At the Center of the 9/11 Story

Anwar al Aulaqi, the first and only known American citizen targeted for assassination by the Obama administration, is believed to be "at the center of the 9/11 story."

On March 25, 2010 Harold Hongju Koh, the Legal Adviser to the U.S. Department of State, addressed the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law in Washington, D.C. In his talk entitled, "The Obama Administration and International Law," he attempted to justify the assassination of persons, including American citizens, without any legal process whatsoever.

the United States is in an armed conflict with al-Qaeda . . . in response to the horrific 9/11 attacks . . .

a state that is engaged in an armed conflict . . . is not required to provide targets with legal process before the state may use lethal force.

precision targeting of specific high-level belligerent leaders . . . during an armed conflict is not unlawful, and hence does not constitute "assassination."

Never mind that in 2004 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld* that a U.S. citizen, alleged to be an "enemy combatant," has due process rights. Despite Mr. Koh's claim that such killing is not "assassination," words retain their meaning: assassinate -- to kill by treacherous violence. For example, "a deadly airstrike" on December 24, 2009, which the Yemen Observer said destroyed Mr. Aulaqi's house, reportedly killed more than 30 people (source: Robert Mackey, New York Times).

To the extent that credence is given to Mr. Koh's conclusions, based as they are on the presumptions that designations equal actualities and that suspicion equals guilt, our language becomes defective, our law perverse and our society degenerate.

Two weeks after Mr. Koh's talk the identity of the first United States citizen to be so targeted for killing was reported, first by Reuters, then by the New York Times on April 6, 2010 and in the Washington Post the next day.

The Washington Post

Muslim cleric Aulaqi is 1st U.S. citizen on list of those CIA is allowed to kill

By Greg Miller Washington Post Staff Writer Wednesday, April 7, 2010; A08

A Muslim cleric tied to the attempted bombing of a Detroit-bound airliner has become the first U.S. citizen added to a list of suspected terrorists the CIA is authorized to kill, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Anwar al-Aulaqi, who resides in Yemen, was previously placed on a target list maintained by the U.S. military's

Joint Special Operations Command and has survived at least one strike carried out by Yemeni forces with U.S. assistance against a gathering of suspected al-Qaeda operatives.

Because he is a U.S. citizen, adding Aulaqi to the CIA list required special approval from the White House, officials said. The move means that Aulaqi would be considered a legitimate target not only for a military strike carried out by U.S. and Yemeni forces, but also for lethal CIA operations.

Anwar al Aulaqi is not under indictment, nor otherwise criminally charged. Recently, leaked State Department documents have revealed that the strike (or strikes) was carried out by US forces, <u>not</u> by Yemeni forces. His significance to the 9/11 attack (see next page) was not mentioned.

The staff of the 9/11 Commission conducted an interview with a Passaic County [NJ] detective, who was a member of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force [JTTF]. The detective had investigated the alleged 9/11 hijackers and persons who had facilitated their activities. [Interview with JTTF Member #11, Nov. 6, 2003, 9/11 Commission Staff Memorandum for the Record, t-0148-911MFR-00353]

9/11 Law	Enforcement Privacy MFR04017494
	MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
	Event: Interview of JTTF membe
////	Type of event: Interview
	Dates; November 6, 2003
	Special Access Issues: None
////	Prepared by: Raj De
\\\	Team Number: 1A
// /	Location: FBI, Newark Field Office
1	Participants - Non-Commission: FBI Supervisory Special Agent Hank Allison
	Participants - Commission: Hyon Kim, Raj De
***************************************	INote: EBI requested that the Commission staff interview together with as both were responsible for the investigations of Eyad al-Rababah and Although Commission staff interview these individuals separately, we did not retread over most of the same information that we had discussed during a lengthy interview with brior to meeting with prior to meeting with conducted investigations of subjects Eyad al-Rababah and agreed with earlier assessment that, at the end of the day, they got 90% of the true story from Rababah but that open questions remain. For example, over the course of numerous interviews, Rababah changed his story concerning how he first met hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi and Hanjour (he had initially stated that he met them accidentally at a 7-11 store, but he later admitted meeting them at
	the Dar al-Hijra mosque in Falls Church, VA). Rababah said he had lied at first because he was trying to protect the mosque. believes that Anwar Aulaqi, the Imam at the
Note in the sec	Dar al-Hijra mosque, may have asked him to help the hijackers. ond paragraph (below) from page 3 of the above 9/11 Commission memorandum: that the detective stated "his belie
that Aulaqi was at tl	ne center of the 9/11 story;" the lengthy redaction following that statement; the detective's hesitancy to discuss the
matter any further (eve Hank Allison for "the re	n with the 9/11 Commission staff assigned to investigate the 9/11 plot); and the concern of attendant FBI Special Agen elevant sensitivities."
	9/11 Personal Privacy
•	With respect to also found significant the fact that brochures for the Teterboro aviation school were found in the backseat of his car in New Jersey noted that in addition to there were several other suspicious fringe players in the Paterson neighborhood where the hijackers lived, such a and also noted that a magnet was found on the refrigerator at the 1 Montclair apartment.

Nine years after the fact it was learned, "Al-Qaida operative and American-Muslim cleric Anwar al-Awlaki attended a Pentagon luncheon several months after the 9/11 attacks, Pentagon officials told NBC News on Wednesday," October 20, 2010. Whether due to ignorance or to a "relevant sensitivity" the 9/11 Commission did not report al Aulaqi's Pentagon luncheon in its "authoritative" final report.

At this point

was hesitant to

returned to his belief that Aulagi was at the center of the 9/11 story. He

9/11 Law Enforcement Sensitive

discuss this matter any further and SA Hank Allison requested that we discuss this case at a later time once he had a chance to determine what the relevant sensitivities were.

US Attorney General Eric Holder told ABC News on December 21, 2010 that al Aulaqi is "an extremely dangerous man . . . He would be on the same list with bin Laden . . . He's up there. I don't know whether he's one, two, three, four -- I don't know." When asked whether the United States preferred to kill or to capture and prosecute Aulaqi, Holder replied: "Well, we certainly want to neutralize him. And we will do whatever we can in order to do that." Of course, were he to be killed, his knowledge of the 9/11 attacks would die with him.

Please support a genuine 9/11 investigation and the full, uncensored release of all 9/11-related documents.