning and ordering attacks on innocents."

Aulaqi has pledged an oath of loyalty to AQAP emir, Nasir al-Wahishi, and plays a major role in setting the strategic direction for AQAP. Aulaqi has also recruited individuals to join AQAP, facilitated training at camps in Yemen in support of acts of terrorism, and helped focus AQAP's attention on planning attacks on U.S. interests.

Since late 2009, Aulaqi has taken on an increasingly operational role in the group, including preparing Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who attempted to detonate an explosive device aboard a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day 2009, for his operation. In November 2009, while in Yemen, Abdulmutallab swore allegiance to the emir of AQAP and shortly thereafter received instructions from Aulaqi to detonate an explosive device aboard a U.S. airplane over U.S. airspace. After receiving this direction from Aulaqi, Abdulmutallab obtained the explosive device he used in the attempted Christmas Day attack.

Aulaqi was imprisoned in Yemen in 2006 on charges of kidnapping for ransom and being involved in an al-Qa'ida plot to kidnap a U.S. official but was released from jail in December 2007 and subsequently went into hiding in Yemen.

"Aulaqi has sought to encourage his supporters to provide money for terrorist causes. Those who provide material support to Aulaqi or AQAP violate sanctions and expose themselves to serious consequences," continued Levey.

Today's action supports the international effort to degrade AQAP's capabilities to execute violent attacks and to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat its financial and support networks. The U.S. Government will continue to work with allies to identify and take action against persons acting for or on behalf of, or providing financial and other prohibited support to, Aulaqi and AQAP.

Identifying Information

Individual: Anwar al-Aulaqi

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AKA: Anwar al-Awlaki
AKA: Anwar al-Awlaqi
AKA: Anwar Nasser Aulaqi
AKA: Anwar Nasser Abdulla Aulaqi
AKA: Anwar Nasswer Aulaqi
DOB: April 21, 1971
Alternate DOB: April 22, 1971
POB: Las Cruces, New Mexico
Citizenship: United States
Citizenship: Yemen
Location: Shabwah Governorate, Yemen

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LINKS

- [Website Address](#)

[Skip to menu](#) [Skip to text](#)

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities

Site Map
UN SITE SEARCH: Enter Keywords <input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/>
Home
General Information
Latest News
Resolutions
Consolidated List
Listing
Narrative Summaries of Reasons for Listing
De-listing
Exemptions
Committee Guidelines
Reporting Tools
Useful papers
Selected Documents
Expert Group Documents
Member State Reports
Press Releases
Sanctions Committees Homepage
Security Council
UN Homepage

NARRATIVE SUMMARIES OF REASONS FOR LISTING

AA
pg 23

QI.A.283.10. ANWAR NASSER ABDULLA AL-AULAQI

Date on which the narrative summary became available on the Committee's website: 20 July 2010

Anwar Nasser Abdulla al-Aulaqi was listed on 20 July 2010 pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 1904 (2009) as being associated with Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden or the Taliban for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of", "recruiting for", and "otherwise supporting acts or activities of" Al-Qaida (QE.4.01) and Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (QE.A.129.10).

Additional Information:

A dual U.S. - Yemeni citizen, Anwar Nasser Abdulla al-Aulaqi is a leader of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) (QE.A.129.10). He has pledged an oath of loyalty to AQAP emir Nasir al-Wahishi (QI.A.274.10), and has played a key role in setting the strategic direction for AQAP. Al-Aulaqi has also recruited individuals to join AQAP, facilitated training at camps in Yemen in support of acts of terrorism, and helped focus AQAP's attention on planning attacks beyond the Arabian Peninsula.

Since late 2009, Al-Aulaqi has taken on an increasingly operational role in the group, including preparing Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab for his attempted bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight traveling between Amsterdam and Detroit on 25 December 2009. In November 2009, while in Yemen, Abdulmutallab swore allegiance to the emir of AQAP and shortly thereafter received instructions from Al-Aulaqi to detonate an explosive device aboard a U.S. airplane over U.S. airspace. After receiving this direction from Al-Aulaqi, Abdulmutallab obtained the explosive device he used in the attempted attack.

Al-Aulaqi was imprisoned in Yemen in 2006 on charges of kidnapping for ransom and being involved in an Al-Qaida (QE.A.4.01) plot to kidnap a U.S. official, but was released in December 2007 and subsequently went into hiding in Yemen.

Related listed individuals and entities:

- Al-Qaida (QE.4.01), listed on 6 October 2001
- Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) (QE.A.129.10), listed on 19 January 2010
- Usama Muhammed Awad bin Laden (QI.B.8.01), listed on 25 January 2001
- Nasir 'abd-al-Karim 'Abdullah al-Wahishi (QI.A.274.10), listed on 19 January 2010

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