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## KSM's Brooklyn Bridge Plot

Report #8 in a NEFA Series, "Target: America"  
A NEFA analysis of U.S. v. Faris  
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### **Mastermind – Senior Al-Qaida Official**

During a March 2007 hearing at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 9/11 planner Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (KSM) admitted, "I was responsible for surveying, planning, and financing for the bombing of suspension bridges in New York."<sup>1</sup>

### **U.S.-Based Plotter**

On October 28, 2003, Iyman Faris (a.k.a. Mohammed Rauf), a Columbus, Ohio truck driver, was sentenced to twenty years in prison for providing material support to Al-Qaida.<sup>2</sup> Faris is a U.S. citizen who entered the U.S. in May 1994.<sup>3</sup>

According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), Majid Khan, a Pakistani national who lived in Baltimore, "recommended to KSM" that Faris "be tasked for an al-Qai'da operation."<sup>4</sup> The DNI notes that Khan, who is currently being held in Guantanamo Bay after being transferred from CIA custody, had gained access to KSM "because of his excellent English and extensive knowledge of the United States."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Verbatim Transcript of Combatant Status Review Tribunal Hearing for ISN 10024, U.S. Department of Defense, Revised as of March 15, 2007,

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/KSMGitmo.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> "Iyman Faris Sentenced for Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Department of Justice Press Release, October 28, 2003,

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/FarisSentenced.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>4</sup> According to the Department of Defense, "In mid-2001, Iyman Faris (Faris) had dinner and spent the night at the detainee's family residence in Baltimore, Maryland. Faris stated during this visit the detainee spoke to him about the fighting and struggle in Afghanistan. On a subsequent visit the detainee told Faris he met Khalid Shaykh Mohammed (KSM) in Pakistan and referred to KSM as his uncle. The detainee told Faris of his desire to martyr himself against President Musharaff of Pakistan by detonating a vest of explosives inside a building." See: "Summary of Evidence for Combatant Status Review Tribunal – Khan, Majid," Department of Defense, Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants at U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, March 28, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/Gitmo\\_Khan.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/Gitmo_Khan.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> "Biographies of High Value Terrorist Detainees Transferred to the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay," Biography of Majid Khan, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, September 16, 2006, [http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/DNI\\_Khan.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/DNI_Khan.pdf). Note: Khan also assisted KSM in probing the feasibility of blowing up gas stations in the U.S. and poisoning U.S. reservoirs.

## **The Target – The Brooklyn Bridge**

Expanding on KSM's role (but only identifying him as "the operational leader"), the Department of Justice summarizes the plot as follows: "According to Faris' admission, the operational leader then told Faris that al Qaeda was planning two simultaneous attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. The al Qaeda leader spoke with Faris about destroying a bridge in New York City<sup>6</sup> by severing its suspension cables, and tasked Faris with obtaining the equipment needed for that operation."<sup>7</sup>

A court filing states that the operational planner "described the equipment as 'gas cutters' but instructed the defendant to refer to them in code as 'gas stations' in any subsequent communications..."<sup>8</sup>

## **Researching Gas Cutters and the Brooklyn Bridge**

Federal prosecutors detail the steps Faris took to prepare for his mission: "Upon returning to the United States from Pakistan in April 2002, the defendant researched 'gas cutters' and the particular bridge in New York City on the internet. After his internet research, the defendant approached an acquaintance who had a technical background and asked him about obtaining 'gas cutters.'"<sup>9</sup>

Then, as prosecutors note, "between April 2002 and March 2003, he sent several coded messages through another individual to his longtime friend in Pakistan, indicating he had been unsuccessful in his attempts to obtain the necessary equipment."<sup>10</sup>

## **Conducting Surveillance in NYC**

Court documents further add that in late 2002, Faris "traveled to New York City. After examining the particular bridge, he concluded that the plot to destroy the bridge by severing the cables was very unlikely to succeed because of the bridge's security and structure."<sup>11</sup> Then, "in early 2003, he sent a message that 'the weather is too hot' - a coded message indicating that the bridge plot was unlikely to succeed."<sup>12</sup> (Notably, according to press reports, authorities tailed Faris during his trips to NYC.)<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> In 2005, the White House explicitly acknowledged Faris' target, declaring that he "was exploring the destruction of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York." See: "Fact Sheet: Plots, Casings, and Infiltrations Referenced in President Bush's Remarks on the War on Terror," White House Press Release, October 6, 2005.

<sup>7</sup> "Iyman Faris Sentenced for Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Department of Justice Press Release, October 28, 2003, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/FarisSentenced.pdf>. Note: According to DOJ, "the leader also explained that al Qaeda was planning to derail trains, and asked Faris to procure the tools for that plot as well."

<sup>8</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003. Note: Reflecting Al Qaeda's concerns about operational security, the planner instructed Faris "never to access email immediately after logging on but only after opening other internet sites first."

<sup>9</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>10</sup> "Iyman Faris Sentenced for Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Department of Justice Press Release, October 28, 2003, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/FarisSentenced.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>12</sup> "Iyman Faris Sentenced for Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Department of Justice Press Release, October 28, 2003, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/FarisSentenced.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Ted Windling, "Ohio Agents Tailed Terrorist," *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, June 21, 2003.

### **Faris Attended an Al-Qaida Training Camp and Met Bin Laden**

In late 2000, Faris, who was born in Kashmir and became a United States citizen in December 1999, attended an Al-Qaida training camp,<sup>14</sup> where he "was introduced to Osama bin Laden."<sup>15</sup>

Official documents assert that Faris traveled to the camp with a "long-time friend" whom he had known "since the Soviet/Afghanistan war in the mid-1980's."<sup>16</sup> Court filings state that Faris knew his friend was a senior Al-Qaida leader who was "Osama bin Laden's 'right foot' – a man who serves a critical leadership role in providing supplies and material needed by al Qaeda."<sup>17</sup> In early 2002, that friend introduced Faris to KSM.<sup>18</sup>

### **Additional Information – Faris' Involvement with a Columbus Cell that Plotted to Bomb a Shopping Mall**

The Department of Justice alleges that Faris, "along with co-conspirators...initiated a plot to blow up a Columbus area shopping mall..."<sup>19</sup> The mall bomb plot was purportedly hatched during an August 2002 meeting at an Upper Arlington, Ohio coffee shop,<sup>20</sup> a gathering that was attended by Faris, Nuradin Abdi, and Christopher Paul.<sup>21</sup> (Note: For more on this plot, see the NEFA "Target: America" report "The Columbus Mall Plot.")

On June 10, 2004, Abdi, a Somali national living in Columbus, Ohio, was indicted for providing material support to Al-Qaida and obtaining and using fraudulent travel documents.<sup>22</sup> On July 31, 2007, he pled guilty to conspiring to provide material support to terrorists and agreed to serve ten years in prison.<sup>23</sup>

A court filing in Abdi's case cited a conversation between Faris and Abdi in which "Abdi told Faris that 'things were heating up'" and that they "need to do something." When asked what they should do, Abdi responded, "take an AK-47 to a mall and start

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<sup>14</sup> According to then-Attorney General John Ashcroft, Faris extensively used "hard-to-track communications such as cell phones and...Internet cafes." See: "Ohio Truck Driver Pleads Guilty to Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Department of Justice Press Release, June 19, 2003, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/FarisGuiltyPlea.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>16</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Motion to Detain Defendant and Memorandum in Support, Filed June 14, 2004.

<sup>20</sup> Kevin Mayhood, Jodi Andes, and John Futty, "Muslim Convert Plotted with Foreigners in Town, Unsealed Indictment Says," *The Columbus Dispatch*, April 13, 2007.

<sup>21</sup> Kevin Mayhood, Jodi Andes, and John Futty, "Muslim Convert Plotted with Foreigners in Town, Unsealed Indictment Says," *The Columbus Dispatch*, April 13, 2007.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Indictment, Filed June 14, 2004.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Plea Agreement Under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)c, Filed July 31, 2007. Note: Although he originally pled not guilty, authorities revealed that Abdi signed a written confession on November 30, 2003. In that confession, Abdi "admitted that he had falsified his U.S. asylum application in its entirety. Abdi had originally been granted asylum even though the FBI suspected he had entered the U.S. illegally from Mexico on October 10, 1998. See: U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Response to Motion of Defendant to Suppress All Statements Allegedly Made by the Defendant and All Evidence Seized in Violation of the Fourth Amendment, Filed July 1, 2005.

shooting."<sup>24</sup> Abdi also told FBI agents that the Columbus group, including Abdi himself, was "willing to conduct acts of violence in the United States."<sup>25</sup>

Significantly, a federal appeals court ruling noted that when monitoring Abdi's phone calls between June and November 2003, the FBI determined that Abdi had "placed calls to approximately forty different phone numbers...associated with terrorism-related activities." What's more, these "forty numbers were almost all associated with different terrorism suspects"<sup>26</sup> linked to investigations inside the U.S.<sup>27</sup>

The third attendee at the August 2002 coffee shop meeting, Christopher Paul, a U.S. citizen born in Columbus, was indicted on April 11, 2007 and charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists.<sup>28</sup> Paul has not been charged in connection with the mall plot; authorities instead allege he targeted "European tourist resorts where American citizens are known to vacation" and U.S. government facilities in Europe.<sup>29</sup>

According to authorities, Paul, who attended Al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan, had contact information "for key al Qaeda leadership and associates" in his home. For example, law enforcement agents found a postcard from Karim Medhi, who was sentenced to nine years in prison in October 2006 for planning a terror attack on Reunion Island, a popular tourist destination in the Indian Ocean. During Medhi's trial, authorities asserted that Medhi had contacts with 9/11 plotter Ramzi Binalshibh and 9/11 hijacker Ziad Jarrah.<sup>30</sup>

Media reports have asserted that the conspiracy was even wider and may have involved as many as ten individuals,<sup>31</sup> including two men who worked as truck drivers with Faris.<sup>32</sup>

In August 2007, David Smith, who served as Faris' attorney, said, "A lot more than three performed in their jihadist group."<sup>33</sup> That same month, Assistant U.S. Attorney Dana Peters commented on the possibility of additional indictments, remarking, "I

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<sup>24</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Response to Motion of Defendant to Suppress All Statements Allegedly Made by the Defendant and All Evidence Seized in Violation of the Fourth Amendment, Filed July 1, 2005.

<sup>25</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Opposition of the United States to Defendant's Motions *In Limine* (#104) to Exclude Computer Images, Dissertation Text "Pillar of the Preparing for Jihad," "Mall Bomb" and "Missile Plot" Statements and Physical Evidence, Filed September 12, 2005.

<sup>26</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 05-4199, Appeal Before the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, Decided September 22, 2006.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Response to Motion of Defendant to Suppress All Statements Allegedly Made by the Defendant and All Evidence Seized in Violation of the Fourth Amendment, Filed July 1, 2005.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. v. Paul, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:07-cr-00087-GLF, Indictment, Filed April 11, 2007.

<sup>29</sup> U.S. v. Paul, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:07-cr-00087-GLF, Indictment, Filed April 11, 2007.

<sup>30</sup> "Moroccan Sentenced to 9 Years in Bomb Plot," *Reuters/Associated Press*, October 26, 2006.

<sup>31</sup> "Lawyers: Ohio Terror Probe Could Grow," *Associated Press*, August 5, 2007.

<sup>32</sup> "Investigators: Mall Plot May Have Involved 5 People," *NewsNet5*, June 18, 2004.

<sup>33</sup> "Lawyers: Ohio Terror Probe Could Grow," *Associated Press*, August 5, 2007.

wouldn't be surprised." Peters added, "some have left the country. The investigation continues."<sup>34</sup>

### **The Faris, Abdi, Paul Relationship**

A number of examples highlight the nature of the relationship between Faris, Abdi, and Paul. Following Paul's April 2007 arrest, Paul's attorney told the media that the men "were buddies. They went to the same mosque and hung out together."<sup>35</sup> Reflecting these ties, Faris and Paul lived together following Faris' separation from his wife,<sup>36</sup> while in a February 2001 job application, Abdi cited Paul as a personal reference.<sup>37</sup> Also in 2001, at Paul's request, Abdi provided Paul "with credit card numbers he stole from customers at his cell phone business," knowing that Paul "intended to use them to purchase sophisticated equipment<sup>38</sup> to be sent to and used by al Qaeda."<sup>39</sup> Moreover, when Abdi was arrested in 2003, he immediately attempted to call Paul.<sup>40</sup>

And labeling the contacts between Faris and Abdi "numerous," the U.S. government has concluded that the men had a "long-standing relationship."<sup>41</sup> Federal prosecutors noted that when Abdi returned to the United States after receiving terrorist training in Africa in March 2000, Faris picked him up from the airport.<sup>42</sup> Then, "in July 2001 Abdi...sent e-mail...to Faris suggesting he review several websites where he could purchase surveillance equipment, such as night-vision goggles, small cameras, and listening devices."<sup>43</sup> Months later, in October 2002, Abdi emailed Faris "exhorting jihad" and inquiring about the "status of UBL [Usama bin Laden] and Islamic extremist information."<sup>44</sup> What's more, when authorities searched Abdi's residence in 2003, they discovered Faris' phone billing records.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Jodi Andes, "Somali Man Pleads Guilty to Plot," *Columbus Dispatch*, August 1, 2007.

<sup>35</sup> Kevin Mayhood, Jodi Andes, and John Futty, "Muslim Convert Plotted with Foreigners in Town, Unsealed Indictment Says," *The Columbus Dispatch*, April 13, 2007. Note: Confirming this comment, a court filing, citing an informant, states that "the three often met after prayer service at their mosque." This source "was a national security concern in his own right" and "was ultimately deported." See: U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 05-4199, Appeal Before the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, Decided September 22, 2006 and U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Response to Motion of Defendant to Suppress All Statements Allegedly Made by the Defendant and All Evidence Seized in Violation of the Fourth Amendment, Filed July 1, 2005.

<sup>36</sup> Kevin Mayhood, Jodi Andes, and John Futty, "Muslim Convert Plotted with Foreigners in Town, Unsealed Indictment Says," *The Columbus Dispatch*, April 13, 2007.

<sup>37</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Proposed Exhibit List, Filed June 7, 2007.

<sup>38</sup> Such as a military range finder.

<sup>39</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Opposition of the United States to Defendant's Motions *In Limine* (#104) to Exclude Computer Images, Dissertation Text "Pillar of the Preparing for Jihad," "Mall Bomb" and "Missile Plot" Statements and Physical Evidence, Filed September 12, 2005 and "Government, Terrorism Suspect Spar over Credit Card Allegations," *Associated Press*, July 6, 2007.

<sup>40</sup> Kevin Mayhood, Jodi Andes, and John Futty, "Muslim Convert Plotted with Foreigners in Town, Unsealed Indictment Says," *The Columbus Dispatch*, April 13, 2007.

<sup>41</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Response to Motion of Defendant to Suppress All Statements Allegedly Made by the Defendant and All Evidence Seized in Violation of the Fourth Amendment, Filed July 1, 2005.

<sup>42</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Motion to Detain Defendant and Memorandum in Support, Filed June 14, 2004.

<sup>43</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 05-4199, Appeal Before the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, Decided September 22, 2006.

<sup>44</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Proposed Exhibit List, Filed June 7, 2007.

<sup>45</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Government's Proposed Exhibit List, Filed June 7, 2007.

### **Additional Information – Other Plots Discussed by Faris et al.**

According to press reports, Abdi told government investigators that, in 2002, Faris, who was angered by the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, proposed to Abdi and Paul that they fly a plane into Hoover Dam. Abdi, who was similarly angered by the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and the planned Iraq invasion, dismissed this idea, instead suggesting they attack a mall.<sup>46</sup> Nonetheless, the Paul indictment states that "beginning in 2006," Paul conducted research on "flight-simulator computer programs, including how to fly large, commercial passenger aircraft."<sup>47</sup>

Furthermore, Abdi "volunteered his services as a go-between for individuals who were preparing" to "shoot missiles at various landmarks"<sup>48</sup> in Washington D.C., to include the Capitol, Pentagon and White House.<sup>49</sup> The plot was reportedly canceled because, in the words of Faris, the "guys in Virginia" said it was not feasible.<sup>50</sup>

### **Additional Information – KSM Tasked Faris to Help Derail Trains in Washington D.C.**

Court documents reveal that KSM "explained [to Faris] that al Qaeda was planning to derail trains" in Washington D.C. to coincide with the Brooklyn Bridge operation and tasked him to "obtain the necessary tools..."<sup>51</sup>

### **Additional Information – Faris' Other Activities on Behalf of Al-Qaida**

According to the Department of Justice, Faris met with "one of bin Laden's men" in 2000, and, following that meeting, researched "ultralight" airplanes, turning over his findings "for use by al Qaeda."<sup>52</sup> Also, the Department of Justice reports that "Faris...admitted accompanying his friend to a factory to order sleeping bags for al Qaeda, and visiting a travel agency at the request of his friend to obtain extensions on several airline tickets for use by members of al Qaeda."<sup>53</sup>

### **Additional Information – Al-Qaida's Interest in Faris' Access to Cargo Planes**

At a press conference announcing Faris' guilty plea, then-Attorney General John

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<sup>46</sup> Kevin Mayhood, "Somali's Arrest Illegal, Statements OK, Judge Rules," *The Columbus Dispatch*, September 14, 2005.

<sup>47</sup> U.S. v. Paul, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:07-cr-00087-GLF, Indictment, Filed April 11, 2007.

<sup>48</sup> U.S. v. Abdi, (S.D. OH.), No. 2:04CR88, Opposition of the United States to Defendant's Motions *In Limine* (#104) to Exclude Computer Images, Dissertation Text "Pillar of the Preparing for Jihad," "Mall Bomb" and "Missile Plot" Statements and Physical Evidence, Filed September 12, 2005.

<sup>49</sup> Kevin Mayhood, "Terror Suspect Says He Wasn't a Player," *The Columbus Dispatch*, June 15, 2007 and Jodi Andes, "Somali Man Pleads Guilty to Plot," *The Columbus Dispatch*, August 1, 2007.

<sup>50</sup> Kevin Mayhood, "Terror Suspect Says He Wasn't a Player," *The Columbus Dispatch*, June 15, 2007.

<sup>51</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>52</sup> "Iyman Faris Sentenced for Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Department of Justice Press Release, October 28, 2003,

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/FarisSentenced.pdf>.

<sup>53</sup> "Ohio Truck Driver Pleads Guilty to Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Department of Justice Press Release, June 19, 2003,

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/FarisGuiltyPlea.pdf>.

Ashcroft remarked that "for several years," Faris "worked as an independent truck driver from his home base of Columbus, Ohio."<sup>54</sup>

*The Washington Post* reported that, in addition to working for Yowell Transportation, Faris "operated an unincorporated firm from his Columbus home, Kashmir Transport Service, hauling general freight, metal, building materials, coal, food, paper, machinery, mail and agricultural products across state lines."<sup>55</sup> Court filings add that KSM considered exploiting Faris' access to commercial trucks as the men talked about "trucking routes and deliveries for airport cargo planes." KSM told Faris that he was particularly "interested in cargo planes because they would hold 'more weight and more fuel.'"<sup>56</sup> Again supplementing the government's account, *The Washington Post* reported that Faris made "regular deliveries to an air cargo company at the [Columbus] airport" while working at Yowell.<sup>57</sup>

### **Additional Information – Faris' Strategic Location in the American Heartland**

Commenting on Faris' decision to live in Columbus, Ohio, James Turgal, a Supervisory Special Agent with the FBI in Cincinnati, told the press, "If you wanted to assist al Qaeda, would you live in D.C. or New York...Why not live in the heartland? This is the perfect place to be."<sup>58</sup>

In fact, terrorists have consistently gravitated toward lower profile locations while planning their operations. For example, on September 10, 2001, Ali al-Marri, identified by the U.S. as "an al Qaeda 'sleeper agent' sent to the United States for the purpose of engaging in and facilitating terrorist activities subsequent to September 11, 2001,"<sup>59</sup> traveled to Peoria, Illinois to purportedly pursue graduate studies at Bradley University.<sup>60</sup> Similarly, another Al-Qaida operative, Zacharias Moussaoui, took flight lessons in Norman, Oklahoma and Eagan, Minnesota while preparing to launch a terrorist attack.<sup>61</sup> And the cell that carried out the March 11, 2004 Madrid train bombings assembled its bombs in a farmhouse roughly twenty miles southwest of Madrid.<sup>62</sup>

### **Additional Information – Faris' Cooperation with the U.S. Government**

According to press reports, Faris began cooperating with the U.S. government in March 2003<sup>63</sup> to avoid being declared an enemy combatant.<sup>64</sup> Working from a safe

<sup>54</sup> "Prepared Remarks of Attorney General John Ashcroft – Plea Agreement Announcement," Department of Justice Press Release, June 19, 2003,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/AGRemarks\\_GuiltyPlea.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Bklyn/AGRemarks_GuiltyPlea.pdf).

<sup>55</sup> R. Jeffrey Smith and Amy Depaul, "'Scout' Had Low Profile," *The Washington Post*, June 21, 2003.

<sup>56</sup> U.S. v. Faris, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-189-A, Statement of Facts, Filed June 19, 2003.

<sup>57</sup> R. Jeffrey Smith and Amy Depaul, "'Scout' Had Low Profile," *The Washington Post*, June 21, 2003.

<sup>58</sup> R. Jeffrey Smith and Amy Depaul, "'Scout' Had Low Profile," *The Washington Post*, June 21, 2003.

<sup>59</sup> "Declaration of Mr. Jeffrey N. Rapp, Director, Joint Intelligence Task Force for Combating Terrorism," 2:04-cv-02257-HFF-RSC, Filed April 5, 2006.

<sup>60</sup> U.S. v. Al-Marri, (C.D. IL.), 03-CR-1044, Complaint, Filed May 22, 2003.

<sup>61</sup> *The 9/11 Commission Report*, p. 272.

<sup>62</sup> "Suspected Madrid Bombing Ringleader Killed," *CNN*, April 4, 2004.

<sup>63</sup> Daniel Eisenberg, "The Triple Life of a Qaeda Man," *Time*, June 22, 2003.

house in Virginia, he reportedly made calls and sent emails to his contacts under the supervision/direction of government agents.<sup>65</sup>

However, in July 2007, Nuradin Abdi's attorney indicated that Faris would testify in Abdi's trial that Abdi was merely upset about U.S. foreign policy and was not collaborating with terrorists.<sup>66</sup> As noted above, Abdi pled guilty.

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<sup>64</sup> Daniel Eisenberg, "The Triple Life of a Qaeda Man," *Time*, June 22, 2003 and R. Jeffrey Smith and Amy Depaul, "'Scout' Had Low Profile," *The Washington Post*, June 21, 2003.

<sup>65</sup> Daniel Eisenberg, "The Triple Life of a Qaeda Man," *Time*, June 22, 2003.

<sup>66</sup> "Judge to Allow Convicted Terrorist Testimony in Terror Trial of Somali Immigrant," *Associated Press*, July 23, 2007.