On December 21, 2010, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula’s (AQAP) al-Malahem Media released the fourth issue of its "Peninsula Martyrs" series, which profiles deceased AQAP fighters. The fourth issue features Abu Humam al-Qahtani (Nayef al-Qahtani) who pioneered al-Malahem Media, first by solely preparing and distributing the first issue of Sada al-Malahem Magazine (AQAP’s centerpiece magazine) and then establishing “a holistic media unit” with “a group of expert brothers in the Jihadist media sector.” He subsequently “decided to transfer to the military field—in which he wasn’t less creative than the media side—so he completed what he had been missing of military sciences, and he trained a large number of brothers…”

“In the name of Allah the Most Merciful the Most Compassionate”

“I didn’t expect to write his biography or tell his story, because I had a feeling that it was more certain that I was going to leave life before him. But, life is in the hands of Allah the Most Glorified, and today I attempt to show and explain what had been hidden from people of his life and values and traits throughout three and a half years we spent together in the land of Jihad in Yemen of wisdom and faith, through which I came to know what many people didn’t about this man.”

“I met Abu Humam (Nayef bin Muhammad bin Saeed al-Kodari al-Qahtani) in the region of the Al Abu Jbarah valley, in the towns of Wa’ela in Saa’da in 1427 Hijri (2006) and then he was 19 years old, and I saw in him a young man, alert-minded, courteous, and the most amazing thing I saw in him is his brain despite his young age.”

“And in ‘Al Abu Jbarah valley’ was the beginning. As he prepared himself with all of what was possible of sciences, and he learned and trained on the light, medium and heavy weaponry and explosives and some martial arts. He also prepared himself thoughtfully and psychologically as he, may Allah have mercy on him, encouraged everything that would serve his Ummah and religion. And he learned some media skills that helped him later in preparing the first issue of Sada al-Malahem Magazine.”
“And after he finished the period of preparations, he joined his working brothers, and he participated in preparing for the blessed operation against the Crusade Spanish tourists in Maareb, in which 8 members from the Spanish intelligence delegation were killed. And praise to Allah, this operation was the opening of goodness for him and a graceful beginning for his practical march.”

“And a short period after the operation, the martyr, as we consider him, met the leader Amir Abu Baseer al-Wahishi, may Allah protect him, and the martyr joined the members of the organization. This step was a point of transformation in his life, may Allah have mercy on him.”

“And as is usual of everyone who sat with or lived with Abu Humam, Sheikh Abu Baseer liked the brother Abu Humam because of his high determination and patience and good morals, which prepared for him conditions and capabilities—despite their shortage at the time—to grow, after the grace of Allah, a righteous plant of Sada al-Malahem Magazine, which has had a leading role in our war against the Crusaders and their helpers on the ideological and media levels. And the magazine caused the side of the Mujahideen to strengthen in the war of hearts and minds, and this is with Allah’s grace then with the efforts of our brothers, those who established the media force of the organization, and headed by the late Abu Humam al-Qahtani.”

“As I mentioned, he solely did the first issue of the magazine, and he titled it ‘Sada al-Malahem.’ And after publishing it and the welcome it received by Muslims, may Allah have mercy on him, he increased his efforts, and he established a holistic media unit, in addition to publishing the magazine. And indeed, Allah graced him to join a group of expert brothers in the Jihadist media sector.”

“And in this regard I will mention a story that shows the determination and honesty with Allah of our brothers, as we consider them. Abu Humama was sitting with some of his brothers and from among them Abu al-Khayr al-Assiri—may Allah have mercy on both of them—and each brother made a wish. Abu al-Khayr wished for a martyrdom operation in al-Haramain (Saudi Arabia), and Abu Humam wished to establish a media foundation. Each received what they wished for: Abu al-Khayr executed a martyrdom operation against the tyrant Muhammad bin Nayef, and Allah graced Abu Humam to establish a media foundation ‘Al-Malahem Media’ entailing a complete technical crew, after he began the march alone with his laptop. And like that, the determination of men degrade the peaks of mountains; with continuous efforts, motivation and sacrifice, and following success with success, and that is the grace of Allah that He brings upon whoever he willed, and Allah possesses tremendous grace.”

“And after the building was finished and the fruits became ripe, and the media foundation stood on its own, content with its cadres and members; unaffected by the absence of anyone even its supervisors, Abu Humam’s soul was relieved while witnessing this project actualizing after it was a dream. So, he decided to transfer to the
military field—in which he wasn’t less creative than the media side—so he completed what he had been missing of military sciences, and he trained a large number of brothers, and with his brothers he established Martyr Abu al-Khayr al-Assiri Camp. And his slogan and title were seriousness, commitment, patience and encouragement. You would only see him working, and the eyes didn’t miss him at the sites of preparation and training.”

“In addition to what he enjoyed of creativity and knowledge, he carried a heart that knew no fear, and a solid mind fearless before disasters, and I used to amaze over the extravagance of his bravery and boldness.”

[Poetry]

“As for his morals, speak without shame. He was—with testimony of everyone who knew him—a person with high morals, and with a flexible side, easiness in treatment, and a rare generosity. He used to give the best he owned to his brothers, and, may Allah have mercy on him, he was cautious to work in the of Haramain and prepare for that, but the conditions stood between him and what he wanted.”

“You great work to Allah O’ Abu Humam. You lived a life that didn’t exceed 25 years, but throughout you faced experiences and gained knowledge many grey-haired failed to and never built dust on their feet one day, or sleep on the ground covered with the sky under the sounds of the jets not even once, and those did not fear Allah for one hour, and their eyes didn’t guard for the cause of Allah one night. And they never wounded any of Allah’s enemies.”

“Sleep peacefully as those like you are few. And it is time for you to meet what you have given of good deeds by the Kind, Compassionate, and Great Lord. Congratulations on martyrdom for you, as you used to demand it and wish for it. And I still remember you during the last days of your life, requesting martyrdom from Allah honestly, so you received it, as we consider you and we don’t exalt anyone over Allah.”

“It is time that you meet the best rewards from your Lord, as you initiated and you were the first to do good, and fight the tyrants and the enemies of the faith with your steadfastness and work.”

“I ask Allah the Most Capable to award you rewards and mercy, and to make you from the residents of paradise alongside those whom Allah graced of prophets, the companions, the martyrs and the righteous ones, and those were the best of companions.”

“And praise Allah Lord of the Worlds.”

Written by his friend and road companion
Abu Khaled al-Assiri