

PBS report: How Al Qaeda Grew in Yemen

May 2012

Quoting Barbara Bodine, U.S. ambassador to Yemen 1997 - 2001

“When I got there in 1997, there was already an Al Qaeda presence. We knew about it. The Yemenis knew about it. Everyone knew about it.

Numbers [are] always impossible to know, but these people were primarily foreign nationals. One of the best ways to describe the presence is that they were largely warehousing lower-level people in peripheral areas.”

My 6-day visit to Taiz, Yemen - September 1997

I was a lone service technician installing printing machinery at a company called ‘YemPak’ - I believe this was an AQ front company warehousing dozens of low level Pakistani nationals – the machine operators I trained were Pakistani and all of the uniformed security guards were too. I was told ‘YemPak’ was short for Yemen/Pakistan. The large new factory building was empty and located inside a secure, defensive compound. Location: 13°35'17.7"N 44°02'00.0"E

I also believe I met KSM there – he was introduced as ‘the Engineer’ (we didn’t speak), and separately I had dinner with a man that four different face recognition programs say is Ramzi bin al-Shibh - the '20th hijacker'. He introduced himself as Youssef.

I can also link YemPak to the HSA group, via the purchase agent Longulf Trading, London - a subsidiary of HSA. HSA is linked to MIGA via a common director - Hayel Saeed Abdul Rahman, who was a charter member in 1984 of a business chamber founded in Lugano, Switzerland, by members of the Muslim Brotherhood - the Malaysian, Swiss Gulf, and African Chamber, or MIGA. Shortly after the September 11, 2001, attacks on America, MIGA was named by the United Nations as a terrorist-financing outfit, and added to the U.N. watch-list of entities belonging to or affiliated with Al Qaeda. MIGA was cleared without explanation in 2007.



I have a LOT more information from my visit – an unscheduled meeting and some very specific conversations. I have already shared this information widely, since April 2015 when I found the photos I had thought lost and I then discovered the corroborating reports. I’ve had no response from security services, press.... anyone.