



ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

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

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



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.

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](#) listening to Awlaki’s lectures and poring over directions on making explosives. 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). Awlaki has reportedly inspired Times Square bomber [Faisal Shahzad](#) (2010) as well as [Dzhokhar Tsarnaev](#) of the Boston Marathon bombings (2013), New York/New Jersey bomber [Ahmad Khan Rahami](#) (2016) and Ohio State attacker [Abdul Razak Ali Artan](#) (2016).

Among its [profiles](#) of Americans arrested for attempting to join jihadist groups or carry out domestic attacks, the Counter Extremism Project (CEP) has documented 55 cases in which Awlaki’s radicalizing influence was a key factor. 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, Awlaki’s ideology and lectures continue to influence, propagandize, and incite to violence.**

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

1. Mohammad Abdulazeez ([Combatting Terrorism Center](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Killed four Marines and a Navy sailor at military recruiting stations in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on July 16, 2015.
 - b. Viewed al-Awlaki videos according to investigators.
2. Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif ([U.S. Department of Justice 2013](#), [ABC News](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Plotted to attack a military installation in Seattle, Washington, in June 2011 using grenades and machine guns.
 - b. Posted Anwar al-Awlaki videos to his YouTube channel as well as comments online praising Anwar al-Awlaki.
3. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab ([U.S. Department of Justice 2012](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Attempted to carry out the 2009 Christmas Day bombing attack targeting an aircraft traveling from Amsterdam to Detroit.
 - b. Anwar al-Awlaki directed the 2009 Christmas Day attack, according to the U.S. Justice Department. Abdulmutallab followed Anwar al-Awlaki's teachings online and traveled to Yemen in order to meet with Anwar al-Awlaki in person. Awlaki introduced Abdulmutallab to AQAP bomb-maker Ibrahim al-Asiri and helped Abdulmutallab create a martyrdom video. Anwar al-Awlaki then instructed Abdulmutallab to carry out a terrorist attack on a U.S. airliner over U.S. soil.
4. Mohamed Hamoud Alessa ([New York Times](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Planned to join al-Shabab in Somalia alongside his friend Mohamed Hamoud Alessa.
 - b. Viewed and listened to audio lectures and videos by Anwar al-Awlaki.
5. Sajmir Alimehmeti ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2016](#), [NY Post](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Charged with providing material support to terrorists. Attempted to leave New York to join ISIS in Syria. Target of an FBI sting operation after British authorities previously denied him travel access to the Middle East.
 - b. al-Awlaki lectures were found on his computer including *On the Command of Jihad* and *The Punishment of Those Who Don't Participate in Jihad*, among others
6. Carlos Eduardo Almonte ([New York Times](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Planned to join al-Shabab in Somalia alongside his friend Mohamed Hamoud Alessa.
 - b. Viewed and listened to audio lectures and videos by Anwar al-Awlaki.
7. Abdul Razak Ali Artan ([NBC News](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Drove a car into a crowd of students at Ohio State University on November 28, 2016, before using a butcher knife to stab students, wounding 11 people.
 - b. Referenced Anwar al-Awlaki in a Facebook post prior to the assault.
8. Barry Walter Bujol Jr. ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2012](#), [NBC News](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter and financier: Sentenced to 20 years in federal prison after attempting to join and provide financial assistance to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.
 - b. Allegedly exchanged emails with Anwar al-Awlaki, receiving suggestions on how to raise money for terrorists abroad as well as a document entitled "42 Ways of Supporting Jihad."

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

9. Zachary Chesser ([U.S. Senate, 2012](#), [Washington Post](#), [Komo News](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Chesser is detained at JFK Airport in New York en route to Somalia via Uganda to join al-Shabab. Convicted on charges of attempting to provide material assistance to a terrorist organization. Also convicted of communicating threats against the creators of TV's "South Park," after stating that Matt Stone and Trey Parker "will probably end up like [2004 murder victim] Theo Van Gogh."
 - b. Allegedly emailed with al-Awlaki); Regularly reposted al-Awlaki's videos on his YouTube channel; From Senate report: "[P]osted a video with an al-Aulaqi [al-Awlaki] lecture which called for the assassination of anyone who has 'defamed Mohammad.'"
10. Dayne Atani Christian ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2016](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Arrested at his place of work after expressing an interest to join ISIS abroad. Christian was charged alongside alleged co-conspirators Gregory Hubbard and Darren Arness Jackson with conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS. Christian was also charged with illegal possession of a firearm.
 - b. Allegedly used Anwar al-Awlaki lectures to radicalize an acquaintance.
11. Shannon Maureen Conley ([U.S. Justice Department, 2014](#), [Denver Channel](#), [CNN](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter (/jihadi bride): Arrested at Denver International Airport en route to Turkey to await word from male ISIS contact in Syria. Convicted and sentenced to four years in prison on charges of conspiracy to support ISIS.
 - b. Owned DVDs of al-Awlaki's lectures
12. Christopher Lee Cornell ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [Inquistr](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Accused of attempting to attack the U.S. Capitol in support of ISIS.
 - b. Told FBI informant he got a "thumbs up" from al-Awlaki before al-Awlaki's "martyrdom"
13. Adel Daoud ([U.S. Justice Department, 2013](#), [Chicago Sun-Times](#), [Chicago Recorder](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Pressed the detonator on a fake car bomb that he believed would destroy a bar in downtown Chicago.
 - b. Sent himself emails with "al-Awlaki articles"; Viewed al-Awlaki propaganda on YouTube; Sent an email to an acquaintance that read: "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]."; Sent an acquaintance a video of al-Awlaki's "Hereafter series"; Sent an acquaintance an article written by al-Awlaki titled "44 ways to support jihad"; Watched a video titled "Martyrdom Operations or Suicide Bombings! By Shk Anwar AlAwlaki."
14. Adnan Farah ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [MPR](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Pled guilty to conspiracy to join ISIS. Arrested after signaling desire to join ISIS to an undercover agent.
 - b. Posted photos of al-Awlaki on social media (banner on Facebook)
15. Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [Newsday](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Charged with conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction. Allegedly plotted an attack against a U.S. military base in Afghanistan and assisted in procurement of an improvised explosive device.
 - b. "Frequently viewed" al-Awlaki's videos and lectures online

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

16. Syed Rizwan Farook ([New Yorker](#), [Yahoo News](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Killed 14 people and wounded 22 others in the December 2015 San Bernardino attacks.
 - b. Listened to lectures by Anwar al-Awlaki. In 2007, Farook reportedly introduced his neighbor, Enrique Marquez, to Awlaki's sermons.
17. Daniel Seth Franey ([U.S. Justice Department, 2016](#), [VICE](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: After espousing intent to join ISIS, he was recorded announcing his desire to attack U.S. military base near Seattle, Washington, and to kill U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. Arrested and charged with three counts of unlawful possession of firearms and two counts of unlawful possession of machine guns.
 - b. Praised al-Awlaki as a "scholar" who "speaks the truth"
18. Sebastian Gregerson ([Reuters](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Arrested in August 2016 after discussing plans to attack buildings and law enforcement using explosive devices. Gregerson was charged with illegal purchase of explosives.
 - b. Owned CDs with Anwar al-Awlaki's name on them.
19. Nidal Hasan ([FBI, 2009](#), [Washington Post](#), [Washington Times](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Launched the November 2009 gun attack at an army base in Fort Hood, Texas, killing 13 people and wounding more than 30. After he was convicted and sentenced to death, Hasan wrote a letter to the head of the Islamic State, requesting to become a "citizen" of the terrorist organization.
 - b. Hasan visited al-Awlaki's personal website ; 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.
20. Gregory Hubbard ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2016](#), [Palm Beach Post](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Arrested at Miami International Airport while allegedly en route to join ISIS abroad. Hubbard was charged alongside alleged co-conspirators Dayne Atani Christian and Darren Arness Jackson with conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS.
 - b. Claims to have been radicalized by Anwar al-Awlaki.
21. Mohamed Bailor Jalloh ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2016](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist and attempted financier: Allegedly attempted to provide material support to ISIS, including by assisting in the procurement of weapons and money to be used in terrorist plots.
 - b. Listened to al-Awlaki lectures online while serving in the U.S. National Guard.
22. Asher Abid Khan ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Arrived in Istanbul allegedly en route to join ISIS in Syria. He returned to Texas on instructions from his parents and was charged with conspiracy to support ISIS.

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

- b. Watched al-Awlaki videos on YouTube and sent to friends over messages on social media: The criminal complaint reports: “On or about February 14, 2014, Khan and Individual 1 had the following conversation about a Youtube video.” (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.”)
23. Colleen LaRose ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2010](#), [Newsmax](#))
- a. Financier: Served as an online recruiter and fundraiser for an Ireland-based al-Qaeda cell from her home in Pennsylvania.
 - b. Allegedly listed as a “friend” on a YouTube channel of Anwar al-Awlaki’s sermons.
24. Emanuel L. Lutchman ([flynews24](#), [YouTube](#), [Google Plus](#), [New York Times](#))
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIS after allegedly plotting a machete attack on diners at a New York restaurant.
 - b. Purportedly viewed al-Awlaki videos on his YouTube channel; Purported Google Plus account links to numerous al-Awlaki videos; Lutchman wrote: “My shaykh I love him so much for the sake of Allah only” in reference to al-Awlaki.



**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI



25. Enrique Marquez Jr. ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [New York Times](#), [LA Times](#), [CBS News](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Accused of supplying two guns in the December 2015 San Bernardino attack in which gunmen Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik targeted Farook’s colleagues at a holiday party, killing 14 people and wounding 20 more. Also accused by the FBI of connection to a group of jihadists arrested in 2012 when they attempted to travel to Afghanistan to join al Qaeda.
 - b. Listened to al-Awlaki’s lectures in 2010-2011 and discussed al-Awlaki’s ideology with his co-conspirator, San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook.
26. Antonio Benjamin Martinez ([U.S. Justice Department 2010](#), [New York Times](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: attempted to bomb an armed forces recruiting station in Catonsville, Maryland.
 - b. Praised Anwar al-Awlaki in a meeting with an undercover agent.
27. Shaker Masri ([Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2012](#), [NY Daily News](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Pled guilty to planning to travel to Somalia in 2010 to join al-Shabab.
 - b. Allegedly expressed admiration for Anwar al-Awlaki.
28. Omar Mateen ([Atlantic](#), [ABC News](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Murdered 49 people and wounded 53 more at Pulse nightclub in Orlando
 - b. Had previously mentioned al-Awlaki’s “recruitment videos,” according to one witness in a July 2014 FBI investigation.
29. Akram I. Musleh ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2016](#), [IndyStar](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Accused of providing material support to a terrorist group. Arrested at the Greyhound station in Indianapolis after allegedly planning to travel to New York and then on to ISIS-controlled territory in Libya. He also had an online conversation with a suspected ISIS member, according to court documents.
 - b. Uploaded three al-Awlaki videos to YouTube using the handle “akram165” before being monitored by the FBI; Admitted that family members had recommended he watch Anwar al-Awlaki videos; Claimed he knew al-Awlaki’s “history” but watched

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

the videos to learn about the history of Islam ; His luggage—searched by the FBI— contained a journal with quotes by Anwar al-Awlaki ; His phone contained a collection of audio files labeled “Anwar Al-Awlaki\All Of The Lectures From The Best Scholar Ever”

30. Terrence McNeil ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [Guardian](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist and inciter to violence: Accused on charges of solicitation of a crime of violence. Pledged allegiance to ISIS on Twitter before soliciting the murder of U.S. service members and publishing names and addresses of 100 such personnel online.
 - b. According to the criminal complaint filed against him, McNeil operated a Tumblr blog at <https://abu-fil.tumblr.com> (now suspended) According to the *Guardian*, the account user of a Tumblr blog believed to be McNeil’s often posted al-Awlaki’s sermons.
31. Farooq Mohammed ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [Blade](#))
 - a. Financier: Allegedly co-conspired with Sultane Room Salim, Asif Ahmed Salim, and brother Ibrahim Mohammed to provide material support to al-Qaeda and its Yemeni and Somali affiliates. Once in prison, Farooq was indicted for attempted first-degree murder of a federal officer and solicitation to commit a crime of violence.
 - b. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki.
32. Ibrahim Mohammed, a.k.a. Ibrahim Zubair Mohammed ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [Blade](#))
 - a. Allegedly co-conspired with Sultane Room Salim, Asif Ahmed Salim, and brother Farooq Mohammed of providing material support to al-Qaeda and its Yemeni and Somali affiliates. According to court documents Ibrahim and his brother Farooq also stand accused of opening credit cards and withdrawing money with no intention of repaying the amounts to their respective financial institutions.
 - b. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki
33. Jesse Curtis Morton a.k.a. Younus Abdullah Mohammad ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2015](#))
 - a. Propagandist: Accused of soliciting the murder of three specific Americans who he allegedly “marked for death” through his pro-jihadist terrorist website.
 - b. Founded the website “Revolution Muslim” on which he espoused al-Awlaki’s ideology ; Posted a message from al-Awlaki calling for the assassination of an unnamed artist who had drawn the Islamic prophet Mohammad ; On “multiple occasions” posted speeches by al-Awlaki that justified the killing of those who insult the prophet Mohammad.
34. Minh Quang Pham ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2015](#), [New York Times](#), [U.S. Department of Justice 2016](#), [NBC News](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: After traveling to Yemen to receive terrorist training, he plotted an attack on London’s Heathrow airport on behalf of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.
 - b. Accepted a suicide mission from al-Awlaki; Received explosives training from al-Awlaki
35. Jose Pimentel ([Criminal Court of the City of New York, 2011](#), [New York Times](#))

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Arrested in his Bronx home in November 2011 while in possession of a homemade explosive device that, by Pimentel’s account, was one hour away from completion.
 - b. Told a police informant of his intention to kill Americans in retaliation for the murder of Anwar al-Awlaki.
36. Tairod Nathan Webster Pugh ([ADL](#), [Buzzfeed](#), [CNN](#))
- a. Attempted foreign fighter: Convicted on charges of lending material assistance to ISIS. Traveled from Egypt to Turkey in an attempt to cross into Syria to join the terrorist group. In a letter from Turkey, he pledged to “establish and defend the Islamic State.”
 - b. Posted al-Awlaki’s quotes on social media



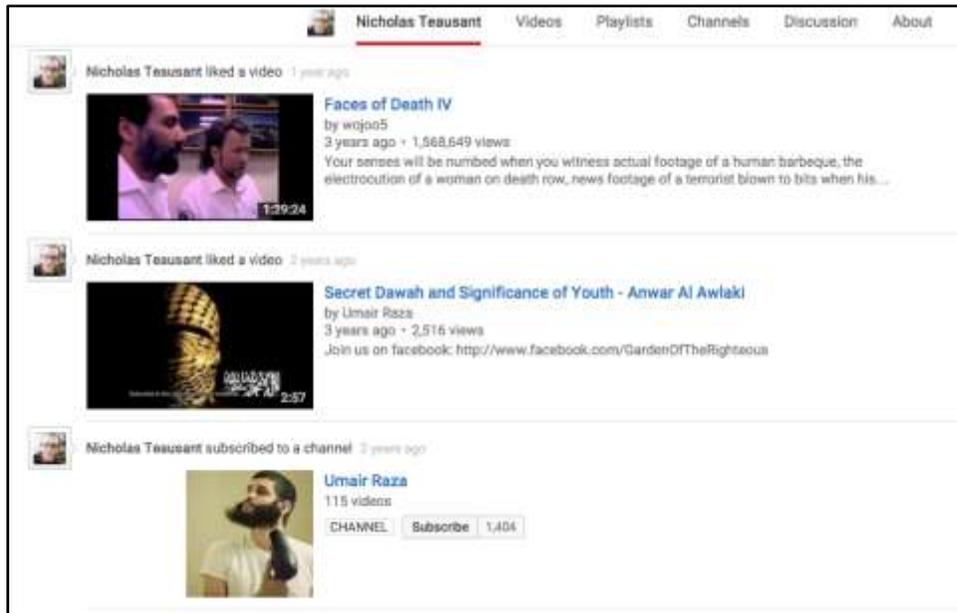
37. Ahmad Khan Rahami ([New York Times](#), [CNN](#))
- a. Domestic terrorist: Suspected of planting four bombs and injuring 31 people over the course of three days in September 2016.
 - b. Owned a notebook that referenced Anwar al-Awlaki.
38. Paul Rockwood ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2010](#))
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Allegedly sought to target U.S. servicemen in retaliation for the death of Anwar al-Awlaki. Rockwood was sentenced in August 2010 on charges of making a false statement to the FBI during a terrorism investigation.
 - b. Became a proponent of Anwar al-Awlaki’s ideology in the early 2000s, later planning to attack targets in the United States in retaliation for Anwar al-Awlaki’s death.
39. Alaa Saadeh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015](#), [CBS](#))

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

- a. Attempted foreign fighter: Pled guilty to providing material support for terrorism. Was detained in Jordan en route to join ISIS in Syria.
 - b. Refers to an unspecified “web page” where he viewed al-Awlaki’s lectures
40. Nader Saadeh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015, NJ.com](#))
- a. Attempted foreign fighter: Pled guilty to providing material support for ISIS by plotting to attack New York landmarks, including Times Square and the World Trade Center.
 - b. Said that America should “burn” for killing al-Awlaki; Watched al-Awlaki videos on a “web page”
41. Munther Omar Saleh ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015, NY Daily News](#))
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Charged for conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS by allegedly seeking to procure a pressure cooker bomb on the model of the 2013 Boston Marathon attack. He is suspected of targeting tourist areas of New York City.
 - b. 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.”
42. Asif Ahmed Salim ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015, The Blade](#))
- a. Financier: Former student at Ohio State University allegedly co-conspired with Ibrahim Mohammed, Yafooq Mohammed, and brother Sultane Room Salim to provide material support to al-Qaeda and its Yemeni and Somali affiliates. Launched efforts to raise money by selling CDs of jihadist sermons.
 - b. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki.
43. Sultane Room Salim ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015, The Blade](#))
- a. Financier: Allegedly co-conspired with Ibrahim Mohammed, Yafooq Mohammed, and brother Asif Ahmed Salim to provide material support to al-Qaeda and its Yemeni and Somali affiliates. Launched efforts to raise money by selling CDs of jihadist sermons.
 - b. Attempted to provide material support and resources to al-Awlaki.
44. Faisal Shahzad ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2010, New York Times](#))
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Attempted to carry out the May 1, 2010, bombing in Times Square, New York.
 - b. Inspired by Anwar al-Awlaki’s rhetoric, according to a U.S. official.
45. Abdel Hameed Shehadeh ([U.S. Justice Department 2013, New York Times](#))
- a. Attempted foreign fighter: denied entry into Pakistan after flying there from the United States in order to join a jihadist group in June 2008.
 - b. Maintained personal websites that glorified Anwar al-Awlaki.
46. Elton Simpson ([Combatting Terrorism Center](#))
- a. Domestic terrorist: Launched May 3, 2015, attack targeting a Draw Muhammad contest in Garland, Texas. Shot dead by police along with his accomplice, Nadir Soofi.
 - b. Used al-Awlaki’s portrait as his profile picture on Twitter.
47. Asia Siddiqui ([U.S. Justice Department, 2015, CBS](#))
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Pled not guilty to conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction in New York. A search of her home yielded three gas tanks, a pressure cooker, fertilizer, handwritten notes on the recipes for bomb making and jihadist literature, according to court papers.

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

- b. Published a poem in AQAP’s magazine, *Inspire*, which al-Awlaki co-founded and in which he was regularly featured
48. Nadir Soofi ([Combatting Terrorism Center](#))
- a. Domestic terrorist: Launched May 3, 2015, attack targeting a Draw Muhammad contest in Garland, Texas. Shot dead by police along with his accomplice, Elton Simpson.
 - b. Sent al-Awlaki CDs to his mother, who later stated that the drone strike that killed the cleric was “a turning point in her son’s radicalization.”
49. Nicholas Teasant ([U.S. Justice Department, 2014](#), [Sacramento Bee](#))
- a. Attempted foreign fighter: Sentenced to twelve years in prison for trying to join ISIS in 2014. Teasant’s boarded an Amtrak train bound for Seattle as part of his plan to travel to Canada and then on to Syria to join the terrorist group. He was arrested near the Canadian border by federal agents in Blaine, Washington.
 - b. Reportedly read AQAP’s English-language magazine, *Inspire*, which he downloaded to his laptop computer; Watched al-Awkaki’s videos: Purported [YouTube channel](#)



50. Abdella Ahmad Tounisi ([U.S. Justice Department, 2013](#), [Chicago Tribune](#))
- a. Attempted foreign fighter: Pled guilty to one count of attempting to provide material support to the Nusra Front, at the time al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Syria. Arrested at O’Hare International airport en route to Syria.
 - b. Viewed al-Awlaki propaganda on YouTube
51. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev ([U.S. Justice Department, 2013](#), [New York Times](#), [CNN](#), [New York Times](#))
- a. Domestic terrorist: Convicted and sentenced to death for plotting and executing the bombing of the 2013 Boston Marathon, killing three people and injuring more than 250 others.
 - 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

**COUNTER
EXTREMISM
PROJECT**

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

Supporters Instead Of Allah, His Messenger And The Believers” with a forward by Anwar al-Awlaki; Downloaded Volume One of al-Awlaki’s *Inspire*, which includes bomb-building instructions; 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”; Al-Awlaki’s YouTube videos were found on Dzhokhar’s—and his brother Tamerlan’s—electronic devices.

52. Joshua Ray Van Haften ([U.S. Justice Department, 2014](#), [Huffington Post](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Taken into custody at Chicago O’Hare airport on April 8, 2015, and charged in the United States with attempting to provide “material support and resources” to a terrorist group, ISIS.
 - b. Posted al-Awlaki videos on Facebook
53. Bryant Neal Vinas ([U.S. Justice Department, 2009](#), [NYPD](#), [CBS](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: participated in al-Qaeda attacks against U.S. Army bases in Afghanistan in 2008.
 - b. Claims to have become radicalized after hearing Anwar al-Awlaki’s lectures.
54. Abdirizak Mohaivied Warsame ([MPR News](#), [International Business Times](#))
 - a. Financier and propagandist: Pled guilty to one count of plotting to provide material support and resources to ISIS. Used various social media platforms to broadcast support for ISIS.
 - b. Told the U.S. court that he “used to watch Anwar al-Awlaki lectures a lot.”
55. Najibullah Zazi ([U.S. Department of Justice, 2010](#), [CBS News](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Sought to carry out bomb attacks in New York’s subway system on September 10, 2009. Zazi later pled guilty to conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction in the United States, conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country, and providing material support to al-Qaeda.
 - b. Claimed to have been radicalized from Anwar al-Awlaki’s audio lectures.



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, 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 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 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 Awlaki. Jihadist brothers Yassin and Mounir Chouka, both German citizens, met with 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. **Even in death, al-Awlaki's call to holy war still finds an active following beyond U.S. shores.**

U.K. Extremists:

1. Umm Abbas ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter (/jihadi bride): Young girl who immigrated to ISIS territory via Istanbul. She married an ISIS fighter and claimed that ISIS territory “has the best of men,” she advised other potential jihadi brides.
 - b. When asked about her beliefs, told a reporter from the *Guardian* to read Anwar al-Awlaki’s works.
2. Michael Adebolajo ([Guardian](#), [Independent](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Sentenced to life in prison for killing British soldier Lee Rigby. His junior partner in the attack was Michael Adebowale.
 - b. Al-Awlaki’s sermons and lectures were found at his address.
3. Michael Adebowale ([Guardian](#), [Independent](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist and propagandist: Sentenced to a “45-year life sentence” for killing British soldier Lee Rigby. According to the judge in the case, his “lesser role” in the attack did not call for a full life-term. According to the Rigby family, Adebowale issued extremist messages via Facebook prior to the attack.
 - b. Al-Awlaki’s sermons and lectures were found at his address.
4. Kabir Ahmed ([Newsweek](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Hailed by ISIS as its first British suicide bomber. Killed in a suicide blast that also killed eight police officers in Beiji, Iraq.
 - b. 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](#), [International Business Times](#))
 - a. Former foreign fighter: A former member of multiple jihadist groups returned to the U.K. to run a charity organization.
 - b. 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](#), [Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Found guilty of preparing acts of terrorism on behalf of ISIS. He made two attempts to travel to Syria, first via Amsterdam and a second time via Birmingham Airport in the U.K. Each time he failed to cross into Syria and was arrested on his return to the U.K.
 - b. 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. Foreign fighter: Traveled to Syria to join ISIS, killed in battle with Assad government forces.
 - b. 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](#), [Telegraph](#))
 - a. Propagandist: On trial for promoting support for ISIS, a banned terrorist group. The

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

- charges come in relation to Choudary speeches that appeared on the Internet in alleged violation of U.K. counter-extremism legislation.
- b. Infamous extremist cleric in the U.K. who eulogized al-Awlaki following his death in 2011.
9. Roshonara Choudhry ([Guardian](#), [Guardian](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: British female Islamist who stabbed British MP Stephen Timms in 2010 in an alleged attempt to murder him.
 - b. Radicalized by al-Awlaki's lectures; Downloaded al-Awlaki's "full set" of lectures; Told the *Guardian*'s crime correspondent Vikram Dodd: "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...."; "...[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](#), [ITV News](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Arrested in Istanbul after living in Syria and fighting on behalf of ISIS.
 - b. 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](#), [BBC News](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Traveled abroad to fight in Syria with ISIS and Somalia with al-Shabab.
 - b. British fighter with ISIS who was reportedly radicalized by listening to al-Awlaki lectures online.
 12. Tarik Hassane ([Sun](#), [Daily Mail](#))
 - a. ISIS-directed plot to kill British police and soldiers in drive-by shootings. He identified Shepherd's Bush police station and the Parachute Regiment Territorial Army Barracks at White City as possible targets. Attempted attack after pledging allegiance to ISIS.
 - b. Urged his followers on social media to listen to al-Awlaki's sermons.
 13. Junaid Hussain ([5 Pillars](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Deceased ISIS hacker who was married to Sally Jones. Killed in an August 2015 U.S. drone strike after directing a series of terrorist plots against Western targets, including the U.S. and the U.K.
 - b. 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..."
 14. Omar Hussain ([BBC News](#), [Telegraph & Argus](#), [Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter and propagandist: Operating in Syria and encouraging more recruits to ISIS via social media, especially Twitter.
 - b. British-born fighter for ISIS who referred to himself as Anwar al-Awlaki in an interview.
 15. Ismail Jabbar ([Daily Mail](#), [Yahoo News](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Believed to be fighting with ISIS in Syria.
 - b. British fighter for ISIS who listened to al-Awlaki's sermons. Was asked on social media platform Ask.fm about why he traveled to Syria to fight. He answered: "I was

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

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].”

16. Mustakim Jaman ([Daily Mail](#), [News \(Portsmouth\)](#), [BBC News](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter and financier: Preparing terrorist attacks and allowed bank accounts to be used to transfer money for terrorist purposes.
 - b. Convicted British facilitator for ISIS who linked to al-Awlaki material on Twitter; Anwar al-Awlaki propaganda was found on his electronic devices.
17. Ifthekar Jaman ([BBC News](#), [Telegraph](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter and propagandist: Killed in the battle of Deir al-Zour after joining ISIS in Syria.
 - b. Deceased fighter who tweeted al-Awlaki material.
18. Jamshed Javeed ([Telegraph](#), [BBC News](#))
 - a. Attempted foreign fighter: Sentenced to six years in prison for preparing to join ISIS along with six other men from Manchester, U.K. Thwarted in attempt to join ISIS in Syria by his wife who hid his passport.
 - b. Reportedly radicalized by al-Awlaki’s sermons.
19. Sally Jones ([International Business Times](#), [Middle East Media Research Institute](#), [Independent](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter (/jihadi bride) and propagandist: Convert to Islam and widow of Junaid Hussain, ISIS’s chief hacker. Believed to be in Raqqa, Syria issuing regular threats against U.K. and U.S. interests, including the October 2015 exposure of one of the Navy Seals who killed al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden and the May 2016 terror threat against London.
 - b. Syrian-based cheerleader for ISIS who in October 2015 released on Twitter the personal information of the drone operator who killed al-Awlaki.
20. Rajib Karim ([Jamestown Foundation](#), [Guardian](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Found guilty on charges of conspiracy to bomb U.S.-bound planes departing from the U.K.
 - b. Domestic terrorist who reportedly communicated via email with Anwar al-Awlaki; Reportedly introduced to al-Awlaki by his brother Tehzeeb, who had reportedly travelled to Yemen from Bangladesh to meet Awlaki in person; Received email from al-Awlaki stating, “my advice to you is to remain in your current position...I pray that Allah may grant us a breakthrough through you [to find] limitations and cracks in airport security systems.”
21. Umm Kulthum ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter (/jihadi bride) and propagandist: British schoolgirl in Syria with ISIS who shared pictures of ISIS fighters with guns.
 - b. Quoted al-Awlaki to a *Guardian* reporter, saying, “The law of Allah should not be voted over.”
22. Aqsa Mahmood ([CNN](#), [Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter (/jihadi bride) and propagandist: Believed to be in Syria after leaving Scotland to marry an ISIS fighter. Used social media to promote the terrorist group’s ideology and call for attacks against the West.

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

- b. Quoted Anwar al-Awlaki on her Tumblr blog.
- 23. Ednane Mahmood ([Daily Mail](#), [Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Sentenced to four years in prison for conspiracy to join ISIS. He took a flight from Manchester Airport to Bulgaria with hopes of fighting for ISIS, but returned to the U.K.
 - b. Foreign fighter sent an al-Awlaki lecture titled *The Dust Will Never Settle Down* to his university friend.
- 24. Umm Muthanna ([Vice](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Believed to be fighting on behalf of ISIS in Syria.
 - b. British member of ISIS who had a Twitter account devoted to disseminating al-Awlaki's propaganda; 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](#), [Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Believed to be fighting on behalf of ISIS in Syria and Iraq.
 - b. Cited al-Awlaki in a YouTube post.
- 26. Richard Reid ([Daily Mail](#), [NBC](#))
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Serving a life sentence in prison for December 2001 attempt to destroy a passenger airliner from Paris to Miami by means of a shoe bomb. Thwarted by alert passengers.
 - b. Reportedly "connected to" al-Awlaki.
- 27. Tareena Shakil ([Daily Mail](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: First British woman to be convicted after returning from ISIS territory. Traveled to Turkey and secretly fled across the border to Raqqa, Syria.
 - b. Had searched for videos of al-Awlaki.
- 28. Tuhin Shehnsha ([News \(Portsmouth\)](#), [BBC News](#))
 - a. Financier and attempted foreign fighter: Sentenced to six years in prison for preparing terrorist attacks and supplying funds to other ISIS sympathizers.
 - b. Anwar al-Awlaki propaganda was found on his electronic devices.
- 29. Umm Umar ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter (/jihadi bride): Young girl who immigrated to ISIS territory from the U.K. Married a British ISIS fighter who was later killed.
 - b. When asked about her beliefs, told a *Guardian* reporter 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](#), [Der Spiegel](#), [Combatting Terrorism Center](#))
 - a. Foreign fighter: Reportedly killed in detention in Iran after traveling to join the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, originally an al Qaeda-affiliated group that has since pledged allegiance to ISIS.
 - b. 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; "During an

ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

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. Attempted domestic terrorist: Italian jihadist convicted of planning domestic attacks targeting Milan’s Jewish community.
 - b. 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. Domestic terrorist: Killed in a police raid after participating in the November 2015 Paris attack on *Charlie Hebdo*.
 - b. By Kouachi’s own admission, al-Awlaki had financed his trip to Yemen; Reportedly met al-Awlaki in Yemen months before al-Awlaki was killed.
4. Said Kouachi ([Guardian](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Killed in a police raid after participating in the November 2015 Paris attack on *Charlie Hebdo*.
 - b. Reportedly met al-Awlaki in Yemen months before al-Awlaki was killed.
5. Osama Krayem ([Agence France-Presse](#), [Guardian](#))
 - a. Domestic terrorist: Swedish national charged in connection with the March 2016 Brussels bombings as well as the November 2015 Paris attacks. His fingerprints were found at homes used to plot the attacks.
 - b. Reportedly inspired by Anwar al-Awlaki’s sermons.