

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:32 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fw: CT Raid in alBayda Yemen
Attach: 29-01-17-121934634.jpg; 29-01-17-107807101.jpg

RELEASE IN PART
B6

B6

B6

FYI - from YAU contact.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:17 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: CT Raid in alBayda Yemen

B6

B6

From Embassy contact.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Novak, Joseph L (Jeddah)
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:57 AM
To: [redacted] Khan, Salman; Yemen Affairs Unit DL (Jeddah); James, Christiaan K; Sullivan, Emily G; Godfrey, John T
Subject: Fwd: CT Raid in alBayda Yemen

B6

Please also see information below plus attached photos from local source re media reports on Yemen incident:

From: [redacted]
Date: January 29, 2017 at 5:28:31 PM GMT+3
To: Novak, Joseph L (Jeddah) <NovakJL2@state.gov>
Subject: CT Raid in alBayda Yemen

B6

Hi Joe,

Haynes said we should send reports/reactions to you in his absence. Below is brief on US CT raid reportedly carried out in Yemen yesterday.

Local & social media is reporting that US forces have carried out a raid against alQaeda militants in alBayda governorate last night. Landing in Qaifa Rada'a, US troops reportedly targeted the house of Sheikh Abdul Rauf alDhab, who was killed along with his brother and all his family members in addition to the Sheikh Saif alNims and other gunmen whom were nearby.

Conflicting reports put civilian casualties between 10 and 16, with claims that women and children were

killed in raid including Anwar alAwlaki's 8 years old daughter. Two US choppers were also reportedly destroyed in raid where unclear if brought down or crashed due to technical failure.

Alleged pictures of casualties (graphic) and wreckage of choppers are circulating on the Internet and social media (attached in email here), with local calls for revenge. Here's one hashtag picking up momentum now on Twitter #US_terrorism_kills_Yemenis

There's still no official reaction/commentary from Yemen government, political parties, or groups such as the Houthis or AQAP. However, general public reaction on social media is negative due to civilian casualties. Some commentators are sensationalizing by highlighting that the children were not killed by accident/collateral of explosion due to inaccurate bomb, but rather targeted and gunned down by US forces. Example: "Anwar alAwlaki's daughter killed by bullets of US forces in a raid in alBayda"

#اليمن مقتل ابنة أنور العولقي برصاص القوات الأمريكية في عملية الإنزال في البيضاء
<https://twitter.com/hamrinnews/status/825655968780394496>

Will keep you posted if any updates/new developments.

Regards,



B6



RELEASE IN FULL



RELEASE IN FULL

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:36 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: CT Raid in alBayda Yemen
Attach: 29-01-17-121934634.jpg; 29-01-17-107807101.jpg

RELEASE IN PART B6

B6
B6

[redacted] - please see below. V/r [redacted]

B6

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: January 29, 2017 at 11:31:58 AM EST
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fw: CT Raid in alBayda Yemen

B6
B6

FYI - from YAU contact.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:17 AM
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B6
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From Embassy contact.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

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<https://twitter.com/hamrinnews/status/825655968780394496>

Will keep you posted if any updates/new developments.

Regards,



B6



RELEASE IN FULL



RELEASE IN FULL

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:58 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Fw: Yemen Situation Report for January 30, 2017

B6

B6

B6

RELEASE IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

FYI

(SBU) **Yemeni Reaction to U.S. CT Raid:** The Houthi/GPC side has issued a public statement criticizing the U.S. counter-terrorism raid that took place in Yemen on January 29, asserting that the raid was “state terrorism committed by the United States under the pretext of fighting terrorism.” The ROYG has not reacted officially. Most Yemeni media articles have been largely factual, reporting that U.S. forces attacked an Al-Qaida base located in Al-Bayda governorate in eastern Yemen. The news reports accurately relate that multiple Al-Qaida operatives were killed in the fighting, and that one U.S. soldier was killed and several injured, and that an Osprey aircraft was destroyed during the incident (some Yemeni reports, however, claim that several U.S. aircraft were destroyed). News sources are also carrying graphic photos of what appears to be burned out debris in the desert. Some Yemeni news sources and social media are claiming that many civilians were killed in the incident (USG sources cannot confirm these claims). There has been a barrage of criticism of the U.S. raid on social media, mainly focused on the purported deaths of civilians amid the fighting, including the alleged death of the eight year old daughter of Anwar al-Awlaqi (the U.S.-born extremist killed in Yemen via a drone strike in 2011).

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Classified by Director A/GIS/IPS, DoS on 01/30/2017 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on: 01/30/2042

From: Bronson, Karen L (YAU-Jeddah) <bronsonkl2@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:52 AM
To: Bronson, Karen L (YAU-Jeddah)
Cc: Bronson, Karen L (YAU-Jeddah)
Subject: Yemen Situation Report for January 30, 2017

Yemen Situation Report for January 30, 2017

For Official Use Only

(SBU) **Summary:** [Redacted]

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

In the meantime, the Houthi/GPC side has issued a statement criticizing the U.S. counter-terrorism raid that took place in Yemen on January 29. The ROYG has not yet reacted officially. Most Yemeni media articles have been largely factual, reporting that U.S. forces attacked an Al-Qaida base located in Al-Bayda governorate in eastern Yemen. Some Yemeni news sources and social media are claiming that dozens of civilians were killed during the incident (USG sources cannot confirm these claims). In other news, the ROYG has issued its first official reaction to the temporary U.S. visa rules that apply to Yemen and other countries. ROYG Foreign Minister Mikhlaqi sent out two tweets late January 29 in which he expressed his “dissatisfaction” with the U.S. action. [Redacted]

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

Political/Security

(SBU)

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

(SBU)

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

(SBU) **Yemeni Reaction to U.S. CT Raid:** The Houthi/GPC side has issued a public statement criticizing the U.S. counter-terrorism raid that took place in Yemen on January 29, asserting that the raid was “state terrorism committed by the United States under the pretext of fighting terrorism.” The ROYG has not reacted officially. Most Yemeni media articles have been largely factual, reporting that U.S. forces attacked an Al-Qaida base located in Al-Bayda governorate in eastern Yemen. The news reports accurately relate that multiple Al-Qaida operatives were killed in the fighting, and that one U.S. soldier was killed and several injured, and that an Osprey aircraft was destroyed during the incident (some Yemeni reports, however, claim that several U.S. aircraft were destroyed). News sources are also carrying graphic photos of what appears to be burned out debris in the desert. Some Yemeni news sources and social media are claiming that many civilians were killed in the incident (USG sources cannot confirm these claims). There has been a barrage of criticism of the U.S. raid on social media, mainly focused on the purported deaths of civilians amid the fighting, including the alleged death of the eight year old daughter of Anwar al-Awlaqi (the U.S.-born extremist killed in Yemen via a drone strike in 2011).

(SBU) **Further on Reaction to U.S. Travel Announcement:** The ROYG has issued its first official reaction to the temporary U.S. visa rules that apply to Yemen and six other countries per the Executive Order on “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” issued on January 27. [Note: According to the Executive Order, the U.S. will not issue visas to Yemenis for a period of 90 days, except for those traveling for diplomatic or for some other specified reasons.] ROYG Foreign Minister Abdulmalik al-Mikhlaifi sent out two tweets late January 29 in which he expressed his “dissatisfaction” with the U.S. action. Mikhlaifi also asserted that the U.S. action would only support extremists and “plant discord.” Houthi/GPC “foreign ministry” sources in Sanaa have been quoted anonymously as calling the temporary ban “illegal and illegitimate”--see Yemen Situation Report for

January 29. Yemenis on social media continue to criticize the U.S. action in strong terms, and are circulating news articles about Yemenis (placing the spotlight on old women and young children) who have reportedly been prevented from boarding flights to the U.S. at various international airports, including Cairo, Djibouti, and Doha. [Note: The U.S. Embassy premises in Sanaa and the area around it continue to be quiet.]

(SBU)

[Redacted content]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

(SBU) **Working Group to Support DDR in Yemen:** YAU Pol-Mil led a conference call on January 26 for members of the “Working Group to Support Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) in Yemen.” The Working Group includes representatives from the UN OSESGY, YAU, European Union, UK, UNDP, and Germany. Call participants discussed a UN plan to provide a “DDR 101 course to the GCC” to explain the best practices and importance of DDR (Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration) to the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council). The GCC would likely provide substantial funding for DDR programs after a peace accord. The UN has been planning this one- or two-day course since June 2016, and predicts that it will likely take place the first week of March 2017. A State Department CSO-funded DDR Specialist has also drafted a proposed DDR strategy. The Working Group plans to discuss the draft strategy at its next meeting, probably at the end of February or early March.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Paschall, Richard C <PaschallRC@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:15 AM
To: Richards, Marie J <RichardsMJ@state.gov>
Bcc: paschallrc@state.gov
Subject: Re: Yemen

RELEASE IN PART B6

Insights from Monday meetings. They tried to emphasize the positives but the news report citing an unnamed DoD official who said almost everything went wrong from the start is pretty accurate. It's impressive how they adjusted and executed numerous contingencies that had been rehearsed but this was definitely not the way they planned it to go down.

R. Carl Paschall - Deputy Coordinator - Operations & Military Coordination - Counterterrorism Bureau
--sent by mobile device - please excuse typos and brevity--

On Jan 31, 2017, at 13:08, Richards, Marie J <RichardsMJ@state.gov> wrote:

The senior [U.S.] military official said the 8-year-old girl, Nawar al-Awlaki, also known as Nora, was among the noncombatants killed in the raid, which also resulted in the death of several Yemeni women. U.S. officials said some of the women who were killed, however, were combatants and had opened fire on the SEALs as they approached the al Qaeda camp.

Whether or not it's true that there were multiple civilian casualties, including children, the article captures the public affairs fallout from the allegations.

Intentional or not, Greenberg said, the deaths of three al-Awlaki family members will enhance the al Qaeda narrative. She noted that as part of propaganda efforts, terrorist groups have begun to circulate photographs of children reputedly killed by U.S. forces. Photos of Nawar al-Awlaki alive and dead are already circulating widely in Arab media.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula released a statement via online jihadi media referring to the raid as a "massacre," said U.S. troops had fired on women in children "in cold blood," and accused the SEALs of having "no human values."

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Richards, Marie J
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:56 PM
To: [redacted] Siberell, Justin H; CT_Deputies
Cc: [redacted]; Burger, David
Subject: RE: Yemen

B6

No, I was looking at this one:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/seal-american-girl-die-first-trump-era-u-s-military-n714346>

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Richards, Marie J
Cc: [redacted] Burger, David
Subject: Yemen

B6

B6

Per your high side request, did you see this news story?

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/world/middleeast/yemen-raid-women-qaeda.html?_r=0

B6

[redacted]
Near East Unit Chief
Bureau of Counterterrorism – Office of Regional Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Ph: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

B6

B6

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:16 AM
To: [redacted] [redacted]
Subject: FW: AQAP's Portrayal of Women Fighters

B6

B6

[redacted] girl.

RELEASE IN PART
B6

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

B6

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:51 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: AQAP's Portrayal of Women Fighters

B6

B6

Follow up from yesterday. I will see if I can find the Tweet in vernacular.



Elisabeth Kendall @Dr_E_Kendall 2h2 hours ago

More
#AlQaeda wire issues bio of Saudi Irwa Baghdadi, 1 of several women killed in US #Yemen raid. Says she threw grenade at marines & killed 1
0 replies 1 retweet 0 likes
1

[redacted]
Counterterrorism Analyst for the Arabian Peninsula
INR/Terrorism, Narcotics, and Crime (TNC)

B6

B6

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Whiddon, David J <WhiddonDJ@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 12:08 PM
To: Andrews, Timothy D <AndrewsTD@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Tp for Yemen?

RELEASE IN PART B5

Given the last minute reschedule all I asked her for was press guidance. Martin and Paul have confirmed for 1600. I will send out a calendar invite.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Andrews, Timothy D
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:04 PM
To: Whiddon, David J
Subject: RE: Tp for Yemen?

This is so trite...really, all we are saying to ROYG?

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Whiddon, David J
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Sullivan, Emily G
Cc: Andrews, Timothy D
Subject: RE: Tp for Yemen?

Emily,

Thanks for sending. Fortunately, neither this nor the visa issue came up at our meeting. I hope you will be able to join the 1600 meeting today. If not, perhaps Martin can back-brief you.

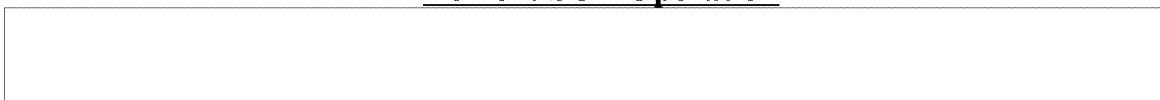
David

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

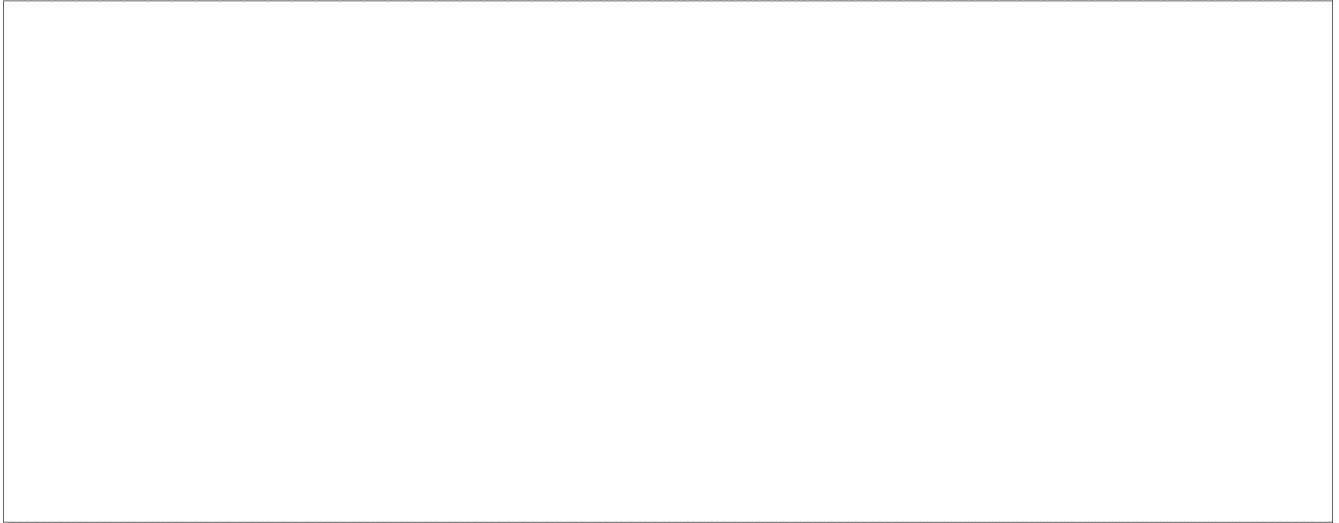
From: Sullivan, Emily G
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:33 AM
To: Whiddon, David J
Subject: FW: Tp for Yemen?

Press guidance on the raid, as requested.

Yemen: SOF Operation



B5



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.