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**HEADLINE:** Drone kills US-born preacher who inspired the lone wolf terrorists;  
The death of Awlaki

**BYLINE:** Damien McElroy; Adrian Blomfield; Nasser Arrabyee

**BODY:**

AN American drone strike in Yemen killed al-Qaeda's propagandist and other leaders of its Arabian operations yesterday, dealing a massive blow to the branch of the terrorist organisation regarded as the greatest threat to Western security.

The deaths of Anwar al-Awlaki, Samir Khan and three senior associates were hailed by Barack Obama as a "major blow" to al-Qaeda's most active affiliate since the killing of Osama bin Laden and several other figures in the group's core.

"This is another significant milestone in the broader effort to defeat al-Qaeda," he said.

Awlaki "repeatedly called on individuals in the United States and around the globe to kill innocent men, women and children to advance a murderous agenda", he said.

The US president said America had worked with Yemen for a long time tracking Awlaki, but declined to comment on his role in the killing of the Americanborn militant.

Five bodies were recovered from the site and Western officials believe al-Qaeda's master bomb-maker in the Arabian Peninsula may also have been killed.

Awlaki, 40, was the first American citizen targeted by his own government in the absence of criminal charges.

As a charismatic spokesman for the terrorists who spoke fluent English, he inspired attacks against the West by encouraging "lone wolf" operators.

He was killed by a Hellfire missile fired from an unmanned drone while travelling with other terrorists near Khasaf, a desert town in Jawf province, 87 miles east of the capital Sana'a.

Samir Khan, an American citizen of Pakistani origin who edited al-Qaeda's online magazine Inspire, was described as "irreplaceable" in the short term.

Reports last night said the bomb maker Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri was also killed in the vehicle. If confirmed, it would mean the foreign operations of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) had been wiped out.

American officials said the strike was the product of a "joint intelligence operation" with the Yemeni government, which exerts only partial control over the tribal hinterland outside Sana'a.

There were suggestions that Awlaki had moved to a new region and informants provided the crucial intelligence. Officials in Washington said there had been a round-the-clock surveillance operation on Awlaki since a drone strike missed its target recently.

After his vehicle "drove through" a strike in September, a team drawn up from the CIA and the Joint Special Operations Command had followed him.

The same officials that planned and carried out the attack on Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, were involved in tracking and closing in on the AQAP leadership. One tribal chief in the area said US aircraft had been patrolling Marib for the past few days.

One witness said Awlaki and his associates had been eating dates on a break in the journey just before the attack.

"US planes have been overhead for days now," a resident said. "Then this morning at about 9:30 what appeared to be a US aircraft fired on the two cars Awlaki and his fellow operatives are believed to have been travelling in."

American politicians united to celebrate the death of the "American jihadist" who posed a unique challenge to the place of his birth.

"For the past several years, Awlaki has been more dangerous even than Osama bin Laden had been," said Peter King, Republican House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee Chairman.

"The killing of Awlaki is a tremendous tribute to President Obama and the men and women of our intelligence community."

Mr Obama authorised the US military to target Awlaki last year, a controversial and legally fraught move in light of his American citizenship.

Awlaki inspired several attacks, including the 2009 Christmas underwear bomber, an attack in Fort Hood military base by a US army major and the stabbing of Stephen Timms, the MP for East Ham.

Members of his former mosque in Virginia said Awlaki appeared to have embraced al-Qaeda while he lived in Britain between 2003 and 2006 before moving to Yemen.

Ron Paul, a Republican presidential candidate, said the execution of an American citizen on the battlefield set a bad precedent.

One official said Awlaki was involved in the printer bomb packages found at East Midlands airport last year.

The Yemeni terrorist group had developed bombs that contained no metal and were so hard to detect that police missed the material on first inspection.

To distract police, Awlaki put a copy of Great Expectations in the packages. His fingerprints were found on the book.

Nigel Inkster, a former deputy head of MI6, said Awlaki "was the ideologue of al-Qaeda".

"He was very influential because he able to groom and animate so many," he said.

"While everyone else in al-Qaeda was dumbstruck by the Arab Spring, he was the one person able to embrace the tsunami that hit the region."

Awlaki's family is well known in Yemen and his father is a former agriculture minister.

Lawyers for Nasser al-Awlaki last year petitioned an American judge for an injunction against the kill order but the case was dismissed.

Awlaki is a former imam of mosques frequented by September 11 hijackers in Denver, San Diego and Virginia.

Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Centre in Virginia where he preached condemned Awlaki's death.

"We have rejected the use of extrajudicial assassination of any human being and especially an American citizen which includes Awlaki," it said.

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**SECTION:** NEWS ; ZONE C; Pg. 12

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**HEADLINE:** 4th citizen casualty left U.S. in '08 \ Jude Kenan Mohammad's journey from Raleigh, N.C., to Pakistan is the tale of a young Muslim, disillusioned in America, who friends say became radicalized

**BYLINE:** By Shashank Bengali, Tribune Washington Bureau Tribune Newspapers' Alex Rodriguez in Islamabad contributed.

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**BODY:**

In his early teens, Jude Kenan Mohammad was a familiar sight in his middle-class section of Raleigh, N.C., riding around on his bike to deliver groceries to elderly Muslim neighbors.

But with an American mother and Pakistani father, Mohammad felt caught between two worlds, friends recalled. As he grew older, the mild-mannered young man criticized the U.S. war in Afghanistan and believed that he was a target for discrimination in post-Sept. 11 America, his friends said.

Weeks before his 20th birthday in 2008, apparently at the urging of a North Carolina man who later pleaded guilty to terrorism charges, Mohammad left Raleigh for Pakistan "to engage in violent jihad," according to a federal indictment.

Three years later, in 2011, he was killed in a U.S. drone strike, Attorney General Eric Holder disclosed this week.

Mohammad is the least well-known of the four American citizens whom the Obama administration on Wednesday acknowledged it had killed in drone attacks overseas since 2009. The others -- radical preacher Anwar al-Awlaki, al-Awlaki's teenage son, Abdulrahman, and alleged al-Qaida propagandist Samir Khan -- were killed in Yemen in 2011 and had been the subject of news reports.

U.S. officials offered few details of his death, saying he was "not specifically targeted."

Family members believe he died in a November 2011 strike that killed at least 12 people in South Waziristan, a Pakistani tribal region on the border with Afghanistan.

Former U.S. officials said that even if Mohammad wasn't the target of the strike, he was of interest to American intelligence because he was believed to have communicated with Muslims in the United States and encouraged them to travel to Pakistan or carry out attacks at home.

In his 2012 book "Hunting in the Shadows," Seth Jones, a RAND Corp. terrorism analyst and former adviser to the U.S. military's special operations command, wrote that U.S. officials believed Mohammad had helped persuade five men from northern Virginia to attempt to wage jihad by traveling to Pakistan, where they were captured in 2009.

Mohammad's journey from an upbringing in Raleigh to Pakistan's insurgent-ridden tribal area is the latest tale of a young Muslim, disillusioned in America, who allegedly sought comfort in violent extremism. His story bears similarities to that of Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the brothers suspected in the Boston bombings.

"He was part of that 9/11 generation," said Khalilah Sabra, an immigration lawyer whose son was friends with Mohammad. "He was sensitive to the Islamophobic remarks and a lot of the religious discrimination that happened after 9/11."

Born in Florida, Mohammad grew up in the Raleigh area with his mother, Elena, who had converted to Islam, and four sisters. His parents divorced when he was young and his father returned to Pakistan, friends said.

After he dropped out of high school and moved in with roommates, he started espousing political views, mainly about the war in Afghanistan.

Friends saw the roots of Mohammad's transformation in his relationship with Daniel Patrick Boyd, a contractor who converted to Islam and took the name Saifullah, meaning "Sword of God." In 2009, Boyd was charged as the ringleader of a group of seven young men, including Mohammad, who were plotting to carry out terrorist attacks overseas.

Sabra last heard from Mohammad in the summer of 2011. He said he had married and was expecting a child. "He said life was difficult there, but he felt happy," she said. "I asked him, 'Are you going to come home?' And he said no."

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**HEADLINE:** THREATS AND RESPONSES: THE TERROR NETWORK;  
Man Believed Slain in Yemen Tied by U.S. To Buffalo Cell

**BYLINE:** By JAMES RISEN with MARC SANTORA

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Nov. 9

**BODY:**

American officials said today that a United States citizen believed to have been killed in Yemen by an American missile was probably the ringleader of a group of six men from the Buffalo area identified by law enforcement officials as a sleeper cell of the Qaeda terrorist network.

One senior government official said that the name of one of those killed in the missile attack -- a name provided by the Yemeni government -- was a known alias of Kamal Derwish, one of two unindicted co-conspirators in the case brought against the six who were charged with providing material support to a terrorist organization.

Officials said Mr. Derwish was believed to be the recruiter of other immigrants living in the upstate New York community of Lackawanna. Officials said Mr. Derwish acted as a mentor to several young men in the immigrant community and enticed them to come to Pakistan for further religious training. Once there, they were sent to guerrilla training camps run by Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, the officials said.

One United States official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said that while it is believed that Mr. Derwish was killed in the attack, the evidence is not conclusive. The missile was fired by an unmanned Predator drone aircraft operated by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The C.I.A. declined to comment.

The missile attack last Sunday destroyed a car carrying a senior leader of Al Qaeda and five others. It was the first time that the C.I.A.'s armed version of the Predator, a drone aircraft used by the military for surveillance, has launched a missile strike against suspected terrorists outside of Afghanistan.

The primary target killed was Qaed Salim Sinan al Harethi, also known as Abu Ali. Earlier this week, Yemen identified one of the other passengers as Ahmed Hijazi. Now, U.S. officials say that name has been used by Mr. Derwish as an alias.

The government official said that clue, along with the belief of some American officials that Mr. Derwish had fled to Yemen and had been in contact with Abu Ali, led them to believe that Mr. Derwish was also killed in the attack. The official said that, before launching the attack, the CIA did not suspect that Mr. Derwish might be in the car. The identification of him as the American citizen killed in the Predator attack was first reported by Newsday.

Administration officials have made it clear, however, that they are not troubled by the fact that Mr. Derwish may have died in the attack, because he was considered a Qaeda operative and therefore a legitimate target.

United States officials today described the 29-year-old Mr. Derwish as a key link between Al Qaeda and the Lackawanna suspects.

In Lackawanna, one young man who asked not to be identified said he knew Mr. Derwish well. "For nearly three years I was his student," he said. He said he frequently saw all of the suspects with Mr. Derwish.

He said Mr. Derwish would often talk about the need for the young men to further their studies of Islam, which he said could best be done by going to Pakistan.

He said that Mr. Derwish typically held discussion groups with many young men in attendance and provided pizza and that Mr. Derwish was more effective at relating to young people than the local imam.

Supporters of those charged in the case have suggested that Mr. Derwish fooled the young men into believing that they were merely furthering their religious studies while he was recruiting them for Al Qaeda.

Munir Mohsin, 33, said he was suspicious of Mr. Derwish. "He wasn't a person like those other guys," he said. "He would stand around and talk to the kids" outside the mosque.

Mr. Derwish's role in persuading the men charged in New York to go to South Asia is likely to figure prominently in their defense. One lawyer who spoke to one of the defendants said today that, "It was clear that he was the one who convinced these guys to go over there."

The lawyer, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Derwish met the men in Karachi and then escorted them to al-Farooq, a Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan.

URL: <http://www.nytimes.com>