

## *Appendix A*

### Osama bin Laden's Family: Who Were They? What Happened to Them?

A note about the spelling of the family name: According to Omar bin Laden, his father's name is routinely misspelled, and "Ossama Binladen" is correct. For the sake of ease, however, the decision was made to use the preferred spelling adopted by most of the world's publications, which is Osama bin Laden.

#### *Osama bin Laden's Parents*

ALLIA GHANEM

Osama's mother, Allia, was born in 1943 in Latakia, Syria. After marriage to Mohammed bin Laden in 1956, she moved to Saudi Arabia, where their only child, Osama, was born in Riyadh on February 15, 1957. When Osama was only a year old, Allia became pregnant a second time, but lost the child after a freak accident when she was injured by a faulty wringer-washer machine. Shortly after the miscarriage, Allia asked her husband for a divorce, which was granted. Living in a world where divorced women cannot live alone, Allia married for a second time, to Muhammad al-Attas, a kindly man and respected employee of her former husband's rapidly expanding construction company.

Allia and Muhammad al-Attas became the parents of four children, three sons and a daughter. Osama lived with his mother, stepfather, and four siblings in the Mushraf neighborhood of Jeddah, Sand, Arabin, where he grew up, and where he brought his first cousin and first bride, Najwa.

It is said that Allia, a loving mother, cannot accept the fact her son was involved in the September 11, 2001, attacks. Up until early 2009, Allia and Muhammad resided in the same villa where Osama grew up.

#### MUHAMMAD AL-ATTAS

Osama's stepfather is of an old Jeddah merchant family. Omar says that his step-grandfather is a gentle and kind man, loved and respected by all who know him, including his stepson, Osama.

#### MOHAMMED BIN LADEN

Although there are no official birth records, it is believed that Osama bin Laden's father was born between 1906 and 1908 in Rubat, Hadramaut, located in southeastern Yemen. After Mohammed's father died unexpectedly, he traveled with his younger brother, Abdullah, to seek employment outside Yemen. After a series of misadventures, the two brothers settled in Saudi Arabia, where Mohammed won the trust of the first king of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz al-Saud, for his work on various construction projects. With the backing of the king, Mohammed soon formed the Saudi bin Laden Group, which grew to be one of the largest companies in Saudi Arabia. Later the company spread into other countries in the region. The increasingly prosperous Mohammed bin Laden married many women and became the father of numerous children, twenty-two sons and thirty-three daughters. Omar says that his father is the eighteenth of the twenty-two sons. Mohammed bin Laden died in 1967 as a result of injuries sustained in an airplane crash.

### *Wives*

#### NAJWA GHANEM, MARRIED IN 1974

Najwa Ghanem was born in 1958 in Latakia, Syria, to Ibrahim and Nabeeha. Ibrahim married five times before marrying Nabeeha, but his were monogamous marriages. He had only one son from his previous marriages, a boy named Ali. Nabeeha was his sixth and final wife. Ibrahim and Nabeeha were the parents of five children, born in this order: Naji, Najwa, Nabeel, Ahmed, and Leila. Najwa married her seventeen-year-old cousin Osama in 1974 when she was fifteen. After four or five months, Osama, Allia, and Muhammad al-

Attas traveled to Syria to escort Najwa to her new home in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Ibrahim went with his daughter and remained in Jeddah for a visit.

Najwa and Osama became the parents of eleven children. Najwa moved with her husband from Saudi Arabia to Sudan, and then to Afghanistan. Between September 7 and 9, 2001, Najwa left Afghanistan for good. She now lives with her family in Syria. Her son Abdul Rahman and her two youngest daughters live with her.

#### KHADIJAH SHARIF, MARRIED IN 1983

Nine years older than her ex-husband, Osama, Khadijah's is from a family descended from the Prophet. A highly educated woman, she had worked as a teacher before marrying Osama bin Laden. After giving birth to three children, and while living in Sudan, she divorced her husband and returned to live in Saudi Arabia where she still lives. Her eldest son, Ali, is in prison in Saudi Arabia, having been sentenced to fifteen years for allegedly possessing an illegal weapon.

#### KHAIRIAH SABAR, MARRIED IN 1985

Khairiah's family is also descended from the Prophet. Educated to teach deaf-mute children, Khairiah became Osama's third wife after Najwa arranged the marriage. The mother of one son, Hamza, Khairiah remained in Afghanistan with her husband after the events of September 11, 2001. No one knows if Khairiah and her son survived the American bombing attacks in October and November of 2001.

#### SIHAM SABAR, MARRIED IN 1987

Siham's family is also descended from the Prophet. She is Osama's fourth wife and the mother of four children. She remained in Afghanistan with her husband and children after the events of September 11, 2001. No one knows if Siham and her four children survived the U.S. retaliatory strikes that followed.

#### FIFTH MARRIAGE (ANNULLED)

Osama's fifth marriage was held in Khartoum, Sudan, shortly after his second wife divorced him and returned to Saudi Arabia. However, according to Najwa bin Laden, this fifth marriage remained unconsummated and was annulled within forty-eight hours.

AMAL AL-SADAH, MARRIED IN LATE 2000 OR EARLY 2001

Dismissing the marriage that was annulled, Amal is Osama's fifth wife and bore him one daughter, named Safia. No one knows if Amal and her child returned to Yemen after September 11, 2001, or if they remained in Afghanistan during the American bombings.

*Children with First Wife, Najwa Ghanem*

ABDULLAH

Najwa's first child and eldest son was born in Jeddah in 1976. As the eldest son, Abdullah held the most honored position of all the children of Osama bin Laden. When he became a teenager, Abdullah began to speak his opinion on matters affecting the family. Abdullah left the family in Khartoum in 1995 when he traveled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to marry his cousin, Tiayba Mohammed bin Laden. Abdullah chose not to return to Khartoum, instead remaining in Jeddah with his wife and children where he operates a small business. Abdullah lives a quiet life, shunning all publicity, although he remains close to his mother, Najwa, whom he visits in Syria. Abdullah was thirty-three years old in 2009.

ABDUL RAHMAN

Najwa's second child and second son was born in Jeddah in 1978. According to Omar, his brother Abdul Rahman was an exceptional child who had to face unique personal trials. Abdul Rahman departed Afghanistan with his mother in September 2001. Since that time, Abdul Rahman has been unable to reinstate his Saudi nationality and has found it difficult to find employment or to marry without official papers. A talented horseman, Abdul Rahman lives quietly with his mother and two youngest siblings in Latakia, shunning all publicity like his elder brother. Abdul Rahman was thirty-one years old in 2009.

SA'AD

Najwa's third child and third son was born in Jeddah in 1979. A garrulous child, Sa'ad remained overly talkative even as an adult, often exasperating his brothers and other acquaintances. Osama refused permission for Sa'ad, his Sudanese-born wife, or their son, Osama, to leave Afghanistan with Najwa in

2001. Since then, there have been reports that Sa'ad was arrested while traveling through Iran and possibly remains in detention in that country, although there is no solid evidence of his incarceration. There was yet another recent report claiming that Sa'ad had been released and had left Iran, but no one, including Najwa, is certain about the fate of her third-born son. If still alive in 2009, Sa'ad would be thirty years old.

#### OMAR

Najwa's fourth child and fourth son was born in Jeddah in 1981. Omar was the son closest to his mother and the son who most vigorously rebelled against his father and his Jihad. In fact, it has been Omar's dream to counter his father's violent Jihad by organizing a peace movement that will find a better way to solve cultural and religious differences.

After leaving Afghanistan for the final time in 2001, Omar has met many challenges. Although successful in having his Saudi citizenship restored, it has been difficult for Omar to find his place in the business world. Omar married and had one son, Ahmed. When traveling in Egypt, Omar met an Englishwoman, Jane Felix-Browne. The couple fell in love, bringing his first marriage to an end. Since that time, Omar has become even more passionate in calling for an end to violence, longing for the bin Laden name to become linked with peace rather than with terrorism. Wishing to join his wife to live in the United Kingdom, where he believes he will find it easier to form a peace movement, Omar applied for a routine marriage visa. Problems arose, with his visa application determined quest for political asylum. Finally, through the generosity of the government of Qatar, Omar and his wife settled there while waiting for his visa. As of the writing of this book, Omar has returned to Saudi Arabia, the country he most loves. In 2009, Omar was twenty-eight years old.

#### OSMAN

Najwa's fifth child and fifth son was born in 1983 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In 2001 Osman married the daughter of Egyptian Mohammed Shawky al Islambouli, a high-ranking member of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman's al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya group and who was closely affiliated with Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda group. Osman's father-in-law, along with 107 other defendants, had previously been indicted in 1997 by the Egyptian government in the conspiracy to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, as well as other Egyptian leaders. Al-Islambouli's brother, Khalid, was infamous for being the lead assassin of President Sadat on October 6, 1981. Khalid had shouted, "Death to

Pharaoh” as he ran towards Sadat to shoot him. Khalid was arrested and at trial found guilty of the crime and executed the following year, in April 1982. Osama would not allow Osman or his wife to depart Afghanistan with Najwa. Rumors have circulated that Osman escaped Afghanistan during the October/November 2001 bombings by the American government, along with Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, but there is no firm evidence of this. Najwa does not know the fate of her fifth born son or his wife. If still alive in 2009, Osman would be twenty-six-years old.

#### MOHAMMED

Najwa’s sixth child and sixth son was born in 1985 in Jeddah. Omar reports that Mohammed was his father’s second choice for his successor as head of al-Qaeda. (Up until he expressed his disapproval of violence, Omar had been his father’s first choice.) Omar also says that of all his brothers, Mohammed is the only brother possessing some of the qualities necessary to assume an important position in his father’s organization. After marrying the daughter of Abu Hafs in 2000, Mohammed was the most content of the son’s to remain behind with his father. Najwa does not know the fate of her son or of his wife. If still alive in 2009, Mohammed would be twenty-four years old.

#### FATIMA

Najwa’s seventh child and first daughter was born in Medina in 1987. After Omar suggested a groom, Osama then arranged for the marriage of Fatima to a Saudi fighter named Mohammed in 1999 when Fatima was twelve years old. Her husband was killed in the American attacks of October and November 2001. Najwa does not know the fate of her first daughter, although it is believed that she is living in the Pakistani tribal hinterlands near her father. If still alive in 2009, Fatima would be twenty-two years old.

#### IMAN

Najwa’s eighth child and second daughter was born in Jeddah in 1990. Iman was only eleven years old when her mother left Afghanistan on September 9, 2001. Osama refused Najwa’s request that her young daughter leave with her. Najwa does not know the fate of her second daughter, although it is assumed that if Iman survived the bombings of 2001, her father would have arranged her marriage upon the onset of puberty. If she is still alive in 2009, Iman would be nineteen years old, and it is thought that she will most likely be living in Pakistan near her father and, if married, her husband.

## LADIN, ALSO KNOWN AS BAKR

Najwa's ninth child and seventh son was born in 1993 in Jeddah when Najwa left Khartoum to fly to Saudi Arabia especially for his birth. Ladin was only seven years old when Najwa left Afghanistan on September 9, 2001. Osama would not allow Najwa to take her youngest son with her. Najwa does not know the fate of her young son, although it is felt that if Ladin survived the bombings of October 2001, he would be living in Pakistani with his father. If still alive in 2009, Ladin would be sixteen years old.

## RUKHAIYA

Najwa's tenth child and third daughter, Rukhaiya was born in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, in 1997. Because of her extreme youth, Osama allowed Najwa to take Rukhaiya with her to Syria in 1999 when she left to give birth to her eleventh child. Najwa was also allowed to take Rukhaiya with her when she left Afghanistan for the final time on September 9, 2001. Rukhaiya is living with her mother in Syria. She is twelve years old.

## NOUR

Najwa's eleventh child and fourth daughter was born in Latakia, Syria, in 1999. Osama had granted Najwa's request to take Nour, along with her sister Rukhaiya and one brother, Abdul Rahman, when she left Afghanistan in September 2001. Nour is living with her mother in Syria. She is nine years old.

*Children with Second's Wife, Khadijah*

## ALI

Khadijah's first child and first son with Osama was born in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. After Khadijah and Osama divorced, Khadijah left Khartoum and returned to live in Saudi Arabia. Ten-year-old Ali accompanied his mother to Saudi Arabia, but returned the following year for one visit to Khartoum to see his father and half-siblings. A few years ago, Ali was arrested by Saudi security and charged with the illegal possession of a weapon. In 2008, after spending years in prison without trial, Ali sentenced to fifteen years in prison. The family believes Ali to be innocent of any crime. In 2009, Ali will be twenty-three years old.

## AMER

Khadijah's second child and second son with Osama was born in Jeddah in 1990. When Khadijah left Khartoum to return to Saudi Arabia, Amer went with his mother, never seeing his father again. Today Amer is living in Saudi Arabia. In 2009, Amer will be nineteen years old.

## AISHA

Khadijah's third child and first and only daughter with Osama was born in Khartoum, Sudan, in 1992. In 1993, when Khadijah left Khartoum to return to Saudi Arabia, Aisha went with her mother, never seeing her father again. Today Aisha is living in Saudi Arabia. In 2009, Aisha will be fifteen years old.

*Child with third Wife, Khairiah*

## HAMZA

Khairiah's first child and first son with Osama was born in 1989 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. As of 2001, Hamza was Khairiah's only child. Remaining with his mother and father in Afghanistan, it is not known if Hamza survived the American attacks of October and November 2001. In 2008, there was an al-Qaeda audiotape released, crediting Hamza as the speaker. Omar says that the recording was made years before September 11, 2001, when Hamza was still a young boy and Osama asked for volunteers to make the recording. Hamza was the only son who volunteered. If Hamza survived the bombing attacks in 2001, it is believed he would be with his father in the Pakistani tribal areas. If still alive in 2009, Hamza would be twenty years old.

*Children with fourth Wife, Siham*

## KADHIJA

Siham's first child and first daughter with Osama was born in 1988 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. At her 1999 wedding arranged by her father, Kadhija was married to a Saudi al-Qaeda fighter named Abdullah in 1999, when she was only eleven years old. Kadhija remained in Afghanistan with her mother and Siham

and was there during the American bombings of October and November 2001. It is not known if Kadhija survived the attacks, but thought that if she did, Kadhija would be living with her husband and near to her father in Pakistan. If still alive in 2009, Kadhija would be twenty-one years old.

#### KHALID

Siham's second child and first son with Osama was born in 1989 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Little is known about Khalid, although he remained with his mother in Afghanistan. If Khalid survived the 2001 bombing attacks, he would most likely be living with his parents in Pakistan. If still alive in 2009, Khalid would be twenty years old.

#### MIRIAM

Siham's third child and second daughter with Osama was born in 1990 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Born prematurely, and on the same day as Najwa's daughter Iman, Miriam had a challenging early life. Little is known of Miriam other than she remained with her mother in Afghanistan. If Miriam survived the 2001 bombing attacks, her father would have arranged an early marriage to a fighter at her puberty, and probably she would be living today in the Pakistan area with her family. If alive in 2009, Miriam would be nineteen years old.

#### SUMAIYA

Siham's fourth child and third daughter with Osama was born in 1992 in Khartoum, Sudan. Little is known about Sumaiya other than she remained with her mother in Afghanistan. It is believed that her father would have arranged a marriage to one of his fighters at the onset of puberty. If Sumaiya survived the 2001 attacks on Afghanistan, she would probably be living with her family in the Pakistan area. If alive in 2009, Sumaiya would be seventeen years old.

### *Child with Fifth Wife Yemeni Amal al-Sadah*

#### SAFIA

Amal's first child and first daughter with Osama. Although Safia's mother married Osama bin Laden in Kandahar, Afghanistan, prior to Najwa's leaving the country, unlike his other marriages, Najwa knew little of Amal. Today

there is no firm information about Amal al-Sadah or her daughter, Safia. Some reports have Osama sending Amal and Safia back to Yemen and out of danger before the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, while others say that Amal and Safia remained with Osama and his extended family, fleeing Afghanistan into Pakistan. Since Najwa and Omar are no longer in contact with the family, there is no current factual information to report. But if Amal and her child remained in Afghanistan through the bombings and survived the attacks, Safia would be around eight years old in 2009.