

**TERRORIST SUSPECT PROFILE**

| NAME OF TERRORIST:      | OTHER NAMES/ALIASES:         | PHOTOGRAPH |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Mohammed Loay Bayazid   |                              |            |
| NAME OF TERRORIST GROUP | Abu Rida al Suri<br>Abu Rida |            |
| al-Qaeda                |                              |            |

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Dates of Birth: 1948  
 Place of Birth: Most likely Damascus, Syria  
 Height: Unknown  
 Weight: Unknown  
 Build: Average  
 Scars and Marks: None known.

Hair: Dark Brown  
 Eyes: Unknown

Language: Arabic, English. Also reportedly speaks Farsi and Chinese  
 Last known address: Khartoum, Sudan  
 Citizenship: Syrian and American (naturalized citizen).  
 He immigrated to the US as a teenager.

**POSITION AND FUNCTION IN HIERACHY**

According to author Lawrence Wright, Bayazid stated to him during interviews for his book “The Looming Tower” that he, Bayazid, was the primary manager of Osama Bin Laden’s business affairs in Sudan. Documents confiscated from the Benevolence International Foundation also connect Bayazid to Bin Laden and the Al Qaeda organization. While working for BIF, Bayazid was, according to his uncle, only involved with “buying supplies for the Afghan resistance”.<sup>1</sup> The US government however, believes that both Bayazid and BIF were involved in supporting terrorist organizations in a number of other places besides just Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup> A statement made to the FBI by informant Jamal Ahmad al Fadl, links Bayazid to both weapons procurement activities for al Qaeda in Sudan as well as Bin Laden’s financial business fronts which were used to launder money in support al Qaeda.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kaplan, David E. "Made in the U.S.A. Hundreds of Americans Have Followed the Path to Jihad. Here's How and Why." *U.S. News and World Report*. 2 June 2002. Web. www.usnews.com

## Background

Mohammed Loay Bayazid, was born in Syria and immigrated to the US as a teenager with his family. Known for his sense of humor, he was by all accounts a typical high school and college student, while growing up in the Kansas City area. In the mid 1980s he traveled to Afghanistan for the first time to participate in the Afghan jihad. It is believed that he first came into contact with Osama Bin Laden during this period. Bayazid's known involvement with al Qaeda began in 1988 when, according to written notes discovered in the possession of the Benevolence International Foundation (BIF), a charity of which he was elected president of in 1993, Bayazid wrote the minutes of a meeting he attended with Osama Bin Laden, during which Bin Laden outlined his desire to establish a new military group. As President of BIF, Bayazid continued his associations with Bin Laden and terrorism. While the BIF did carry out legitimate charity projects helping refugees, widows and orphans, as its English language website claimed, it also diverted a significant proportion of its funds and resources to assisting the Jihad in Afghanistan. This support came primarily in the form of assistance with military and logistical support and the provision of medical care for the mujahedeen in the field. It also contributed to armed groups in Bosnia and other places.<sup>4</sup> BIF's assets were eventually frozen by the state of Illinois in 2001 and the organization was designated by the US government a supporter of terrorist organizations on November 19, 2002.<sup>5</sup>

During a 1994 visit to San Francisco, CA, Bayazid was arrested along with his good friend, known terrorist, and brother in law of Osama Bin Laden, Jamal Kalifa as well as one of Bin Laden's brothers. The men were arrested due to the US government's suspicions that Kalifa's charitable networks, which Bayazid was involved with, and Bayazid's businesses were involved in financing terrorism.<sup>6</sup> No charges were filed against Bayazid and he was quickly released. Further proof of Bayazid's involvement in the financing of terror was found in two letters, both dating from 1994, sent from Osama Bin Laden to Bayazid. In one letter Osama Bin Laden asks Bayazid to give the bearer of the letter a ticket to Saudi Arabia. In the other letter, written in September, Bin Laden requests that Bayazid bring to him a minimum of 500,000 rupees (about 10,500 USD) and further states that the time for starting an attack on the Russians is drawing near.<sup>7</sup> In 1994 Bayazid reported returned to Afghanistan to continue his involvement with the Afghan resistance movement, which he originally began in the mid 1980s.<sup>8</sup> According to FBI informant, Jamal Ahmed al Fadl, Bayazid not only took the minutes of the 1988 meeting in which Osama Bin Laden officially expressed his desires to found what became Al Qaeda, but he also served on the Shura council of Al Qaeda.<sup>9</sup> Lawrence Wright, author of the book "The Looming Tower", who interviewed Bayazid, confirmed that Bayazid also stated during the course of their interviews that he was present at the meeting in question. Wright claims that Bayazid was Osama Bin Laden's Business Manager though Al Fadl's statement is consistent with such an assertion, he does not

<sup>2</sup> United States of America v. Enaam M. Arnaout. United States District Court Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division. 6 Jan. 2003. Internet. <http://fl1.findlaw.com>

<sup>3</sup> *TI B24 Various Interrogation Reports Fdr- 4-2-98 FBI Investigation- Source*. Rep. FBI, 1998. *911DocumentArchive*. Web. [www.scribd.com](http://www.scribd.com)

<sup>4</sup> United States of America v. Enaam M. Arnaout.

<sup>5</sup> Eisler, Peter. "Groups Battle Federal Freeze on Charity Assets - USATODAY.com." *News, Travel, Weather, Entertainment, Sports, Technology, U.S. & World - USATODAY.com*. 6 Apr. 2009. Web. [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)

<sup>6</sup> "مقتل أبو البراء" الجزيرة. 27 May 2007. Web. [www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net)

<sup>7</sup> United States of America v. Enaam M. Arnaout.

<sup>8</sup> "Abu Rida Al Suri." *GlobalSecurity.org*. Web. [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org)

<sup>9</sup> *TI B24 Various Interrogation Reports Fdr- 4-2-98 FBI Investigation- Source*.

<sup>10</sup> Wright, Lawrence. "Author Dissects People, Politics Prior to 9/11 Attacks." Interview by Jeffery Brown. *Online Newshour*. PBS, 5 Sept. 2006. Web. [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)

<sup>11</sup> *TI B24 Various Interrogation Reports Fdr- 4-2-98 FBI Investigation- Source*.

<sup>12</sup> Kaplan, David E.

make any claims that Bayazid carried out such a specific and narrow function.<sup>10</sup> Rather, Al Fadl stated that he first met Bayazid in Sudan, where Bayazid was involved with purchasing AK 47s and other weapons from the free market in Sudan as well as the plot to buy uranium for Al Qaeda. In addition to his weapons procurement activities, Bayazid was also reportedly the President of al Ekhlis International Company which produced sweets and honey in Sudan and served as a front for Bin Laden's import/export needs.<sup>11</sup> Bayazid has also been linked to Taba Investments in Khartoum.<sup>12</sup>

#### **POLITICAL DISPOSITION**

Religious Extremist

#### **STATUS**

Location unknown. In 2002 US News and Reports stated in an article which included an interview with Bayazid's uncle in Kansas City, that Bayazid was suspected to be living in either Sudan or Turkey.<sup>13</sup> More recently in 2006, Lawrence Wright claimed that he was living in Khartoum and operates several businesses there.<sup>14</sup>

#### **INDICTMENTS**

Although he was connected to the court cases U.S. v. Arnaout and U.S. v. Benevolence International Foundation, he was never directly charged with any crimes.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Kaplan, David E.

<sup>14</sup> Rizzo, Tony

<sup>15</sup> Rizzo, Tony.

## LINKS TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS

Believed to have purchased the explosives which were used in the 2005 Khobar Tower attacks, in Saudi Arabia.<sup>16</sup>

Attempted to purchase uranium for AQ so as to enable AQ to obtain a nuclear component.<sup>17</sup>

Named as a defendant in lawsuit filed by the families of victims of the 9/11 attacks, in May of 2003.<sup>18</sup>

Implicated in the 1998 bombings of US Embassies in East Africa due to his role in procuring weapons for Bin Laden.<sup>19</sup>

## WRITINGS/SPEECHES/INTERVIEWS

Bayazid gave several interviews to Lawrence Wright which are included in Wright's book, "The Looming Tower".

<sup>16</sup> *TI B24 Various Interrogation Reports Fdr- 4-2-98 FBI Investigation- Source.*

<sup>17</sup> *TI B24 Various Interrogation Reports Fdr- 4-2-98 FBI Investigation- Source.*

<sup>18</sup> 6 May 2003. Web. [www.aawsat.com](http://www.aawsat.com)

<sup>19</sup> "U.S. Treasury - Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI)." *United States - Department of The Treasury - Homepage.* Web. [www.ustreas.gov](http://www.ustreas.gov)

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*T1 B24 Various Interrogation Reports Fdr- 4-2-98 FBI Investigation- Source*. Rep. FBI, 1998.

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