

27 MAY 2016

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: LY-708

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Detainee Name:	Ismail Ali Faraj Ali Bakush
Detainee Aliases:	Abu Al-Dhahab Al Khamisi, Abu Ali, Abu-'Ali 'Azzab, Abu Munir, Al-Hajj 'Ali, Al Hajj Munir Al Libi, Ali, Ali Azab, Haj Munir, Ismael al-Libi, Isma'il 'Ali A'zab, Munir, Subhi Bin Jumah Al Nayli
Nationality:	Libyan
Date of Birth:	1 July 1968
Arrival at Guantanamo:	August 2002

Ismail Ali Faraj Ali Bakush (LY-708) was a Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) explosives expert who trained al-Qa'ida members and probably associated with and provided operational support to key al-Qa'ida figures. He has consistently denied his close association with al-Qa'ida and expertise with explosives, and he has presented himself to US interrogators as a low-level fighter.*

LY-708 joined the LIFG and he probably was in Afghanistan from 1991-1994 and again starting in 1998. While a member of that group, he almost certainly plotted to kill Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi. In Afghanistan, he developed close relationships with several al-Qa'ida leaders and provided explosives training to LIFG and al-Qa'ida operatives, including some who later conducted attacks in Kuwait and Morocco. LY-708 fled in early 2002 to Pakistan, where he probably helped al-Qa'ida and LIFG members plan external operations and communicated regularly with prominent al-Qa'ida figures, including possibly Abu Zubaydah (GZ-10016) and probably senior al-Qa'ida leader Abu Faraj al-Libi (LY-10017). Pakistani authorities captured LY-708 in April 2002.

LY-708 has been compliant but uncooperative during his detention at Guantanamo Bay, providing little information of value while outlasting a series of interrogators. He attended interviews regularly until September 2015 but has avoided discussing his ties to al-Qa'ida, which suggests that he wishes to pass his detention in relative comfort and anonymity, confident that the extent of his extremist activity remains unknown to US officials. He has told interrogators that he is not interested in fighting again, but has not renounced extremism. He has expressed frustration over the current civil war in Libya, blaming Egypt and claiming General Haftar is a new dictator like Qadhafi, suggesting he may be motivated to violence if he returned to Libya. LY-708 has not expressed a clear plan for how he would support himself if he left Guantanamo Bay, and he probably would struggle to acclimate to civilian life without substantial assistance.

LY-708's longstanding efforts to conceal the extent of his terrorist activities, as well as his lack of viable avenues to support himself, suggests that he would be likely to reengage in terrorist activity if he were not fully rehabilitated and provided substantial reintegration assistance. Extremist groups probably would find his experience as an explosives and electronics expert and trainer for LIFG valuable. LY-708 has ties to several prominent extremists in Libya.

* The E.O. 13492 Guantanamo Review Task Force's evaluation of LY-708 in 2009 indicated that he was a mid-level LIFG member who fought for the Taliban before 9/11 and possibly acted as an explosives trainer.