

One Ohio Mosque Has Been at the Center of SIX Terror Cases

This mosque came up in an investigation by Richard Engel on NBC News. The imam looks like a convert. Patrick Poole does the deep dive at [the Muslim Heart of Columbus](#).” And yet the mosque, described as one of the most ideologically hardline in the city, has grabbed the media spotlight once again: former attendees were recently reported as having joined the Islamic State (ISIS) in Syria.

As mosque officials struggle to distance themselves from yet another resident terror cell, the recent news raises questions about the extensive history of this Ohio mosque as a turnstile for terrorism.

Just a few weeks ago, [obtained from an ISIS defector](#).

In that NBC News report, the mosque’s president, Basil Gohar, tried to distance the trio from the mosque. He said that Jaffrey, despite living so close to the mosque for two years, had only attended the mosque for a few weeks and had kept to himself.

When a local TV station [pleaded guilty](#) to conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction against Americans, **Basil Gohar publicly rose to the defense of the longtime al-Qaeda operative and his associates**. He [conducting training INSIDE THE MOSQUE](#):

Specifically, the indictment alleges that, in approximately 1990 and 1991, Paul traveled to Pakistan and Afghanistan and received military-training at an al Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan. In approximately mid-1991, Paul allegedly joined al Qaeda and stayed at a

guest house exclusively for al Qaeda members. Afterwards, he returned to the U.S. and taught martial arts at a mosque in Columbus. Over the next several years, he allegedly provided money and equipment from the U.S. to individuals overseas as part of the conspiracy. He also allegedly provided training to individuals in the U.S. in order that these individuals might be ready to fight violent jihad overseas.

So Masjid Omar president Basil Gohar has serious credibility issues when it comes to being forthcoming about his mosque's ties to terrorism. Now, here's a rundown of the known terrorist activity tied to Masjid Omar:

Columbus al-Qaeda Cell

One of the largest known al-Qaeda cells since 9/11, the conspiracy was centered around the mosque. While only three members – Iyman Faris, Nuradin Abdi, and Christopher Paul – were charged, it is known that there were [oldest known American al-Qaeda operatives](#). Both Faris and Paul are still in federal prison. Abdi served his prison sentence, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship, and was [charged four men](#) – who previously lived in Columbus and attended Masjid Omar – with conspiring to send thousands of dollars to al-Qaeda cleric Anwar al-Awlaki between 2007 and 2009. Two of the men were arrested and the other two left the country. The men were formerly Ohio State students. Awlaki, the former imam of the Dar al-Hijrah mosque in the Washington D.C. area, was [previously lived in Columbus](#), and as [in prison under a death sentence on terrorism charges in Egypt](#). As I have reported extensively [elsewhere](#), Soltan is a longtime figure in international terror circles.

From 2004 until his departure from the U.S. several years later, Soltan was a resident Islamic scholar for the

Islamic Society of Greater Columbus (ISGC), the parent organization of Masjid Omar. For a time, Soltan maintained an office at the mosque. Here is video of Soltan in prison with his fellow Muslim Brotherhood officials in Egypt:

Wael Kalash

As Ohio State student Rachel Decker waited for a bus to take her to school on June 2, 2009 – **the very day AFTER** former Masjid Omar attendee Abdulhakim Muhammad killed Army Pvt. Andy Long in Little Rock – Decker was [Kalash fled to Masjid Omar and was found by police at the mosque](#). Local media subsequently played up Kalash's history of mental illness.

ISIS Recruits

As stated above, in July 2014 Jaffrey Khan, his wife Zakia Nasrin, and her younger brother Rasel Raihan entered Syria and joined ISIS. Masjid Omar president Basil Gohar has claimed that only Khan attended the mosque, and only for a few weeks. And yet the trio lived just yards from the mosque for two years. Further, as [grew up in a Columbus suburb](#) and attended an advanced high school program. Khan grew up in a \$2 million Silicon Valley mansion in Palo Alto, California, and moved to Columbus when his wife enrolled at Ohio State. Raihan was killed in a U.S. airstrike, while Khan and Nasrin still live in Syria with their ten-month-old baby daughter.

Masjid Omar is either very unlucky, or these half-dozen terror cases represent a pattern of ideological indoctrination and recruitment centered on this one Columbus mosque.

As I've previously reported here at PJ Media, whether it is [Phoenix](#), or