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## Biographies of Al-Qaida's "Distinguished Martyrs" in Mesopotamia" (Abu al-Mardiyah al-Yemeni)



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### • Abu al-Mardiyah al-Yemeni

*"This lion of Allah, courageous commander, and loyal warrior, was the bravest Yemeni I have ever seen, nevermind also being the most pleasant-sounding, loyal, patient, and God-fearing. He was the son of good, righteous parents. Do you, my dear brothers, remember the commander and hero Abu Tarek al-Yemeni, whom we have previously mentioned? He was Abu al-Mardiyah's big brother who preceded him in search of jihad and martyrdom. I will never forget the day Abu Tarek was released from jail and was told that his brother had become a mujahid in Iraq. This was following the first battle for Fallujah, during which Abu al-Mardiyah served as one of the commanders and knights and was injured in the process. He arrived on crutches, hobbling about on one foot. I stood by and watched from afar as the two beloved brothers reunite in the land of the jihad. I saw how Abu Tarek ran towards his brother, how tears dripped down their cheeks, and how the kisses on their heads and foreheads spoke volumes. One was put to the divine test by means of imprisonment, while the other was tested through his injuries. The brothers could not speak. Silence was the most sincere, most loyal, and clearest form of expression."*



*"Abu Tarek answered the call of his creator and preceded his brother in becoming a martyr, as we have previously described. Allah left us with his brother so that [Abu al-Mardiyah] would leave his spectacular marks on the land of jihad—and these can be summed up by stating, 'the eyes of the cowards could not rest.' Abu al-Mardiyah came to Iraq a short while before the first series of events in Fallujah began [in early 2004]. He brought with him instructions for the lions of al-Tawheed to deploy throughout the city and guard its entrances. The situation had already started to escalate, and the enemy strengthened its tone and language, were fired up with rage, and issued repeated threats. [But] their words were only met with heroes who did not fear death and who loved freedom... heroes who refused to serve anyone but [Allah], whose banner was, 'No God other than Allah', and whose role model was Allah's messenger Mohammed. I can testify that Abu al-Mardiyah was not only one of them, but furthermore, was among the most prominent."*

*"Abu al-Mardiyah settled in the al-Dubat and Nazzal neighborhoods [of Fallujah]. At that time, he was a quiet man who few would notice or mention. Because he was short and scrawny, people did not make*



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*much of him. Shaykh Abu Anas al-Shami—may Allah have mercy on his soul—once said, ‘You could almost carry him in the palm of your hand.’ You would see a scrawny man and make little of him. Yet, under his clothes, was a lion in waiting.”*

*“Times of hardship separate the men from the boys, create leaders, expose lies, and validate the facts. Indeed, during the first battle in Fallujah, Abu al-Mardiyah placed his arm inside the robe of glory, wore a suit of honor, and made dignity his crown. The lions hid behind him, and the heroes charged ahead after him. One day, a tank rolled in from one of the side streets, and Abu al-Mardiyah emerged to confront it with an RPG. He stood right in front of the tank, twenty meters away, and aimed at it. Allah’s enemies froze motionless, and before the cowards managed to move, his RPG struck the center of its target. It was a display that captivated the mujahideen. It gave them courage, and emboldened them against Allah’s enemies. The lions of al-Tawheed could not possibly have needed people like him any more than during their first real battle with the American cowboys.”*

*“Abu al-Mardiyah put down his launcher, picked up a sniper rifle, and began monitoring and ambushing his adversaries. The Yemenis are renowned for their exceptional sniper abilities. In light of their reputation, I ask Allah that they raise their weapons against their enemy—the enemy of Allah —[President Ali Abdullah] Saleh of Yemen. Allah granted Abu al-Mardiyah great success and he continued to delight and amaze everyone in battle. However, the lion’s most important contribution was his building confidence in his brothers.”*

*“The entire world saw him in an interview conducted by [Lebanese satellite channel] LBC with several mujahideen from Fallujah. Everyone still remembers that short, scrawny young man who was surrounded by a group of his brothers as he stated, ‘We will avenge our brothers who were killed in Chechnya, Afghanistan, and Palestine. We will not forget. I swear by Allah, the one and only, that as long as we are among the living on Earth, we will seek vengeance from them. Even if they leave Iraq and Palestine, we will follow them and destroy them with the power of Allah, not our own. You shall see, Allah willing.’ I can testify that the man kept his word and fulfilled the promise he made to Allah and his messenger. He did not put down his weapon and died embracing it as he answered the call of his creator. Abu Mardia was struck by a sniper’s bullet which prevented him from taking part in the last battle.”*

*“Allah helped him recover after the first events in Fallujah came to an end. He was made responsible for guarding the city’s Al-Naimiyya entrance, and was later assigned responsibility over all southern entrances to the city. The commander was rightfully assigned this difficult task. He moved from one checkpoint to the next as he inspected them and assessed strengths, weaknesses, and preparedness. After all, a battle was*



[Above]: Abu Mardiyah al-Yemeni is interviewed by a reporter from Lebanese satellite channel LBC in Fallujah in mid-2004.



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*right over the horizon. The drums of war were now beating, and the city was bombarded. The heavy bombardment continued almost incessantly for nearly a month's time. The enemies had also started a war of attrition that lasted two months. They tested all of the posts along the frontline. The checkpoints in the Al-Shuhadaa and Al-Naimiyya districts, which were under the command of Abu al-Mardiyah, were the locations of exceptionally fierce battles. The second battle in Fallujah began, and Abu Mardiyah's post was one of the most dangerous and most violent of them all. It was located right by the first entrance to Nazzal from the direction of al-Sinaa, and even more specifically, above the building that was parallel to the al-Khulafa Mosque. The Americans advanced from the direction of al-Dubat and elsewhere and positioned themselves directly in front of them. Abu al-Mardiyah's post was the location of intense battles that claimed the lives of many young men."*

*"When the heavy bombardment of the frontlines began, I ventured over to that post and realized that the situation was very difficult. I tried to help them and lift their spirits as much as I could. I told Abu al-Mardiyah where to go if he wanted to find me. He almost never stopped moving amongst his fellow soldiers and brothers. He never tired, despite the lingering effects of his previous wounds. He still did limp a bit however, and this slowed him down. The snipers deployed themselves right in front of where Abu al-Mardiyah was positioned. The brothers had abandoned the building in front of them and when Abu al-Mardiyah came and saw this he became very angry. He insisted upon going to that building all by himself. His brothers urged him not to go. They told him that the street he would take in order to get to the building was controlled by snipers. He insisted on going and closing off the loophole nonetheless. As soon as he left, a sniper shot him in the leg, in the same place as his previous injury. He fell on his face and began crawling back over to the brothers. He said, 'Now, I have been forgiven by Allah.' He did not moan or complain. Instead, he emboldened his brothers and bandaged his wound. Finally, the enemies stormed into the Nazzal neighborhood. Abu al-Mardiyah and I were on the move and we passed from one house to the next and went over one wall after the other. I am sure, my brother, that you can imagine how painful it was for the wounded to be moving around."*

*"We finally settled in a house with a number of wounded brothers. Bulldozers then began demolishing the homes [around us]. My brothers and I rushed to help them move to a safer house. Eventually, it was only me and one other brother [left] and so we did not manage to make it over [in time], and the bulldozers started crashing down the house on top of us. At the last moment, blessed Allah saved us all. Abu al-Mardiyah stayed behind with another group of brothers. Several brothers crossed over from one of the houses when all of a sudden an F-16 bombed the brothers who stayed behind in the house that was targeted. Among them was the hero, commander, and courageous martyr Abu al-Mardiyah. I can testify, in the name of Allah, that I never heard any groaning or moaning from him. I only saw fortitude, patience, and remarkable firmness. I can still see the wide smile and laughter on his face, and I can still hear his pleasant voice singing to his brothers from time to time. How could it be otherwise when he was one of the most pleasant-voiced of the [foreign fighters] who narrated much of the film 'Winds of Victory.'"*

*"I apologize, my brother, for forgetting to mention two important things from the man's eventful life. The first thing was that on his way to Iraq through Syria, he was arrested for a long time and was later released under the condition that he would leave Syria. Allah blessed him and eventually enabled him to enter Iraq. The second and happy thing from Abu al-Mardiyah's life was that shortly before the battle, he married the daughter of a mujahid who later became a martyr. Allah granted him a child after his death and he is very much like him. May Allah compensate us and provide us with a worthy substitute."*