

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

FACT SHEET:

PROSECUTED HOMEGROWN RADICALS WITH TIES TO ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

[Anwar al-Awlaki](#) served as director of external operations for [al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula](#) (AQAP). He was the first U.S. citizen targeted in a U.S. drone strike (September 30, 2011) due to his role in taking the “lead in planning and directing efforts to murder innocent Americans,” according to President Barack Obama.

Al-Awlaki has inspired numerous homegrown extremists to commit acts of terror. Enrique Marquez Jr. and Syed Rizwan Farook, one of the shooters in the December 2 San Bernardino massacre that killed 14, spent hours listening to al-Awlaki’s lectures and poring over directions on making explosives in the AQAP magazine al-Awlaki helped create, *Inspire*, according to the criminal complaint against Marquez. Al-Awlaki was directly in contact with Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan (2009) and underwear bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (2009). Al-Awlaki inspired Times Square bomber Faisal Shahzad (2010) and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev of the Boston Marathon bombings (2013).

Among its [profiles](#) of Americans arrested for attempting to join jihadist groups or carry out domestic attacks, the Counter Extremism Project (CEP) has documented at least 20 cases in which al-Awlaki’s radicalizing influence was a key factor.¹ He has also inspired countless others around the world via his online materials to join [al-Qaeda](#), [al-Shabab](#), and [ISIS](#). **Even after his death, al-Awlaki’s ideology and lectures continue to influence, propagandize, and incite to violence.**

1. Zachary Chesser ([U.S. Senate, 2012](#), [Washington Post](#))
 - a. Allegedly emailed with al-Awlaki (p. 9)
 - b. Regularly reposted al-Awlaki’s videos on his YouTube channel (p. 17)
 - c. From Senate report: “Chesser’s YouTube postings received national media attention on April 15, 2010, when he posted a video with an al-Aulaqi [al-Awlaki] lecture which called for the assassination of anyone who has ‘defamed Mohammad.’ At the end of the video, Chesser included the addresses of the Comedy Central office and the creators of the adult cartoon, South Park. Referencing the 2004 murder of director Theo Van Gogh by an Islamist extremist he noted, “We have to warn Matt Stone and Trey Parker [South Park creators] that what they are doing is stupid and will probably wind up like Theo Van Gogh for airing this show.” (p. 17)
2. Shannon Maureen Conley ([U.S. Justice Department, 2014](#), [Denver Channel](#))
 - a. Owned DVDs of al-Awlaki’s lectures (p. 9)
3. Christopher Lee Cornell ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))

¹ [Zachary Chesser](#), [Shannon Maureen Conley](#), [Christopher Lee Cornell](#), Adel Daoud, [Adnan Farah](#), Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh, Nidal Hasan, [Asher Abid Khan](#), Emanuel L. Lutchman, Enrique Marquez Jr., [Terrence J. McNeil](#), [Yahya Farooq Mohammed](#), [Ibrahim Zubair Mohammed](#), Jesse Curtis Morton, [Tairod Nathan Webster Pugh](#), [Alaa Saadeh](#), [Nader Saadeh](#), [Munther Omar Saleh](#), [Asif Ahmed Salim](#), [Sultane Room Salim](#), [Asia Siddiqui](#), [Nicholas Teausant](#), [Abdella Ahmad Tounisi](#), Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, [Joshua Ray Van Haften](#)

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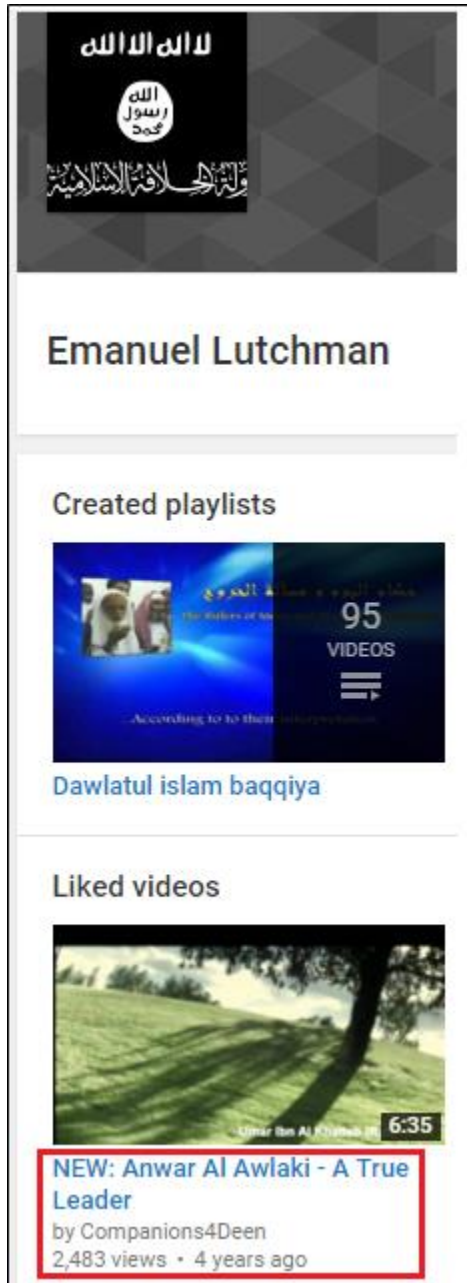
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- a. Told FBI informant he got a “thumbs up” from al-Awlaki before al-Awlaki’s “martyrdom” (p. 3)
4. Adel Daoud ([U.S. Justice Department, 2013](#))
 - a. Sent himself emails with “al-Awlaki articles” (p. 6)
 - b. Viewed al-Awlaki propaganda on YouTube (p. 7)
 - c. Sent an email to an acquaintance that read:
 - i. “Those people insulting awlaki can go kill themselves mashaAllah he is very knowledgable w. a decent character. inshaAllah [God willing] hes accepted as a Shaheed [martyr].” (p. 7-8)
 - d. Sent an acquaintance a video of al-Awlaki’s “Hereafter series” (p. 9)
 - e. Sent an acquaintance an article written by al-Awlaki titled “44 ways to support jihad” (p. 10)
 - f. Watched a video titled “Martyrdom Operations or Suicide Bombings! By Shk Anwar AlAwlaki” (p. 13-14)
5. Adnan Farah ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [MPR](#))
 - a. Posted photos of al-Awlaki on social media (banner on Facebook) (p. 11 and Exhibit 1)
6. Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - a. “Frequently viewed” al-Awlaki’s videos and lectures online (p. 4)
7. Nidal Hasan ([FBI, 2009](#))
 - a. Hasan visited al-Awlaki’s personal website (p. 1)
 - b. Emailed with al-Awlaki before carrying out the November 2009 Fort Hood, Texas, shootings. In a specific email, Hasan asked al-Awlaki to make “general comments” about Muslims in the U.S. military. He sent numerous subsequent emails to al-Awlaki, inquiring about a range of Islamic-related topics. In total, Hasan had “eighteen communications” with al-Awlaki (pp. 6, 46-52)
8. Asher Abid Khan ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - a. Watched al-Awlaki videos on YouTube and sent to friends over messages on social media (p. 16)
 - b. The criminal complaint reports:
 - i. “On or about February 14, 2014, Khan and Individual 1 had the following conversation about a Youtube video.”
 - ii. (Footnote: “The Youtube video is currently still available and entitled ‘Tribute to Sheikh Anwar Al -Awlaki.’ The video depicts Al-Awlaki’s speeches and commentary. It further shows a U.S. government statement announcing that Awlaki, a leader of Al ‘Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, was killed in Yemen.”) (p. 16)
9. Emanuel L. Lutchman ([flynews24](#), [YouTube](#), [Google Plus](#))
 - a. Purportedly viewed al-Awlaki videos on his YouTube channel

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Emanuel Lutchman

Created playlists

Dawlatul islam baqqiya
95 VIDEOS

Liked videos

NEW: Anwar Al Awlaki - A True Leader
by Companions4Deen
2,483 views · 4 years ago

- b. Purported Google Plus account links to numerous al-Awlaki videos
- c. Lutchman wrote: “My shaykh I love him so much for the sake of Allah only” in reference to al-Awlaki.

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10. Enrique Marquez Jr. ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [New York Times](#))
 - a. Listened to al-Awlaki's lectures in 2010-2011 and discussed al-Awlaki's ideology with his co-conspirator, San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook (p. 3)
11. Terrence McNeil ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [Guardian](#))
 - a. According to the criminal complaint filed against him, McNeil operated a Tumblr blog at <https://abu-fil.tumblr.com> (now suspended) (p. 9)
 - b. According to the *Guardian*, the account user of a Tumblr blog believed to be McNeil's often posted al-Awlaki's sermons.
12. Farooq Mohammed ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - a. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
13. Ibrahim Mohammed ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - a. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
14. Jesse Curtis Morton a.k.a. Younus Abdullah Mohammad ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2015](#))
 - a. Founded the website "Revolution Muslim" on which he espoused al-Awlaki's ideology (p. 4)
 - b. Posted a message from al-Awlaki calling for the assassination of an unnamed artist who had drawn the Islamic prophet Mohammad (p. 6)
 - c. On "multiple occasions" posted speeches by al-Awlaki that justified the killing of those who insult the prophet Mohammad. (p. 6)

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15. Tairod Nathan Webster Pugh ([ADL](#), [Buzzfeed](#))
a. Posted al-Awlaki's quotes on social media



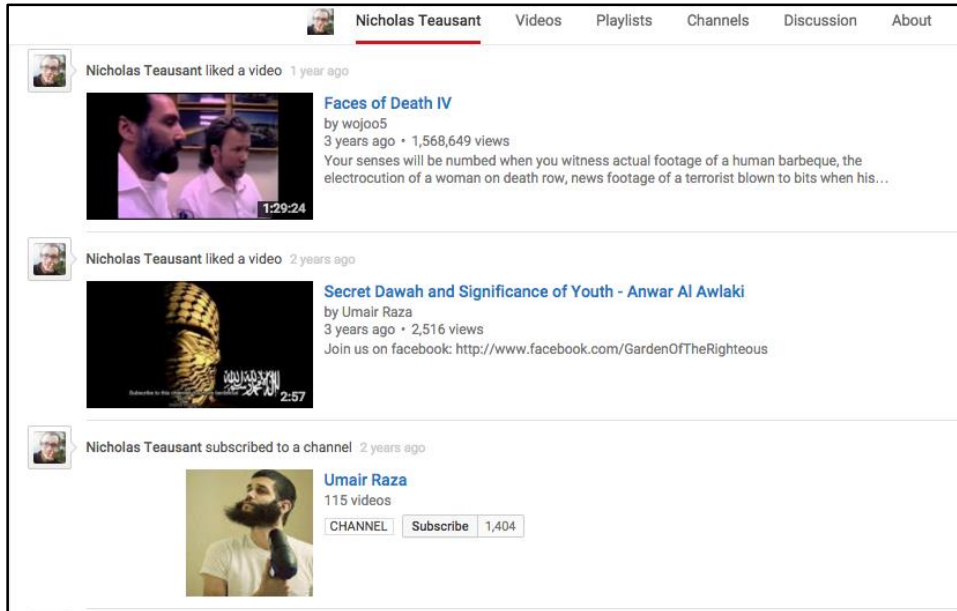
16. Alaa Saadeh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
a. Refers to an unspecified "web page" where he viewed al-Awlaki's lectures (p. 39)
17. Nader Saadeh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
b. Said that America should "burn" for killing al-Awlaki (p. 7)
c. Watched al-Awlaki videos on a "web page" (p. 8)
18. Munther Omar Saleh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
d. Saleh reportedly translated ISIS videos from Arabic to English. In May 2015, Saleh visited a message board and "viewed... a post seeking translation of Arabic material referenced in a lecture by Anwar al-Awlaki." (p. 6)
19. Asif Ahmed Salim ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
e. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
20. Sultane Room Salim ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
f. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
21. Asia Siddiqui ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
g. Published a poem in AQAP's magazine, *Inspire*, which al-Awlaki co-founded and in which he was regularly featured (p. 5)
22. Nicholas Teasant ([U.S. Justice Department, 2014](#))
h. Reportedly read AQAP's English-language magazine, *Inspire*, which he downloaded to his laptop computer (p. 8, 20)

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- i. Watched al-Awkaki's videos: Purported [YouTube channel](#)



23. Abdella Ahmad Tounisi ([U.S. Justice Department, 2013](#))
 - a. Viewed al-Awlaki propoganda on YouTube (p. 7)
24. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev ([U.S. Justice Department, 2013](#), [New York Times](#), [CNN](#))
 - b. Dzhokhar downloaded an electronic copy of a book entitled “The Slicing Sword Against The One Who Forms Allegiances With The Disbelievers And Takes Them As Supporters Instead Of Allah, His Messenger And The Believers” with a forward by Anwar al-Awlaki (p. 6)
 - c. Downloaded Volume One of al-Awlaki’s *Inspire*, which includes bomb-building instructions (p. 7-8)
 - d. Approximately three weeks before the Boston bombings, Tsarnaev tweeted: “Listen to Anwar al-Awlaki’s ... here after series... you will gain an unbelievable amount of knowledge.”
 - e. Al-Awlaki’s YouTube videos were found on Dzhokhar’s—and his brother Tamerlan’s—electronic devices.
25. Joshua Ray Van Haften ([U.S. Justice Department, 2014](#))
 - a. Posted al-Awlaki videos on Facebook (p. 6-7)