

# U.S. extremist rapper in Somalia releases 2 songs on Internet

BY JASON STRAZIUSO  
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — An

American from Alabama

who joined Somalia's most

dangerous extremist group

has released two new rap

songs on the Internet, a pos-

sible indication that he is still

alive after rumors circulated

of his death during heavy

fighting in Mogadishu.

Omar Hammami, who

grew up in the middle-class

town of Daphne, Ala., joined

the al-Qaida-linked Somali

group in 2007, becoming the

most high-profile American

member of al-Shabab. He

took the nom de guerre of

Abu Mansur al-Amrki, or

"the American."

A jihadist website posted

two songs over the weekend

in which Hammami raps that

he wants to die a martyr. He

cites previous extremist lead-

ers killed by U.S. military ac-

tion like Abu Musab al-Zar-

qawi, the former leader of al-

Qaida in Iraq, and Saleh Ali

Saleh Nabhan, who was

killed in a U.S. commando

raid in September 2009.

The two songs are titled

"Send Me a Cruise (missile)"

and "Make Jihad With Me."

Last month Somalia's de-

fense minister told The Asso-

ciated Press that intelligence

reports indicated that Ham-

mami may have been killed

during an anti-insurgent of-

fensive. But the minister said

"Hammami is stressing

an often-repeated theme in

jihadist circles: that dying

while waging jihad is both

noble and desired."

BILL ROGGIO

Managing editor

of The Long War Journal

the reports weren't con-

firmed.

Though Hammami ap-

pears still to be alive, his lyr-

ics yearn for death.

"There's nothing as sweet

as the taste of a tank shell,"

he says in one song, accord-

ing to a transcription by the

website The Long War Jour-

nal. "It was a beautiful day,

when that predator paradise

missile sent me on my way."

Bill Roggio, the managing

editor of The Long War Jour-

nal, said the lyrics have two

aims: to appeal to rebellious

Western Muslims who might

be recruited into extremist

groups, and to dispel reports

of Hammami's death.

"Hammami is stressing an

often-repeated theme in jha-

dist circles: that dying while

waging jihad is both noble

and desired," Roggio said.

Hammami has starred in

previous jihadist videos that

showed him rapping and

running with gun-wielding

fighters.

He was indicted in the U.S.

for his role in al-Shabab in

August.

Terminology