Canada and Terrorism: Selected Perpetrators



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TERRORISM





SEPTEMBER, 2013

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Preface

Over a century ago, Sir Winston Churchill famously observed that, "fanaticism is not a cause of war. It is the means which helps savage people to fight." Indeed, from the dawn of history, both states and sub-national groups have manipulated ideological, political, ethnic, and religious extremism to rationalize and sanctify intolerance, hatred, and savagery directed against their perceived adversaries. This strategy and tactic of inhumanity from man to man has consisted of systematic radicalization, intimidation, coercion, repression, or destruction of individuals, communities, and nations. As a tool of power, in all its manifold manifestations, fear and brutalization have been utilized by strong and weak entities to achieve realistic or imaginary goals.

To be sure, Canada has been attacked less frequently by terrorism than other leading Western democracies. Most domestic terrorism has originated in Quebec or was caused by Canadian separatists. However, other domestically inspired incidents have occurred as well.

Generally, terrorist groups present in Canada have origins that lie in regional, ethnic, and nationalistic conflicts, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and those in Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Northern Ireland, the Punjab, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and the former Yugoslavia. Canada's proximity to the U.S. and its large immigrant population can explain why it is a principal target for terrorist groups. Canada's experience with foreign affinity or "homegrown" terrorism and with high profile cases, such as the "Toronto 18" plot in 2006, and the bomb plot in Ottawa in August 2010, continues to display the importance of an evolving counterterrorism strategy and legal responses to this emerging threat.

The purpose of "Canada and Terrorism: Selected Perpetrators" is to provide profiles of Canadian citizens as well as foreigners operating in Canada who have become involved in movements for violent Jihad by training for, planning, and carrying out attacks. This research effort represents a segment of an extensive study on Canadian terrorism that initially was undertaken by Professor Yonah Alexander and Professor Edgar H. Brenner beginning in 2006 and finished in late 2010. After the death of Professor Edgar H. Brenner, the work was continued through Spring 2013 with the participation of Professor Yonah Alexander, Professor Don Wallace, Bill Mays of the International Law Institute (ILI), and Marie-Aude Ferrière, a French Attorney, serving as a research assistant for the Inter-University Center for Legal Studies at the ILI. The contributors and editors of this report wish to express their appreciation for the support of Mary Ann Culver of The Potomac Institute for Policy Studies as well as the editorial assistance of Sharon Layani, Eric Bailey and Michael Klement of the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies.

Follow-up reports and a book version on terrorism and Canada are scheduled to be completed in 2014.

¹ Winston Churchill, The River War (1902).

Ahmed Ressam: A Terrorist "Lost in Translation"

An Algerian citizen who sought asylum in Canada, Ahmed Ressam (AKA Benni Antoine Noris) was the instigator of the Millennium Plot. He was arrested in Port Angeles, Washington before he could reach his target. Like most al-Qaida affiliates, Ressam completed his training in Afghanistan. Contrary to many other terrorists' profiles, Ahmed did not seem predestined to become a mujahedeen.

The eldest son of his family, Ahmed Ressam was born in Algeria in 1967.² Though he was a devout Muslim, Ressam's father never imposed his religious beliefs on his children.³ Ressam grew up with the flow of his generation and opted for a life free of religious constraints; he drank wine, smoked hashish and went out with girls.⁴

A good student, his studies were interrupted by a stomach ulcer.⁵ After convalescing for a period in France, Ressam resumed his studies in Algeria.⁶ He failed his baccalaureate examination and instead of taking the exam again, Ressam chose to work in his father's coffee shop.⁷

In 1992 Ressam sought a better life in France and took a ferry to Marseille where he soon turned to petty crime and forgery.⁸ Soon after, Corsican authorities arrested Ressam for his illegal status and, because he was carrying a forged Moroccan passport at the time, Corsican authorities deported him to Morocco. Ressam was returned to France by Moroccan authorities when it was determined that he was not Moroccan. 10

Stuck between France and Morocco, and with no intention of returning to Algeria, Ressam looked for a third way, and in early 1994 he left France for Canada, carrying a fake French passport and hoping for a better life. 11 Arrested at the airport with his fake passport, he applied for asylum.¹² With no source of revenue, Ressam subsisted for four years in Montreal on Canadian welfare and petty crime. 13

Alone and uprooted, he sought comfort among the Algerian community and joined the Assuna Annabawiyah Mosque, a top al-Qaida recruiting center in Montreal.¹⁴ In doing so, he befriended Abderraouf Hannachi, a former Afghan soldier who had fought in Bosnia who maintained militant contacts in Pakistan and Afghanistan. 15 Ressam spent hours criticizing western culture and its decadence with his new radical friends and although his little group was known to Canadian Security Intelligence Services, it was not taken very

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² Sageman Mark, *Understanding Terror Networks*, 2004. Chapter 4.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid. ⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰ United States of America v. Ahmed Ressam, No. 09-30000, Argued and Submitted Nov. 2, 2009.—February 2,

¹¹ Sageman, Mark, *Understanding Terror Networks*, 2004. Chapter 4.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ "Trail of A Terrorist." Frontline. PBS. 25 Oct. 2001,

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/trail/etc/synopsis.html

¹⁴ Sageman, Mark, *Understanding Terror Networks*, 2004. Chapter 4.

¹⁵ Ibid.

seriously. 16 Radicalized, Ressam and his friends took a step further into Jihad when Hannachi arranged for them to travel to Afghanistan for military training in the camps. 17

In 1998, Ressam left Canada for Afghanistan under the name Benni Antoine Noris. At the notorious Khalden training camp near Khost, Afghanistan, he received basic terrorist training, including advanced courses in explosives. 19

Before leaving Afghanistan, Ressam was assigned to a terrorist cell whose mission was to perpetrate an attack on U.S. soil before the end of the millennium. Because of visa constraints, only Ressam reached Canada, while the others remained stuck in Europe. Ressam decided to continue the mission alone. He scouted out LAX airport for a potential attack during the millennium celebrations. 22

After a long period of preparation and with help from some accomplices, Ressam travelled from Montreal to Vancouver, and headed to the U.S. and Port Angeles. ²³ His nervousness at the border raised customs officials' concerns, and when they searched his car they found explosives. ²⁴

Indicted on nine counts of criminal activities and facing a maximum of 130 years of jail time, Ressam was offered 27 years in prison in exchange for pleading guilty and cooperating with the CIA and FBI.²⁵ Ressam's cooperation with U.S. authorities contributed to the dismantling of many sleeper cells in North America, but in 2005, Ressam became more reluctant to give information, and even retracted his testimony in some cases, leading to some defendants being released.²⁶ Sentenced to 37 years in prison, Ahmed Ressam is currently in U.S. custody.²⁷

There is a tendency to picture terrorists as being completely estranged from western culture and education. Ressam's profile illustrates a contrasting narrative; a young man raised in a moderate Muslim family and heading to a comfortable future. Ressam left his country to escape his own failure and the possibility of radicalization in the Algerian civil war. In doing so, he fell into a life of petty crimes and radicalization further along the road. Ressam seemed to have been lost in translation between his youthful dreams of becoming a policeman, and the reality of seeking a better life abroad. Uprooted, lacking structure, and alone in a completely different society, Ressam was vulnerable to radicalization.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ United States of America v. Ahmed Ressam, No. 09-30000, Argued and Submitted Nov. 2, 2009.—February 2, 2010.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Sageman, Mark, *Understanding Terror Networks*, 2004. Chapter 4.

²² United States of America v. Ahmed Ressam, No. 09-30000, Argued and Submitted Nov. 2, 2009.—February 2, 2010.

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Sageman Mark, *Understanding Terror Networks*, 2004. Chapter 4.

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ United States of America v. Ahmed Ressam, No. 09-30000, Argued and Submitted Nov. 2, 2009.—February 2, 2010.

²⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Millennium Bomber Sentenced to 37 Years in Prison*, U.S. Attorney's Office October 24, 2012, http://www.fbi.gov/seattle/press-releases/2012/millennium-bomber-sentenced-to-37-years-in-prison

Fateh Kamel: Jihad a la "Al Capone"

Fateh Kamel, also known as "Mustapha the Terrorist, El-Fateh", was a respectable husband, father, and storeowner by day, but was well-versed in document forgery and involved in petty crime organizations by night. 28 29 His profile highlights the importance of monitoring small-time traffickers and transnational organized crime because terrorists use crime to finance and logistically support Jihad.

Born in Algeria on March 14, 1960, Kamel fought in both the Afghan and Bosnian wars.³⁰ In the late 1980s, he moved to Canada and married a Canadian woman with whom he had a son.³¹ He became a Canadian citizen in 1993.³² In 1994, he left for Bosnia where he met French terrorist Christophe Caze and fought in the Muslim militias.³³ After the Dayton Agreements, Kamel organized transnational trafficking of forged documents to facilitate terrorist exfiltration.³⁴ In 1996, fully committed to Jihad, Kamel joined Osama bin Laden and participated in various terrorist activities until he returned to Canada a year later to create a terrorist cell in Montreal.³⁵ His experience in bin Laden's training camps provided him with strong influence over others in al-Qaida and he became a prominent member of the group's hierarchy.³⁶ A true mujahid, Kamel often bragged: "I am never afraid of Death (...) and when I want it, no one will stop me. For the Jihad is the Jihad, and the killing is easy for me."³⁷ It was Kamel who invited Ressam to join his group of thieves in Montreal to steal tourists' valuables to fund the global Jihad movement and support the militants' training and activities.38

In April 1999, Kamel was arrested in Jordan at the request of French Investigative Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguière for his involvement in terrorist actions perpetrated on French soil.³⁹ Simultaneously, Kamel was also in the CIA's and MI6's sights.⁴⁰ After negotiations with Jordanian authorities, Kamel was extradited to France on December 15, 1999 for trial.⁴¹ Facing charges of forgery and for conspiracy to attack Paris metro stations (he was going to set off bombs in them) Kamel was tried and convicted in Paris on April 6, 2001, and sentenced to eight years in prison. 42 He was released after less than four years for

²⁸ "Liste des membres impliques." Equipe de recherché sur le terrorism et l'antiterrorisme, <u>http://www.erta-</u> tcrg.org/ahmedressam/individus2.htm.

29 Kohlmann, Evan. *Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe: The Afghan-Bosnian Network*, December 3, 2004. 186.

³⁰ Ibid., 186-187.

³¹ "Liste des membres impliques." Equipe de recherché sur le terrorism et l'antiterrorisme, http://www.ertatcrg.org/ahmedressam/individus2.htm.

Bell, Stewart. "Montreal man with terror-related convictions denied passport." National Post. 15 Sept 2011. http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/09/15/montreal-man-with-terror-related-convictions-denied-passport/

³³ Liste des membres impliques." Equipe de recherché sur le terrorism et l'antiterrorisme, http://www.ertatcrg.org/ahmedressam/individus2.htm.

³⁴ Ibid.

^{35 &}quot;Canada" American Foreign Policy Council. 21 June 2013, Update. http://almanac.afpc.org/sites/almanac.afpc.org/files/Canada_1.pdf pg. 3.

³⁶ Kohlmann, Evan. Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe: The Afghan-Bosnian Network, December 3, 2004. 186.

³⁷ Ibid., 187.

³⁸ Sageman Mark, *Understanding Terror Networks*, 2004. Chapter 4.

³⁹ "Liste des membres impliques." Equipe de recherché sur le terrorism et l'antiterrorisme, http://www.ertatcrg.org/ahmedressam/individus2.htm.

⁴⁰Jérôme Dupuis, "La Longue Traque d'un Islamiste," *L'Express*, May 27, 1999.

⁴¹ Murdock, Deroy. "Danger Up North: Canada's welcome mat for terrorists." *The National Review*. 21 March 2005. http://www.nationalreview.com/node/213949/print.

good behavior and returned to Montreal to live with his family in 2005. 43 44

Kamel is a mujahid and a criminal, and his profile shows that even successful integration of new immigrants to their new country of residence does not guarantee that someone will avoid going down the terrorist path. Kamel is the perfect example of an apparently fully-integrated immigrant who nevertheless harbors the ultimate goal of imposing his culture on the world and sees waging Jihad as being the path to global Islamic hegemony.

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⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ "L'affaire Ahmed Ressam: Le Parcours d'un Terroriste," *Terrorism and Counter Terrorism Research Group - ERTA TCRG*, http://www.erta-tcrg.org/ahmedressam/individus2.htm.

Mohammed Mansour Jabarah: The Revolted Mujahedeen

Born in Kuwait, Mohammed Mansour Jabarah is the third of four brothers. 45 His family moved to Canada when he was 12, eventually moving to St. Catharines, and putting their children in a Catholic school. 46 Mansour Jabarah, Mohammed's father, became a beloved member of the community and often led evening prayers at the local mosque.⁴⁷ The brothers traveled to Kuwait every summer to visit family.⁴⁸ One summer, a childhood friend introduced Jabarah and his brother Abdul Rahman to Abu Ghaith, a radical imam and prominent member of al-Qaida. 49 Shocked by the conflict in Chechnya, Jabarah raised \$3,500 and sent it to Abu Ghaith in Kuwait. 50 Jabarah and his brother were accepted at Nova Scotia's St. Mary's University, but decided not to go and surprised their family by expressing their wish to travel to the Gulf to pursue advanced studies in Islam.51

According to the FBI's interrogation reports, Jabarah and his brother were recruited in Kuwait and then sent to Pakistan to attend an al-Qaida training camp.⁵² His Canadian passport made him a key asset for al-Qaida, because it enabled him to travel around the world without attracting much suspicion.⁵³ After Jabarah was introduced to Osama bin Laden he swore allegiance to fight for Islam until death, and eventually, bin Laden assigned him his own operation.⁵⁴ He sent Jabarah to Khalid Sheik Mohammed (KSM) for further training in stealth travel and surveillance techniques.⁵⁵ Shortly after his arrival in Pakistan, KSM instructed him to leave the country before September 11, 2001.⁵⁶ Jabarah obeyed and flew to Hong Kong where he saw the footage of the 9/11 attacks carried out in the United States.⁵⁷ Next, he travelled to Malaysia to become al-Oaida's link to Jemaah Islamiyah and to organize joint actions against U.S. embassies in Asia.⁵⁸

But the arrest of Jemaah Islamiyah's cell members in Singapore precipitated Jabarah's return to the Middle East, where he met with KSM who instructed him to go to Oman to open up a safe house for al-Qaida members fleeing Afghanistan.⁵⁹ While in Oman, Jabarah was arrested by local authorities and deported back to Canada. 60 The

⁴⁵ McKenna, Terence. "In Depth Passport to Terror." CBC News. Oct. 2004. http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/iabarah/

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.
52 Ibid.

⁵⁴ United States of America v. Mohamed Jabarah, United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

⁷ May 2007. http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/660.PDF. 6.

⁵⁶ McKenna, Terence. "In Depth Passport to Terror," CBC News, 2004. http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/jabarah/

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ United States of America v. Mohamed Jabarah United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

⁷ May 2007. http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/660.PDF. 7. ⁵⁹ Ibid., 9.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

Canadian Security Intelligence Service interrogated Jabarah, who admitted to having ties with al-Qaida. Canadian officials did not believe they had enough evidence to detain Jabarah, so he allegedly chose to report himself to the American authorities. The details concerning the legality of the exchange of custody of Jabarah between the United States and Canada is uncertain, but on April 22, 2002 Jabarah was transferred to American custody. American custody.

Jabarah cooperated with the U.S. authorities until he heard news that a shootout between members of al-Qaida and U.S. Marines in Kuwait led to the death of one of his childhood friends. After his friend's death, Jabarah's behavior reportedly changed and authorities found an assortment of knives and newspaper clippings of overseas militant activites hidden in his belongings. Fearing that he might hurt himself or others, authorities transferred Jabarah to the Manhattan Metropolitan Correctional Center. 66

Jabarah was sentenced to life in prison on May 7, 2007.⁶⁷ His prison writings show his continued loyalty to Jihad and bin Laden, whom he often praised.⁶⁸

Because of his devotion to Jihad, Jabarah is the perfect muhajid for al-Qaida. Though Jabarah was not raised in radical Islam he was nonetheless raised in strict obedience to the Quran. His summer vacations in Kuwait and his meetings with Abu Ghaith probably accelerated his radicalization. Concerned by the Muslims' situation in the world, Jabarah embraced Jihad as a calling.

^{61 &}quot;FBI's Canadian Songbird." Canada.com. 3 May 2007.

http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/news/story.html?id=62096303-713f-4311-8309-6cf0240dc01f

⁶³ Terence McKenna, "In Depth Passport to Terror," CBC *News*, 2004. http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/jabarah/

⁶⁴ United States of America v. Mohamed Jabarah, United States District Court, Southern District of New York. 7 May 2007. http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/660.PDF. 12.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 28.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 13.

The Khadrs: the Terror Family

The Khadr family can be seen as an archetypical family in which Jihad is considered a duty passed on from father to sons.

Born in Egypt, Ahmed Said Khadr was an introverted child whose speech impediment contributed to his shyness.⁶⁹ He moved to Canada in 1975 to study engineering at the University of Ottawa and married Maha Elsamnah. 70 He joined a Muslim student association, through which he became a strong advocate of Sharia law.⁷¹ This experience served to radicalize Khadr, who saw martyrdom as the highest achievement that a Muslim could reach.⁷²

Ahmed passed those beliefs on to his children, and encouraged them to become suicide bombers. The often said to them "If you love me, pray I will get martyred." He pursued his quest for martyrdom by taking his family to Pakistan and Afghanistan, where they befriended the bin Ladens. 75 As they shared the same compound in Afghanistan, the two families grew closer⁷⁶; the children played together and they attended weddings within each other's families.⁷⁷

While working for Human Concern International (HCI), Ahmed Khadr started his own NGO, a charity called al Tahaddi, which was based in Peshawar. ⁷⁸ However, al Tahaddi soon collapsed after Khadr's associates demanded that its funds be used to militarily train a growing number of Afghan-Arabs and they questioned Khadr's loyalty to the Afghan Jihad; the group planning to use the funding became known as al-Qaida.⁷⁹ While in charge of the HCI office in Pakistan, Khadr used funds donated by the Canadian government to finance jihadists as well as the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan in 1995.80 Eventually Ahmed ascended to the senior ranks of al-Qaida, becoming its primary "money man."81

Forced to return to Canada for medical care after stepping on a land mine, Khadr was soon disillusioned by Canada's western culture, and returned to Pakistan as al-Oaida's commander in Logar Province. 82

After years of living for and through Jihad, Khadr was finally killed in 2003 after refusing to surrender to the Pakistani army. 83 His commitment to Jihad was so revered by al-Oaida that the organization praised him in its martyrs' book for "tossing his little children in the furnace of the battle." 84

⁶⁹ Michelle Shephard, Guantanamo's Child: The Untold Story of Omar Khadr, John Wiley & Sons, 2008. 18. ⁷⁰ Ibid., 17-18.

⁷¹ Ibid., 20

⁷² Jeff Tietz, "The Unending Torture of Omar Khadr," *Rolling Stone*, August 24, 2006.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ "Inside the Khadr Family-Life with Osama bin Laden," April 2004, PBS Frontline Edition.

⁷⁶ Jeff Tietz, "The Unending Torture of Omar Khadr," *Rolling Stone*, August 24, 2006.

⁷⁷ "Inside the Khadr Family – Life with Osama bin Laden," April 2004, PBS Frontline

⁷⁸ Michelle Shephard, Guantanamo's Child: The Untold Story of Omar Khadr, John Wiley & Sons, 2008. 33. ⁷⁹ Ibid., 32-34.

⁸⁰ Richard A. Clarke, "Terrorist Financing" (U.S. House of Representatives, October 22, 2003). 6.

^{82 &}quot;Khadr Patriarch Dislikes Canada, Says al-Qaeda Biography," CBC News, February 7, 2008.

⁸³ Ibid. 84 Ibid.

Ahmed Khadr's third son, **Omar Khadr**, was born in Toronto in 1986 while his mother and siblings were visiting family in Canada, but grew up in Pakistan where his father had moved the family in the late 1980s. After his father was injured in Pakistan from stepping on a landmine, Omar and his family moved back to Toronto where his father received medical care. Teachers and family members described Omar as extremely caring, "hypersensitive to tension", and that he loved the adventures of Tintin, often impersonating Captain Haddock to amuse his family.

Omar's sense of responsibility led him to assume his father's role when the latter was injured. Repair of the same of the same

After Ahmed's recovery, the family moved back to Pakistan from Canada and then to Jalalabad, Afghanistan, where they lived with the bin Laden family. In 2002, Omar was sent to Afghanistan at the behest of his father and close friend Osama bin Laden to join his brothers and complete a practical transition to Jihad. In July of that year, U.S. Special Forces engaged in a surprise raid on an al-Qaida compound in Afghanistan, during which Omar tossed a grenade that mortally wounded Sergeant Christopher Speer. In the same battle, Omar was severely injured by bullets and shrapnel and lost sight in his left eye. After he was captured by U.S. forces he was transferred to Guantanamo Bay in October 2002; he was 16 years old.

In 2007 Omar was declared an "Unlawful Enemy Combatant" and officially charged with murder and conspiracy. ⁹⁷ In 2010 Omar's trial began and he was sentenced to 40 years in prison. ⁹⁸ After he pled guilty, Omar's sentence was reduced to eight years in prison and in 2012 he was transferred to a Canadian facility to serve the rest of his sentence. ⁹⁹

⁸⁵ Michelle Shephard, Guantanamo's Child: The Untold Story of Omar Khadr, John Wiley & Sons, 2008. 27.

⁸⁷ Jeff Tietz, "The Unending Torture of Omar Khadr," Rolling Stone, August 24, 2006.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

^{93 &}quot;Profile: Omar Khadr," BBC NEWS, September 29, 2012.

⁹⁴ Jeff Tietz, "The Unending Torture of Omar Khadr," *Rolling Stone*, August 24, 2006.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ "Profile: Omar Khadr," *BBC NEWS*, September 29, 2012.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

Ahmed's second son, **Abdurahman Khadr** was born in Bahrain in 1982 and was subjected to the same indoctrination as the rest of the Khadr children. Abdurahman spent most of his childhood travelling between Canada, Pakistan and Afghanistan; he was only 12 years old when his father sent him with his brother Abdullah to the Khalden military training camp in Afghanistan. Abdurahman was not as devoted to Jihad as his siblings, though, and his rebellious behavior soon became an embarrassment for his father, who held a prominent position in al-Qaida.

His father tried to convince his son to become a suicide bomber to bring honor to the family, but Abdurahman refused. Fearing that his son's faith in Jihad was declining Ahmed threatened to kill Abdurahman if he ever betrayed Islam. In an interview with Canadian journalists, Abdurahman explained that his father was afraid of his free thinking and feared he would contaminate his brothers.

Despite his years of training and living with members of al-Qaida in Afghanistan, after the 1998 bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, Abdurahman became even more skeptical of al-Qaida and its goals, because he did not believe in killing innocent people. 106

In 2001, after 9/11, Abdurahman decided to flee to Canada instead of hiding from American forces in encampments in the hills along the Afghan-Pakistan border. After arriving in Kabul, Abdurahman was detained by the Northern Alliance on suspicion of terrorist activity and then handed over to the CIA for questioning. As part of his collaboration agreement with the CIA, he was transferred to Guantanamo Bay in 2002 to be an informant among the prisoners. After collaborating with the CIA in Guantanamo Bay Prison, the CIA sent him to Bosnia to gather information on Islamic terrorist activities in the region. He currently resides in Canada.

¹⁰⁰ Michelle Shephard, Guantanamo's Child, 2008. 43, 230.

¹⁰¹ Ibid 44

¹⁰² "Abdurahman Khadr-Son of Al Qaeda", interview by Terrence McKenna, January 2004.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Jeff Tietz, "The Unending Torture of Omar Khadr," *Rolling Stone*, August 24, 2006.

¹⁰⁵ "Abdurahman Khadr-Son of Al Qaeda," interview by Terrence McKenna, January 2004.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹¹ Michelle Shephard, Guantanamo's Child, 2008. 230.

Ahmed's eldest son, **Abdullah Khadr** was born in Ottawa in 1981.¹¹² Sent at age 13 with Abdurahman to the Khalden training camp in Afghanistan, the two brothers fought constantly, forcing trainers to defuse tensions on numerous occasions.¹¹³ At age 11 Abdullah learned how to use an AK-47, which he explained later is as common among Afghan kids as it is for Canadian kids to learn how to play hockey.¹¹⁴ This statement led Richard Griffin, Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, to label Abdullah as "one of the world's most dangerous men."¹¹⁵

As the eldest, it was Abdullah's duty to walk in his father's footsteps. He drove his father everywhere after his injury and worked with him to supply Afghan camps with weapons to fight the Northern Alliance. Abdullah is alleged to have become one of al-Qaida's major arms dealers quite rapidly, supplying the organization with AK-47s, mortar rounds, rockets, rocket propelled grenades, and containers of mine components.

Questioned and detained by Pakistani authorities in 2004, Abdullah was arrested by Canadian authorities upon his arrival in the country in 2005 at the request of the United States. The bulk of Canadian judiciary proceedings revolved around whether he should be extradited to the U.S. Ontario's superior court ruled in 2010 that Abdullah's declarations to Canadian authorities were sufficient grounds to proceed with extradition. In those declarations, Khadr acknowledged being involved in a plot to assassinate Pakistan's Prime Minister and also confessed to buying weapons for al-Qaida. But given the United States' involvement in Khadr's mistreatment while in Pakistani custody, the judge ruled that extradition should not be granted.

Though the Khadrs obtained Canadian residency and citizenship, they never sought to integrate with society—with the exception of Abdurahman. During the trial, Abdurahman decided to speak and collaborate with authorities because of his convictions. Refusing to kill innocent people for Islam, Abdurahman chose morals over family. Although the father, Ahmed, died in 2003, his radical convictions live on in the family. Omar Khadr is currently serving his prison sentence in a Canadian facility. Canadian facility.

¹¹² Ibid., 230.

¹¹³ Ibid., 44-45.

^{114 &}quot;Abdurahman Khadr-Son of Al Qaeda", interview by Terrence McKenna, January 2004.

¹¹⁵ Richard Griffin, "Partnerships Across Borders; Capturing International Fugitives Through Cooperation," U.S. Department of State Archive, May 4, 2007, http://2001-2009.state.gov/m/ds/rls/rm/84361.htm.

¹¹⁶ Rob Gillies, "Abdullah Khadr Trial: Canada Court Denies Extradition For Canadian Terror Suspect," *The Huffington Post*, November 3, 2011.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

 $^{^{118}}$ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ "Affidavits Allege Khadr Said He Bought Weapons for al-Qaeda," CBC News, December 2005.

Rob Gillies, "Abdullah Khadr Trial: Canada Court Denies Extradition For Canadian Terror Suspect," *The Huffington Post*, November 3, 2011.

Michelle Shephard, Guantanamo's Child, Introduction, i.

¹²⁴ Abdurahman Khadr-Son of Al Qaeda, interview by Terrence McKenna, January 2004.

¹²⁵ Ibid

¹²⁶ Michelle Shephard, Guantanamo's Child. 231.

¹²⁷ "Profile: Omar Khadr," BBC NEWS, September 29, 2012.

Mohammed Warsame: The Muslim Utopian Aficionado

Born in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1973, **Mohammed Warsame** arrived in Canada in 1989. In 1995, Warsame married a resident of Minneapolis, Fartun Farah, but continued to live in Toronto. In 1998 Warsame and his wife had a daughter, but Warsame would not obtain the status of a legal resident of the United States until 2002. In early 2000, Warsame fantasized about the "utopian" Muslim society of Afghanistan and, in March of the same year, he traveled to Pakistan. He then crossed the border to Afghanistan where he later received jihadist training.

While in Afghanistan, Warsame attended various lectures given by Osama bin Laden and had even shared a meal with the "inspirational" leader. ¹³³ In the Afghan camps, Warsame received military training in tactics, martial arts, and weapons. ¹³⁴ After having completed his training, Warsame taught English to al-Qaida members. ¹³⁵

Still very much "dedicated to his jihadist activities" Warsame expressed his wish to have his family accompany him in Afghanistan. However, al-Qaida denied funding for his family to travel and instead, paid for his flight back to the U.S. Warsame later claimed to have become disenchanted with al-Qaida and the violence of Jihad between his training in 2000 and 2001. 138

However disillusioned Warsame might have been, he kept in touch with several al-Qaida members he had met in Afghanistan. Then, from 2002 to 2003, he passed information to al-Qaida operatives about border entries and jihadists' whereabouts.

Warsame was eventually arrested on December 9, 2003.¹⁴¹ He pled guilty in 2009 to conspiracy charges of providing material and financial support to a foreign terrorist organization.¹⁴² He was sentenced to seven years in prison but was released for good behavior.¹⁴³ But as part of his plea agreement he was to be extradited to Canada and prohibited from returning to the United States.¹⁴⁴

¹²⁸ Kiann Vandenover, "Affidavit in Support of Pretrial Detention of Mohammed Abdullah Warsame," February 2004. 1.

¹²⁹ Ibid., 2.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Ibid., 2-3.

¹³³ Ibid., 3-4.

¹³⁴ Ibid., 3.

¹³⁵ Ibid., 4.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid

^{138 &}quot;Ottawa Not Saying If Canadian Linked to al-Qaeda Can Return," CBC News, June 2009.

¹³⁹ Kiann Vandenover, "Affidavit in Support of Pretrial Detention of Mohammed Abdullah Warsame," February 2004. 4.

¹⁴⁰ Amy Forliti, "Mohammed Abdullah Warsame, Terror Suspect, Deported To Canada," *The Huffington Post*, October 8, 2010.

¹⁴¹ United States of America v. Mohammed Abdullah Warsame. January 21, 2004.

¹⁴² Amy Forliti, "Mohammed Abdullah Warsame, Terror Suspect, Deported To Canada," *The Huffington Post*, October 8, 2010.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

The Converts

Steven Vikash Chand was born in 1981 in Canada to Hindu parents originally from Fiji. ¹⁴⁵ Chand was considered to be well integrated into Canadian society, serving in the military from June 2000 to April 2004. ¹⁴⁶

Between 2000 and 2004 Chand, who was described as easily influenced, converted to Islam and took the name Abdul Shakur. ¹⁴⁷ Many have linked his conversion to his parents' divorce, as if embracing a new religion was a means for Chand to distance himself from familial strife. ¹⁴⁸

Shortly after his conversion, Chand attended The Salaheddin Islamic Centre, a well-known radical mosque in Toronto led by fundamentalist imam Aly Hindy. 149 After joining the mosque, Chand spent most of his time at the Center and began proselytizing outside Toronto schools and handing out extremist literature. 150

While attending the Salahuddin Centre, Chand met Fahim Ahmad and Zakaria Amara, two men who would later become the leaders of the Toronto 18 terrorist cell. ¹⁵¹ In December 2005, Chand, along with Ahmad and Amara, established a jihadi training camp in Washago, Ontario. ¹⁵² Chand used his past military experience to help train the attendees in firearms. ¹⁵³ Chand also assisted Ahmad and Amara with raising funding for property and weapons through various bank schemes. ¹⁵⁴ While the three men were working together, Chand suggested that, in addition to Ahmad's plan to attack the Canadian Parliament, the group should also behead PM Stephen Harper. ¹⁵⁵ Arrested as a Toronto Cell suspect in 2006, he was convicted in 2010 for participating in a terrorist group and conspiring to commit fraud and was sentenced to 8 years in prison. ¹⁵⁶

Chand is the archetype of the convert mujahedeen. Converts in every religion always feel the need to "prove their religious convictions to their companions" which often makes them more aggressive and radical in their religious practices. ¹⁵⁷ As a convert to a new religion, attending a known radical mosque and cut off from his family, Chand was the perfect prey for radical peers seeking recruits for Jihad.

¹⁴⁵ Mitchell D. Silber and Arvin Bhatt, *Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat*, The New York City Police Department, 2007., 29

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ "Isabel Teontonio, "Toronto 18 fundraiser delivers rap at sentencing," *The Star*, November 26, 2010.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ Mitchell D. Silber and Arvin Bhatt, *Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat*, The New York City Police Department, 2007. 29

^{156 &}quot;Isabel Teontonio, "Toronto 18 fundraiser delivers rap at sentencing," *The Star*, November 26, 2010.

¹⁵⁷ Mitchell D. Silber and Arvin Bhatt, *Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat*, The New York City Police Department, 2007. 29

A Canadian citizen, **Jahmaal James** was born in Scarborough, Ontario in 1984. A Catholic convert to Islam, James was described as a "convert thirsty for knowledge". Like Chand, Jahmaal attended the radical Salahuddin Islamic Centre where he befriended other members of the Toronto 18. 160

James was eager to marry a conservative Muslim woman and was put in touch with his future bride, Sima, through her uncle Mohamed Al-Attique and in 2005, James flew to Lahore to marry her. ¹⁶¹

While he was in Pakistan in 2005, James was seen with senior members of the al-Qaida affiliate group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and was immediately questioned by Pakistani Intelligence officials. ¹⁶² In his guilty plea, James admitted to Canadian authorities that he sought paramilitary training while he was in Pakistan in 2005 and that he planned to share what he had learned with the other members of the Toronto 18 cell, but that he fell sick before he could begin his training. ¹⁶³

In March 2006, he flew back to Canada without his wife, but almost as soon as he got back, he started drifting away from the Toronto group. ¹⁶⁴ ¹⁶⁵ James was concerned that the leaders of the group were being too reckless and he feared that the authorities had discovered them. ¹⁶⁶

Born in the West, James' conversion to Islam might have meant getting closer to his Pakistani roots. Enchanted to the point that he embraced Jihad and the radical views of his imam, James married a Pakistani woman through an arranged marriage to complete his vision of the "good Muslim." But confronted with another vision of Islam and, perhaps, scared by Pakistani and Canadian authorities, James slowly drifted away from radicalism.

¹⁵⁸ Isabel Teontonio, "Toronto 18 Terrorist Freed After Guilty Plea," *The Star*, February 27, 2010.

¹⁵⁹ Bill Gillespie, "Accused in Toronto 18 Plot Pleads Guilty," *CBC News*, February 26, 2010.

¹⁶⁰ The National Post, "Terror Suspect's Bride," September 2006.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Bill Gillespie, "Accused in Toronto 18 Plot Pleads Guilty," *CBC News*, February 26, 2010.

¹⁶⁴ The National Post, "Terror Suspect's Bride," September 2006.

¹⁶⁵ Isabel Teontonio, "Toronto 18 Terrorist Freed After Guilty Plea," *The Star*, February 27, 2010.

¹⁶⁶ Ibid.

Mohamedou Ould-Salahi: The Gentleman Jihadist

Labeled as a high-risk prisoner in his Guantanamo file, Mohamedou Ould-Salahi is described by most of his interrogators as a bright, polite young man who loves playing chess, which according to them contrasts with the atrocities committed during his time in al-Qaida. The son of a camel vendor, Salahi was born in Mauritania in 1970. He grew up in a small city outside of Nouakchott, running barefoot after goats and playing soccer in the streets. His education was not free of religion, as his father taught him to read the Quran and, from a very young age, Salahi knew the Quran by heart.

Salahi is described by all as a very bright young man with a promising future. He graduated from high school in Nouakchott in 1988 and applied for a grant to extend his education at the Carl Duisburg Gesellschaft Center in Germany. 171 Thanks to the grant, Salahi traveled to Germany to complete his studies, carrying with him the hopes of his family, who hoped he could provide them with financial support while he was in Europe. 172 In Germany, Salahi completed a degree in electrical engineering while regularly attending a local mosque. 173 174 Salahi started preaching about the honor of accomplishing global Jihad in several mosques, and ultimately departed to receive terrorism training in Afghanistan in 1990.¹⁷⁵ He attended the al-Faruq training camp where he swore *bayat* to Osama bin Laden, thereby promising to die as a martyr for Islam. 177 His bayat led him to participate in the "Jihad against the Soviet-sponsored Afghan government." Upon his return to Germany, Salahi started recruiting potential jihadists but in 1999 he decided to immigrate to Canada because he felt that he was under surveillance by local authorities. ¹⁷⁹ This, coupled with the fact that Salahi could not convince German authorities to extend his visa, spurred him to move to Canada. 180 While he was serving as the imam of the Al-Sunna Mosque in Montreal, Canada, Salahi met Ahmed Ressam and allegedly gave the latter orders to carry out the Millennium Plot. 181 Although it is believed that Salahi was recruited into participating in the Millennium Bomb Plot, he firmly denied the allegations. 182

¹⁶⁷ Der Spiegel, "The Career of Prisoner No.760," Spiegel Online, 2008.

¹⁶⁸ Department Of Defense, "JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment" (*The New York Times-* "The Guantanamo Docket", March 2008). 2.

¹⁶⁹ Der Spiegel, "The Career of Prisoner No.760," Spiegel Online, 2008.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Department Of Defense, "JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment" (*The New York Times-* "The Guantanamo Docket", March 2008). 2.

¹⁷⁴ Der Spiegel, "The Career of Prisoner No.760," Spiegel Online, 2008.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid

¹⁷⁶ Department Of Defense, "JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment" (*The New York Times-* "The Guantanamo Docket", March 2008). 2-3.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid., 3.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

Der Spiegel, "The Career of Prisoner No.760," *Spiegel Online*, 2008.

¹⁸⁰ Department Of Defense, "JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment" (*The New York Times*- "The Guantanamo Docket", March 2008). 3.

¹⁸¹ "U.S. Lists Montreal Mosque as Al-Qaeda 'Recruiting' Place," *CBC News*, April 2011.

¹⁸² Ibid.

Salahi was put under surveillance by the Canadian Security Agency, although it possessed no evidence that he was involved in the Millennium Plot. ¹⁸³ Thus, he was allowed to leave the country for Mauritania on January 21, 2000 after learning that his mother was ill. ¹⁸⁴ Arrested in Senegal under suspicion of involvement in the Millennium Plot, Salahi was extradited to Mauritania but released due to a lack of evidence. ¹⁸⁵ ¹⁸⁶ On April 19, 2000 Salahi and his wife traveled to Germany due to the notoriety that resulted after his arrests, but Salahi was detained by German authorities upon arrival and held in custody for three weeks until he was extradited to Mauritania. ¹⁸⁷ After he was sent to Mauritania, Salahi's passport was confiscated and he was forced to live and work in Mauritania. ¹⁸⁸ On September 29, 2001 Salahi was arrested by Mauritanian authorities and questioned by U.S. FBI agents concerning Ahmed Ressam but was released on October 12, 2001. ¹⁸⁹ On November 20, 2001 Salahi was re-arrested by Mauritanian authorities after being observed by U.S. and Mauritanian authorities since April 2000. ¹⁹⁰ From there, he was taken to Amman, Jordan and held for eight months until finally being transferred to Guantanamo Bay in 2002, where he has provided valuable information regarding other terrorist suspects associated with al-Qaida. ¹⁹¹

Despite his cooperation with authorities, Mohamedou Salahi maintains that he had no role in any terrorist plots although other detainees have admitted his involvement in the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Millennium Plot, and others. ¹⁹²

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¹⁸³ Der Spiegel, "The Career of Prisoner No.760," *Spiegel Online*, 2008.

¹⁸⁴ Department Of Defense, "JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment" (*The New York Times*- "The Guantanamo Docket", March 2008). 3-4.

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¹⁸⁷ Ibid. 4.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ Ibid. Pg. 4-5.

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