

# Zayn Al Ibin Muhammed Husayn

## “Abu Zubaydah”

### ISN 10016



### *Backgrounder*

ISN 10016 Zayn Al Ibin Muhammed Husayn, best known as “Abu Zubaydah” (kunya “Abu Zubaydah,” “Abu Hilal,” “Abu Hajir,” “Abu Munir,” “Abu Zubair,” “Hani,” “Musharif,” “Tariq,” “Muhammad Husayn,” and “Daud”) is a Middle Eastern man claiming Palestinian nationality who is approximately 49 years of age. He was transferred to GTMO custody in September 2006.

The detainee’s initial periodic review occurred on 23AUG2016. The government’s summary was extensive, including his early work in Afghanistan in the 1980s, his participation in attack planning after 2001, his focus on attacking Israel, and his conviction in absentia by the government of Jordan for planning attacks against Israel, Jordan, and the west. The summary also stated that he had been cooperative with the guard staff, debriefers, and educators. His personal representatives have since stressed that ISN 10016 never joined Al Qa’eda and now believes that violence is much less effective than writing in influencing the public.

ISN 10016 has had four file reviews on 29MAR2017, 24JAN2018, 11JUL2018, and 18JAN2019, all determining that “no significant question is raised as to whether the detainee’s continued detention is warranted.” The detainee’s subsequent full review PRB on 4FEB2020 was triggered by process requirements.

He is one of several detainees who underwent the Enhanced Interrogation Techniques (EIT), an ongoing point of contention in the Military Commissions, as some choose to refer to the EITs as torture.

Abu Zubaydah has variously been reported to be mentally ill, sound of mind, highly connected to Al Qaeda leadership, and an independent operator. His pocket litter at the time of his capture running a guesthouse included an extensive diary written in three perspectives and a large number of tapes appearing to take credit for acts of terrorism that had not occurred yet. Dr. Mitchell asserts that the tapes were what landed him in the EIT program<sup>1</sup>; ISN 10016 is reported to have said that *New York Times* articles, the movie “The Report,” and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report all had utilized artistic license in regard to his story.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pages 45-48 of [https://www.mc.mil/Portals/0/pdfs/KSM2/KSM%20II%20\(TRANS27Jan2020-MERGED\)\\_Part2.pdf](https://www.mc.mil/Portals/0/pdfs/KSM2/KSM%20II%20(TRANS27Jan2020-MERGED)_Part2.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Page 1 of [https://www.prs.mil/Portals/60/Documents/ISN10016/SubsequentHearing1/200204\\_U\\_FOUO\\_ISN10016\\_SH1\\_PR\\_PC\\_STATEMENT\\_U\\_PR.pdf](https://www.prs.mil/Portals/60/Documents/ISN10016/SubsequentHearing1/200204_U_FOUO_ISN10016_SH1_PR_PC_STATEMENT_U_PR.pdf)