other parts of Dagestan or into Chechnya.\footnote{Miriam Elder, “Tamerlan Tsarnaev in Dagestan: the unanswered questions,” *The Guardian*, April 22, 2013. (Available at: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/22/tamerlan-tsarnaev-dagestan-boston-bombings](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/22/tamerlan-tsarnaev-dagestan-boston-bombings))} While the facts presently known about Tamerlan Tsarnaev’s travel do not indicate that this attack has connections to an external terror network, they do raise significant questions. For example, it is possible that Tamerlan Tsarnaev’s travel provided him with an opportunity to make contact with militants in the region. Tamerlan Tsarnaev also reportedly prayed at the al-Nadira mosque during his time in Makhachkala.\footnote{James Brooke, “Boston Bomber Spent 6 Months in Russia’s Most Violent Republic,” *Voice of America News*, May 20, 2013. (Available at: [http://www.voanews.com/content/tsarnaev-dagestan-russia-ties-may-hold-valuable-clues/1664419.html](http://www.voanews.com/content/tsarnaev-dagestan-russia-ties-may-hold-valuable-clues/1664419.html))}


Furthermore, some media accounts report that while in Dagestan, Tamerlan Tsarnaev made contact with Mahmoud Mansour Nidal, a known insurgent in the region, and perhaps others.\footnote{Jake Tapper, Jessica Metzger, Sherisse Pham, “Russian sources tell congressman Boston suspect met with two Chechen extremists,” the Lead with Jake Tapper, *CNN*, May 9, 2013. (Available at: [http://thelead.cnn.com/2013/05/09/russian-sources-tell-congressman-boston-suspect-met-with-two-chechen-extremists/](http://thelead.cnn.com/2013/05/09/russian-sources-tell-congressman-boston-suspect-met-with-two-chechen-extremists/))}

(U) Mahmoud Nidal was reportedly a recruiter for Islamist insurgents in Dagestan and some media reporting suggests he and Tamerlan Tsarnaev could have met several times in 2012.\footnote{Simon Shuster, “A Dead Militant in Dagestan: Did This Slain Jihadi Meet Tamerlan Tsarnaev,” *TIME*, May 1, 2013. (Available at: [http://world.time.com/2013/05/01/a-dead-militant-in-dagestan-did-this-slain-jihadi-meet-tamerlan-tsarnaev/](http://world.time.com/2013/05/01/a-dead-militant-in-dagestan-did-this-slain-jihadi-meet-tamerlan-tsarnaev/))}

Though on the run from Russian authorities during much of Tamerlan Tsarnaev’s time in Dagestan, a former Russian investigator familiar with Mahmoud Nidal noted that he would probably not have been afraid to emerge from hiding and that the two could have met.\footnote{Ibid.}

Mahmoud Nidal was killed in a raid by Russian forces on May 19, 2012.

(U) In January 2014 Chairman McCaul and Representative William Keating traveled to Russia and met with investigative journalists who had spent time in Makhachkala, Dagestan, looking into Tamerlan Tsarnaev’s time there. These sources reported that he had attempted to join the Chechen fighters, and met with Mahmoud Nidal. These sources further allege that Tamerlan Tsarnaev was rejected by these groups, in part because of his conspicuously Western style.

(U//FOUO) However, according to briefings provided to Committee staff by officials at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, official investigators have uncovered no evidence of such a relationship between Mahmoud Nidal and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Furthermore, investigators have