



ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

PART I: PROSECUTED HOMEGROWN RADICALS WITH TIES TO ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

PART II: EUROPEAN EXTREMISTS WITH TIES TO ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

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PART I: 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. [Omar Mateen](#)—perpetrator of the deadliest gun attack on U.S. soil—had watched Anwar al-Awlaki videos, according to one witness in a July 2014 FBI investigation. Syed Rizwan Farook, one of the shooters in the December 2, 2015, San Bernardino massacre that killed 14, had reportedly spent hours alongside neighbor Enrique Marquez Jr. listening to al-Awlaki’s lectures and poring over directions on making explosives. Al-Awlaki was in close contact with Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan (2009), underwear bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (2009), and thwarted suicide bomber Minh Quang Pham (2012). Al-Awlaki has reportedly inspired Times Square bomber Faisal Shahzad (2010) as well as 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 29 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](#), [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., [Omar Mateen](#), [Terrence J. McNeil](#), [Yahya Farooq Mohammed](#), [Ibrahim Zubair Mohammed](#), Jesse Curtis Morton, [Minh Quang Pham](#), [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](#), [Abdirizak Mohaivied Warsame](#).

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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](#))
 - 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. Daniel Seth Franey ([U.S. Justice Department, 2016](#))
 - a. Praised al-Awlaki as a "scholar" who "speaks the truth" (p. 14)
8. 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)
9. Asher Abid Khan ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))

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- 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)
10. 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

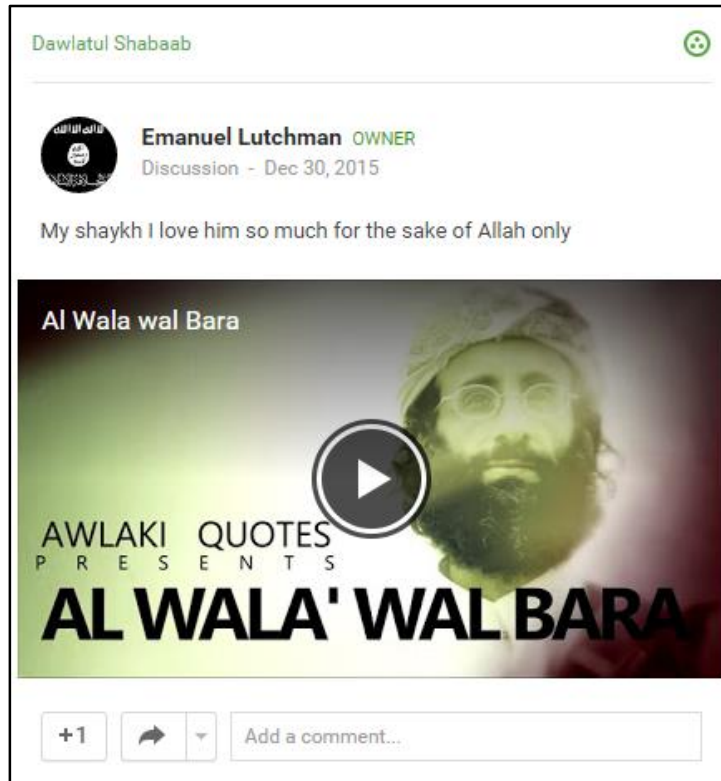
Liked videos

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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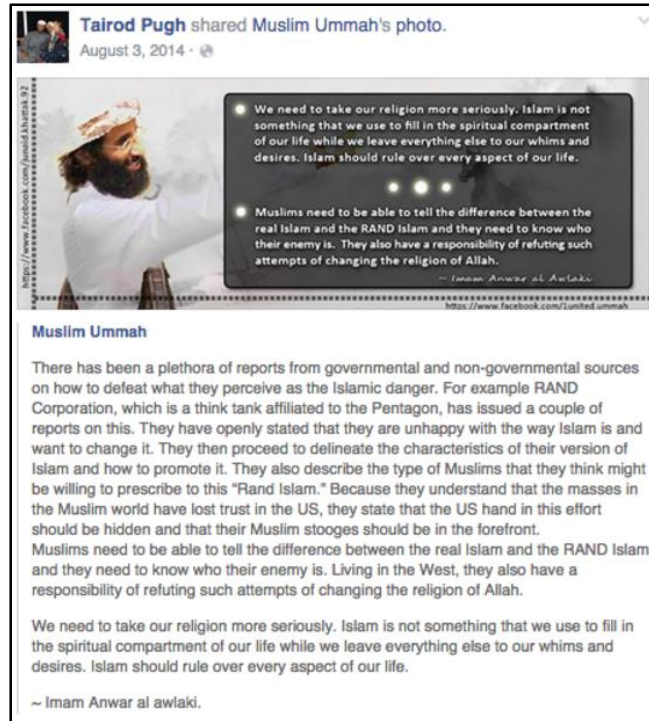


11. Enrique Marquez Jr. ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [New York Times](#))
 - a. Listened to al-Awlaki's lectures in 2010-2011 and discussed al-Awlaki's ideology with his co-conspirator, San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook (p. 3)
12. Omar Mateen ([Atlantic](#), [ABC News](#))
 - a. Had previously mentioned al-Awlaki's "recruitment videos," according to one witness in a July 2014 FBI investigation.
13. 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.
14. Farooq Mohammed ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - a. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
15. Ibrahim Mohammed ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - a. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
16. 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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17. Minh Quang Pham ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2015](#), [New York Times](#), [U.S. Department of Justice 2016](#))
 - a. Accepted a suicide mission from al-Awlaki
 - b. Received explosives training from al-Awlaki
18. Tairod Nathan Webster Pugh ([ADL](#), [Buzzfeed](#))
 - a. Posted al-Awlaki's quotes on social media



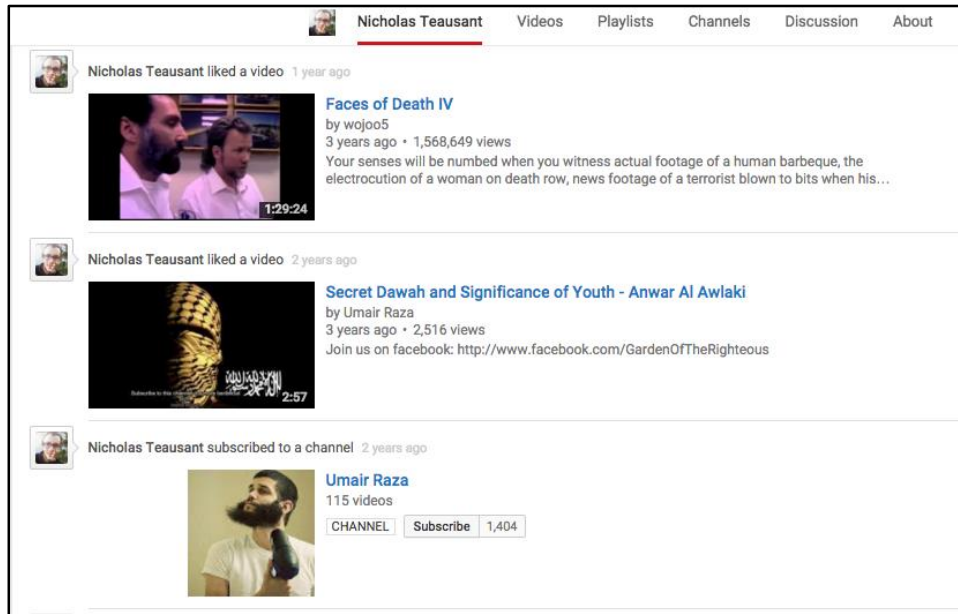
19. Alaa Saadeh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - a. Refers to an unspecified "web page" where he viewed al-Awlaki's lectures (p. 39)
20. Nader Saadeh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - b. Said that America should "burn" for killing al-Awlaki (p. 7)
 - c. Watched al-Awlaki videos on a "web page" (p. 8)
21. 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)
22. Asif Ahmed Salim ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - e. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
23. Sultane Room Salim ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#))
 - f. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki (p. 13)
24. 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)

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25. 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)
- i. Watched al-Awkaki’s videos: Purported [YouTube channel](#)



26. Abdella Ahmad Tounisi ([U.S. Justice Department, 2013](#))

- a. Viewed al-Awlaki propaganda on YouTube (p. 7)

27. 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.

28. Joshua Ray Van Haften ([U.S. Justice Department, 2014](#))

- a. Posted al-Awlaki videos on Facebook (p. 6-7)

29. Abdirizak Mohaivied Warsame ([MPR News](#))

- a. Told the U.S. court that he “used to watch Anwar al-Awlaki lectures a lot.”



PART II: EUROPEAN EXTREMISTS WITH TIES TO ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

Anwar al-Awlaki’s influence has not been confined to the United States. Across Europe, al-Awlaki has inspired numerous extremists to commit acts of terror in their own countries and wage jihad overseas, including Swedish citizen Osama Krayem, who was charged on terrorism-related crimes for his alleged role in the March 22, 2016, ISIS attacks in Brussels, which killed 32 people and wounded more than 200 others.

The notorious British Islamist preacher Anjem Choudary eulogized al-Awlaki upon his death in 2011. Cherif Kouachi, one of the shooters in the January 2015 attack on the Paris satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*, trained with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) after al-Awlaki financed his trip to Yemen. Sally Jones—the wife of deceased ISIS hacker Junaid Hussain—released on Twitter the personal information of the drone operator who killed al-Awlaki. Jihadist brothers Yassin and Mounir Chouka, both German citizens, met with al-Awlaki in Yemen before being advised by the AQAP propagandist to join the jihad along the Afghan-Pakistani frontier.

Among its profiles of Europeans arrested or killed in the pursuit of jihad—either within Europe or in the Middle East—CEP has documented 34 cases in which al-Awlaki served as a radicalizing guide.² **Even in death, al-Awlaki’s call to holy war still finds an active following beyond U.S. shores.**

U.K. Extremists:

² Umm Abbas, Michael Adebolajo, Michael Adebowale, Kabir Ahmed, Muhammad Manwar Ali, Zakariya Ashiq, Abu Uthman al Britani, [Anjem Choudary](#), Roshonara Choudhry, Mounir Chouka, Yassin Chouka, Aine Davis, Ahmed Halane, Tarik Hassane, Jamila Henry, [Junaid Hussain](#), Omar Hussain, Ismail Jabbar, Mustakim Jaman, Ifthekar Jaman, Mohamed Jarmoune, Jamshed Javeed, [Sally Jones](#), Cherif Kouachi, Said Kouachi, [Osama Krayem](#), Umm Kulthum, Aqsa Mahmood, Ednane Mahmood, Umm Muthanna, Hamzah Parvez, Tareena Shakil, Tuhin Shehnsha, Umm Umar.

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1. Umm Abbas ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Young British girl who immigrated to ISIS territory. When asked about her beliefs, told a reporter from the *Guardian* to read Anwar al-Awlaki's works.
2. Michael Adebolajo ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Murderer of British soldier Lee Rigby. Al-Awlaki's sermons and lectures were found at his address.
3. Michael Adebowale ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Murderer of British soldier Lee Rigby. Al-Awlaki's sermons and lectures were found at his address.
4. Kabir Ahmed ([Newsweek](#))
 - a. ISIS's first British suicide bomber. Was radicalized in a U.K. prison, where he said, "I learned about the Koran, about what was happening to the Muslims around the world, like in Myanmar. The thinkers I like are Sayyid Qutb, Anwar al-Awlaki, Osama Bin Laden and Ayman Zawahiri. I respect them all, I love them."
5. Muhammad Manwar Ali ([New York Times](#))
 - a. Imam in England and former fighter in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Chechnya, Kashmir, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Was friends with al-Awlaki before he was killed in 2011.
6. Zakariya Ashiq ([Counter-Terrorism Division of the Crown Prosecution Service](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter for ISIS. Searched the Internet for the speeches of al-Awlaki, as well as ISIS's *DABIQ* magazine.
7. Abu Uthman al Britani ([Middle East Media Research Institute](#))
 - a. Deceased British foreign fighter. Wrote online: "I tend to listen to Anwar Al-Awlaki rahimahullah [may Allah have mercy on him]."
8. Anjem Choudary ([Middle East Media Research Institute](#))
 - a. Infamous extremist cleric in the U.K. who eulogized al-Awlaki following his death in 2011.
9. Roshonara Choudhry ([Guardian](#))
 - a. British female Islamist who stabbed British MP Stephen Timms in 2010 in an attempt to murder him.
 - b. Radicalized by al-Awlaki's lectures.
 - c. Downloaded al-Awlaki's "full set" of lectures.
 - d. Told the *Guardian*'s crime correspondent Vikram Dodd:
 - i. "I've always been quite religious and I started to listen to Anwar al-Awlaki lectures last year and then I started to get really into it and I listened to everything that ... like all of his recorded lectures that he made...."
 - ii. "...[al-Awlaki] explains things really comprehensively and in an interesting way so I thought I could learn a lot from him and I was also surprised at how little I knew about my religion so that motivated me to learn more..."
10. Aine Davis ([Telegraph](#))
 - a. British man believed to be fighting in Syria. Authorities found al-Awlaki lectures on his iPod when they searched his London home.
11. Ahmed Halane ([BBC News](#))
 - a. British fighter with ISIS who was reportedly radicalized by listening to al-Awlaki

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lectures online.

12. Tarik Hassane ([Sun](#))
 - a. Attempted lone-wolf attacker who had pledged allegiance to ISIS. Urged his followers on social media to listen to al-Awlaki's sermons.
13. Jamila Henry ([Daily Mail](#))
 - a. British female who joined ISIS in Syria. Her laptop had "videos" by al-Awlaki.
14. Junaid Hussain ([5 Pillars](#))
 - a. Deceased ISIS hacker who was married to Sally Jones. Quoted al-Awlaki in an interview: "Victory is on our side because there is a difference between us and you. We are fighting for a noble cause. We are fighting for God and you are fighting for worldly gain...."
15. Omar Hussain ([BBC News](#), [Telegraph & Argus](#))
 - a. British-born fighter for ISIS who referred to himself as Anwar al-Awlaki in an interview.
16. Ismail Jabbar ([Daily Mail](#))
 - a. British fighter for ISIS who listened to al-Awlaki's sermons.
 - b. Was asked on social media platform Ask.fm about why he traveled to Syria to fight. Answered: "I was just sick of life in land of kuffar [unbeliever] I knew jihad [holy war] was fard [a duty] and I knew it was the truth when I was young I listened to alot of awlaki I was just not practicing and I was depressed I saw my sisters and brothers being oppressed so I left for shaam [Syria]."
17. Mustakim Jaman ([Daily Mail](#), [News \(Portsmouth\)](#))
 - a. Convicted British facilitator for ISIS who linked to al-Awlaki material on Twitter.
 - b. Anwar al-Awlaki propaganda was found on his electronic devices.
18. Ifthekar Jaman ([BBC News](#))
 - a. Deceased foreign fighter who tweeted al-Awlaki material.
19. Jamshed Javeed ([Telegraph](#))
 - a. British facilitator for ISIS and attempted foreign fighter who was radicalized by al-Awlaki's sermons.
20. Sally Jones ([International Business Times](#), [Middle East Media Research Institute](#))
 - a. Convert to Islam and widow of Junaid Hussain. Syrian-based cheerleader for ISIS who released on Twitter the personal information of the drone operator who killed al-Awlaki.
21. Umm Kulthum ([Guardian](#))
 - a. British schoolgirl in Syria with ISIS who quoted al-Awlaki to a *Guardian* reporter, saying, "The law of Allah should not be voted over."
22. Aqsa Mahmood ([CNN](#))
 - a. Scottish foreign fighter for ISIS who quoted Anwar al-Awlaki on her Tumblr blog.
23. Ednane Mahmood ([Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter sent an al-Awlaki lecture titled *The Dust Will Never Settle Down* to his university friend.
24. Umm Muthanna ([Vice](#))
 - a. British member of ISIS who had a Twitter account devoted to disseminating al-Awlaki's propaganda.

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- b. Tweeted on October 29, 2014: “We will never forget you [Anwar al-Awlaki]! America killed you but you are in highest ranks”
- 25. Hamzah Parvez ([Huffington Post](#))
 - a. British foreign fighter for ISIS who cited al-Awlaki in a YouTube post.
- 26. Richard Reid ([Daily Mail](#))
 - a. British-born “shoe bomber” was reportedly “connected to” al-Awlaki.
- 27. Tareena Shakil ([Daily Mail](#))
 - a. First British women to be convicted of returning from ISIS territory. Had searched for videos of al-Awlaki.
- 28. Tuhin Shehnsha ([News \(Portsmouth\)](#))
 - a. Anwar al-Awlaki propaganda was found on his electronic devices.
- 29. Umm Umar ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Young British girl who immigrated to ISIS territory. When asked about her beliefs, told a reporter from the *Guardian* to read Anwar al-Awlaki’s works.

Major European Extremists:

- 1. Yassin Chouka a.k.a. Abu Ibrahim al Almani + Mounir Chouka a.k.a. Abu Adam ([Long War Journal](#))
 - a. Brothers Adam and al Almani are German jihadists and members of the al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. The men met with al-Awlaki numerous times in Yemen and were instructed to quit Yemen for Afghanistan.
 - b. “During an indescribable adventure in Yemen, we had the honor of meeting one of the true scholars of our time, the Sheikh and the missionary Imam Anwar al Awlaki. We could benefit much from him and spent precious hours with him.” – Abu Ibrahim al Almani
- 2. Mohamed Jarmoune ([European Foundation for Democracy](#))
 - a. Italian jihadist convicted of planning domestic attacks. Posted al-Awlaki’s materials online, and even translated al-Awlaki’s *44 Ways to Support Jihad* into Italian. (p. 55)
- 3. Cherif Kouachi ([Reuters](#), [Guardian](#))
 - a. *Charlie Hebdo* shooter. By Kouachi’s own admission, al-Awlaki had financed his trip to Yemen.
 - b. Reportedly met al-Awlaki in Yemen months before al-Awlaki was killed.
- 4. Said Kouachi ([Guardian](#))
 - a. *Charlie Hebdo* shooter and brother of Cherif Kouachi. Reportedly met al-Awlaki in Yemen months before al-Awlaki was killed.
- 5. Osama Krayem ([Agence France-Presse](#))
 - a. Swedish suspect in the March 22, 2016, ISIS attacks in Brussels. Reportedly inspired by Anwar al-Awlaki’s sermons.