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## The Conspiracy to Establish a Jihad Training Camp in Bly, Oregon

Report #19 in a NEFA series, "Target: America"  
A NEFA report on the Conspiracy to Establish a  
Jihad Training Camp in Bly, Oregon  
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June 2009

In May 2009, Oussama Kassir was found guilty in New York federal court of participating in an effort to establish a jihad training camp in Bly, Oregon, between late 1999 and early 2000. Kassir and his co-conspirators – James Ujaama, Haroon Rashid Aswat, and Semi Osman – were financed and guided by London cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri. For years, al-Masri, who led the extremist Islamist group Supporters of Shariah (SOS), facilitated training and travel for British and European Muslims to participate in armed jihad and terrorist attacks. The effort to establish a training camp in the United States is a significant indication of jihadists' desire to recruit American Muslims for violent jihad.

Kassir faces life in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on September 2, 2009.



*Dog Cry Ranch (source: Seattle Times)*

### Training Facility, Bly, Oregon

Bly, Oregon, located in Klamath County Oregon, has a population of approximately 486. It is roughly a nine-hour drive from Seattle, Washington.

The conspirators intended to open a training facility in Bly to prepare individuals for violent jihad.<sup>1</sup> Their objective was to prepare the trainees for travel to Afghanistan, where they would be ready to fight on the battlefield or hold their own in Al-Qaida or Taliban training camps..<sup>2</sup>

The site of the prospective training camp was an 160-acre plot of land that is

<sup>1</sup> United States of America v. Ernest James Ujaama, U.S. District Court Western District of Washington at Seattle, Indictment, CRO2 0283R, filed August 28, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> "United States Unseals Complaint Against Terrorism Suspect Arrested in Czech Republic," Press Release, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York, December 13, 2005.

known as “Dog Cry Ranch”, which was formerly used as a sheep ranch.<sup>3</sup> The property owner’s wife was a convert to Islam and a friend of the wife of one of the Seattle-based conspirators, Semi Osman.

Osman knew James Ujaama, a native of Seattle and a loyal supporter of Abu Hamza as-Masri, from Seattle’s Dar-us-Salaam mosque. The congregation at Dar-us-Salaam consisted primarily of African-American converts.<sup>4</sup>

Osman relocated his family to Bly, Oregon, from Seattle, in September 1999. Osman’s intentions for moving to Oregon are not specified in court documents.

A few weeks after his family’s arrival in Bly, Osman invited Ujaama for a visit. Once there, Ujaama moved forward with the idea of transforming the Bly ranch into a jihad training camp, despite the fact that the property did not have any permanent living facilities, bathroom facilities, or electricity.

In October 1999, Ujaama sent a fax to al-Masri in London pitching the idea of establishing a training camp in Bly. Ujaama wrote that Oregon was a “pro-militia and firearms state” and “it looks just like Afghanistan.”<sup>5</sup> Ujaama also led al-Masri to believe that the process of creating a training camp was further along than it actually was by stating there were weapons already available and there was a batch of recruits ready to be trained.<sup>6</sup>



*In his faxed message to al-Masri pitching the idea of establishing a training camp, Ujaama pointed out the similarity between the terrain in Bly, Oregon and Afghanistan.*

According to Ujaama’s testimony at Oussama Kassir’s April 2009 trial, it was Ujaama’s hope that al-Masri himself would eventually come to Bly, which would have created the draw necessary to make the camp profitable financially.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Larry Neumeister, *Lebanese-born Swede Sentenced in U.S. for Distributing al-Qaida Training Manuals*, Associated Press, May 14, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Mike Carter, *In Conspiracy Trial, Dark Tale Emerges of Jihad Training*, Seattle Times, April 29, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> “Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda,” Press Release, United States Attorney’s Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Mike Carter, *Ujaama’s Credibility is Key in Terror Case*, Seattle Times, April 30, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Mike Carter, *Ujaama’s Credibility is Key in Terror Case*, Seattle Times, April 30, 2009.

Abu Hamza was persuaded by Ujaama's idea to establish a training camp in the U.S. In November 1999, al-Masri financed two of his close followers in London, Haroon Aswat and Oussama Kassir, to investigate the proposed location. Prior to leaving for the U.S., al-Masri gave Aswat and Kassir approximately £4,000 (the equivalent of approximately \$6,600, according to the 1999 exchange rate) toward development costs and other expenses.<sup>8</sup> Al-Masri's eagerness to explore the possibility of establishing a training camp in the United States is consistent with his constant call to Western Muslims to secure training in order to wage jihad.

Aswat and Kassir arrived in New York on November 26, 1999. From New York, the two took a cross-country bus to Seattle and then drove to Bly.<sup>9</sup> Aswat and Kassir stayed in the Pacific Northwest for approximately three months to develop the camp and to provide training to members of Seattle's Dar-us-Salaam mosque.<sup>10</sup>

Upon their arrival at the property in Bly, Aswat and Kassir established security protocol that involved running patrols around the perimeter of the property.<sup>11</sup> They also established the use of passwords and code words to ensure operational security.<sup>12</sup>

Between the time of their arrival in Bly and their departure in December 1999, the conspirators discussed plans for the future that included the pursuit of further training in Afghanistan, as well as the possibility of killing truck drivers passing through Oregon and stealing their money and cargo to support the training camp,<sup>13</sup> the need to build underground bunkers to conceal weapons, and to make poisonous materials.<sup>14</sup>

Between late November 1999 and December 1999, 10 to 15 trainees came to Bly from Seattle for training.<sup>15</sup> Among them were Ujaama's brother, Mustafa Ujaama, and Abdul Raheem Al Arshad Ali, a convert who was also affiliated with Dar-us-Salaam.<sup>16</sup>

Kassir instructed at least two of the trainees on how to kill a person by slitting their throat. He also gave instruction on how to fight with a knife in hand-to-hand combat.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> "United States Announces the Extradition of Accused Terrorist From Czech Republic," Press Release, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York, September 25, 2007.

<sup>9</sup> United States of America v. Ernest James Ujaama, U.S. District Court Western District of Washington at Seattle, Indictment, CRO2 0283R, filed August 28, 2002.

<sup>10</sup> New York Law Journal, Decision of Interest: Southern District; District Judge John F. Keenan; DOI; Alleged Jihadist Conspirator Loses Bid to Suppress Identifications; Bid for 'Rovario' Relief Premature, Volume 240, Issue 8, July 11, 2008.

<sup>11</sup> United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, Oussama Abdallah Kassir and Haroon Rashid Aswat, Indictment, No S2 04 Cr. 356 (JFK), U.S. District Attorney Southern District of New York, filed February 6, 2006.

<sup>12</sup> United States of America v. Ernest James Ujaama, U.S. District Court Western District of Washington at Seattle, Indictment, CRO2 0283R, filed August 28, 2002.

<sup>13</sup> United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, Oussama Abdallah Kassir and Haroon Rashid Aswat, Indictment, No S2 04 Cr. 356 (JFK), Southern District of New York, filed February 6, 2006.

<sup>14</sup> United States of America v. Ernest James Ujaama, U.S. District Court Western District of Washington at Seattle, Indictment, CRO2 0283R, filed August 28, 2002.

<sup>15</sup> Chris McGann, *Ranch's Efforts at Terror Training Detailed*, Seattle Post Intelligencer, August 9, 2002.

<sup>16</sup> Chris McGann, *Ranch's Efforts at Terror Training Detailed*, Seattle Post Intelligencer, August 9, 2002.

Despite the fact that they had students, Kassir and Aswat expressed their disappointment with conditions at the Bly ranch, citing the lack of facilities and shelter and the lack of more men to train.<sup>18</sup> Kassir was so angry with Ujaama that he threatened to kill him and bury him on the property.<sup>19</sup>

Just before 6 a.m. on December 13, 1999, a patrol officer from Klamath Falls, Oregon pulled over Osman, Kassir, and Aswat because a broken brake light.<sup>20</sup> While Osman, who was driving, responded calmly, the officer noticed that Aswat appeared nervous and was clutching a black briefcase that had previously been resting on his lap. The officer also noted that all three were wearing military fatigues under their long coats.<sup>21</sup> Osman claimed to the officer that although the passengers were from England they did not speak English. Osman told the officer that he was dropping the men off at the bus station because they were traveling to San Francisco to sightsee.<sup>22</sup> The men were clearly not dressed for sightseeing, and the officer decided to run a search for warrants on Osman in a national database. The search came up negative, however, the search triggered the attention of the FBI. Osman had been on an FBI watch list in Seattle and had gone missing.<sup>23</sup> The police officer's search from Klamath Falls put Osman back on the FBI's radar. An agent was sent to Klamath Falls to discuss the car stop with the police officer and to conduct further investigation on the group of men.<sup>24</sup>

The group left Bly a few weeks after their arrival. Kassir and Aswat spent two more months in Seattle living in the Dar-us-Salaam mosque. There, Kassir provided further training to mosque members, including combat formations, bomb making, and the use of firearms.<sup>25</sup> He also provided instruction on assembling and disassembling an AK47 rifle and converting an AK47 into a grenade launcher.<sup>26</sup>

Kassir is also alleged to have distributed a compact disc at the mosque and to the attendees of the Bly training camp that contained instructional videos on making bombs and poisons.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, Oussama Abdallah Kassir and Haroon Rashid Aswat, Indictment, No S2 04 Cr. 356 (JFK), Southern District of New York, filed February 6, 2006.

<sup>18</sup> Patrick J. McDonnell, *Entrepreneur or Terrorist*, Los Angeles Times, September 22, 2002.

<sup>19</sup> Mike Carter, *Seattle Militant to Testify in High-Stakes Terror Trial*, Seattle Times, April 27, 2009.

<sup>20</sup> Sean O'Neil and Daniel McGrory, *The Suicide Factory*, page 185, HarperCollins UK, 2006.

<sup>21</sup> Les Zaitz, *Chance Draws Bly Into a Web of Jihadists*, The Oregonian, October 4, 2005.

<sup>22</sup> Sean O'Neil and Daniel McGrory, *The Suicide Factory*, page 186, HarperCollins UK, 2006.

<sup>23</sup> Sean O'Neil and Daniel McGrory, *The Suicide Factory*, page 186, HarperCollins UK, 2006.

<sup>24</sup> Les Zaitz, *Chance Draws Bly Into a Web of Jihadists*, The Oregonian, October 4, 2005.

<sup>25</sup> "Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Press Release, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009,

<sup>26</sup> "Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Press Release, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009,

<sup>27</sup> "Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda," Press Release, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009,

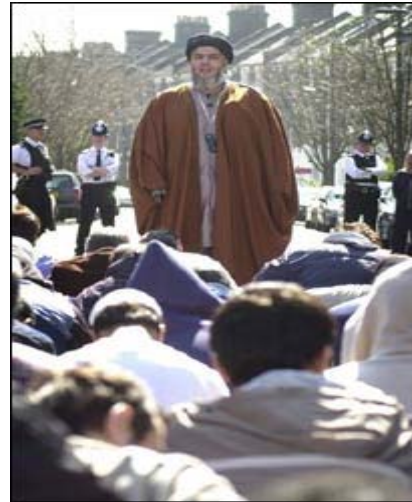
## Profile of the Conspirators

### **Abu Hamza al-Masri**

Born Mustafa Kamel Mustafa in Egypt in 1958, al-Masri entered the U.K. on a tourist visa in 1979.<sup>28</sup> He obtained legal status in 1982 after marrying a British national.<sup>29</sup>

In the 1990s, he traveled to Afghanistan, where he lost both hands and an eye in an explosion.

In 1994, al-Masri formed the group Supporters of Shariah (SOS) and served as the leader and spiritual mentor until his arrest in 2004. SOS described itself as an organization dedicated to instituting Islamic law (*sharia*) throughout the world.<sup>30</sup> However, very little of al-Masri's Friday sermons focused on religion—most of the content dealt with urging participation in jihad.<sup>31</sup>



*al-Masri leading prayers outside of the Finsbury Park Mosque. [source: BBC]*

The group openly raised money for mujahideen and facilitated training for British Muslims, both in the UK and overseas.<sup>32</sup> At the time of al-Masri's arrest, SOS claimed to have more than 500 members.<sup>33</sup>

SOS members received basic forms of combat training at the Finsbury Park Mosque, where al-Masri served as imam. Al-Masri also condoned Muslim participation in the British military in order to take advantage of the training.<sup>34</sup>

He was arrested on the morning of May 27, 2004 by British police at the request of the United States.<sup>35</sup> The charges included: participation in a December 1998 conspiracy to take hostages in Yemen, which resulted in the death of four of the

<sup>28</sup> Correspondence Written by Home Office Officials During the Period of 1997 – 2001 About the Conduct of Abu Hamza, [http://nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/HomeOffice\\_AbuHamzaCorr.pdf](http://nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/HomeOffice_AbuHamzaCorr.pdf), last accessed on May 27, 2009.

<sup>29</sup> Correspondence Written by Home Office Officials During the Period of 1997 – 2001 About the Conduct of Abu Hamza, [http://nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/HomeOffice\\_AbuHamzaCorr.pdf](http://nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/HomeOffice_AbuHamzaCorr.pdf), last accessed on May 27, 2009.

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.geocities.com/sos\\_index/about.html](http://www.geocities.com/sos_index/about.html), last accessed on June 4, 2009.

<sup>31</sup> "Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri on Martyrdom and the Love of Death," The Middle East Media Research Institute, August 13, 2004. Here you are using quotes to set off article titles. Same above. Be consistent.

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.geocities.com/sos\\_index/about.html](http://www.geocities.com/sos_index/about.html), last accessed on June 4, 2009.

<sup>33</sup> Text of interview with Abu-Abdallah al-Turki BBC Monitoring,, August 10, 2004.

<sup>34</sup> "He Objects as to Why You Allow Muslims to Join up to the Forces of Kufr for Training," Abu Hamza response to a question about the permissibility of joining the military posed to him on the SOS web site, last accessed from [www.shareeah.org](http://www.shareeah.org) on August 13, 2004.

<sup>35</sup> "Abu Hamza Arrested in London on Terrorism Charges Filed in the United States," Press Release, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York, May 27, 2004.

hostages; providing material support to Al-Qaida; and, attempting to establish a training camp in Bly.<sup>36</sup>

Al-Masri's extradition to the United States is pending in the European Court of Human Rights. He is currently being held in London's Belmarsh Prison.

For more information about Abu Hamza al-Masri, see NEFA Senior Investigator Evan Kohlmann's expert witness report in the Oussama Kassir case.<sup>37</sup>

### James Ujaama



*James Ujaama: [source: Seattle Times]*

Ernest James Ujaama was born James Thompson in Denver, Colorado in 1966. His family moved to Seattle, Washington when he was five years old. His mother was a social worker in Seattle. Ujaama was also very involved in community service while growing up.<sup>38</sup>

After graduating from the University of Washington,<sup>39</sup> he authored three books on business development.

Ujaama converted to Islam in the mid-1990s,<sup>40</sup> six years after his younger brother Mustafa converted.<sup>41</sup> Mustafa is alleged to have converted to Islam while serving in the military.<sup>42</sup>



*Abdullah al-Faisal* <sup>3RS</sup>

Mustafa Ujaama, who was present at the Bly training, was sentenced to life in prison in 2007 for murdering his wife's lover.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>36</sup> "Abu Hamza Arrested in London on Terrorism Charges Filed in the United States," Press Release, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of New York, May 27, 2004.

<sup>37</sup> That report is available at

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/nefakassirekexpert.pdf>.

<sup>38</sup> Hal Benton, et al, *Ujaama's Conversion: A Passion for Business Then Zealotry for Islam*, Seattle Times, July 24, 2002.

<sup>39</sup> *Man Calls FBI Investigation Ridiculous*, Associated Press, July 17, 2002.

<sup>40</sup> *From Community Activist to Alleged Terrorist Conspirator*, CNN.com, August 29, 2002.

<sup>41</sup> *Man Calls FBI Investigation Ridiculous*, Associated Press, July 17, 2002.

<sup>42</sup> Hal Benton, et al, *Ujaama's Conversion: A Passion for Business Then Zealotry for Islam*, Seattle Times, July 24, 2002

<sup>43</sup> "Man Found Guilty of First-Degree Murder, Sentenced," Press Release, Denver District Attorney, December 7, 2007.

After his conversion, Ujaama began attending the Dar-us-Salaam mosque with his brother. According to accounts from his relatives, his interest in Islam grew to the point of fanaticism.<sup>44</sup>

His extreme devotion to Islam led him to London and to Abu Hamza al-Masri. He is also said to have attended the lectures of yet another firebrand cleric who was based in the U.K., Abdullah al-Faisal.<sup>45</sup> Al-Faisal was jailed in the U.K. for soliciting murder and racial hatred. After his release from prison in 2007, he was deported to his native Jamaica.<sup>46</sup>

On visits back to Seattle from London, Ujaama urged family members to convert to Islam.<sup>47</sup> He also brought Abu Hamza al-Masri's tapes and videos with him to the Dar-us-Salaam mosque.<sup>48</sup>



Screen shot from StopAmerica.org.

week long "Ultimate Jihad Challenge" course, which offered live fire training in the U.S.

<sup>44</sup> Hal Benton, et al, *Ujaama's Conversion: A Passion for Business Then Zealotry for Islam*, Seattle Times, July 24, 2002.

<sup>45</sup> Shenai Raif, *Cleric Found Guilty of Soliciting Murders*, The Independent (UK), February 24, 2003.

<sup>46</sup> For more information on Abdullah al-Faisal, please see NEFA Senior Investigator Evan Kohlmann's expert witness report at <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/nefakassirekexpert.pdf>.

<sup>47</sup> Hal Benton, et al, *Ujaama's Conversion: A Passion for Business Then Zealotry for Islam*, Seattle Times, July 24, 2002.

<sup>48</sup> David Heath, *Seattle Man My Give US A Way to Nab London Cleric*, Seattle Times, August 20, 2002.

<sup>49</sup> David Heath, *Seattle Man May Give US A Way to Nab London Cleric*, Seattle Times, August 20, 2002.

<sup>50</sup> *Man Calls FBI Investigation Ridiculous*, Associated Press, July 17, 2002.

<sup>51</sup> David Heath, *Seattle Man May Give US A Way to Nab London Cleric*, Seattle Times, August 20, 2002.

rather than in the U.K. “due to the firearms law in the U.K.,” the company also offered a course in personal security specifically for Muslims. The course offered to train students in the following skills:<sup>52</sup>

- “Islam and the British Law”
- “Pedestrian and Vehicular Escorts”
- “Islamic Dress and Attire”
- “The Role of the Islamic Woman Bodyguard”
- “Firearms Introduction and Licensing”
- “Live Operations”
- “Improvised Explosive Devices”
- “Close Quarter Battle”
- “Stalking, Terrorism, Use of Force Using Quran and Sunna
- “The Islamic Art of War”

At the behest of Abu Hamza al-Masri, Ujaama traveled to Afghanistan in 2000 to deliver money and to install software on computers belonging to members of the Taliban.<sup>53</sup>

On September 5, 2001, Ujaama traveled from London to Pakistan, again at the behest of Abu Hamza al-Masri, to deliver money across the border to the Taliban in Afghanistan and to set up a computer lab. Al-Masri provided Ujaama with approximately £6,000<sup>54</sup> (the equivalent of approximately \$8,760, according to the exchange rate in early September 2001). Ujaama was questioned by authorities at Heathrow Airport about the nature of his travel to Pakistan. At that time, Ujaama informed the authorities that it was his intention to transport computer equipment and money to the Taliban in Afghanistan and to assist them in establishing a school. He informed officials that he intended to acquire a visa to travel to Afghanistan while in Pakistan, and if he was unable to acquire the visa, he would cross the border anyway. Ujaama was unable to travel across the border at that time due to the U.S. military response to the 9/11 attacks.<sup>55</sup>

Ujaama was arrested in Denver in July 2002 as a material witness. On April 14, 2003, he pled guilty to conspiracy to supply goods and services to the Taliban in exchange for a reduced prison sentence.<sup>56</sup> He also agreed to assist prosecutors in ongoing terrorism investigations.

In 2004, Ujaama was released on parole from federal prison and moved in with his grandmother in Seattle.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> See <http://web.archive.org/web/20010516224304/http://www.sakina.fsbusiness.co.uk/>, last accessed on June 5, 2009.

<sup>53</sup> United States of America vs. Ernest James Ujaama, Plea Agreement, United States District Court Western District of Washington at Seattle, No. CR02 0283R, filed April 14, 2003.

<sup>54</sup> United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, Oussama Abdallah Kassir and Haroon Rashid Aswat, Indictment, No S2 04 Cr. 356 (JFK), Southern District of New York, filed February 6, 2006.

<sup>55</sup> United States of America vs. Ernest James Ujaama, Plea Agreement, United States District Court Western District of Washington at Seattle, No. CR02 0283R, filed April 14, 2003.

<sup>56</sup> US Department of Justice press release, April 14, 2003.

<sup>57</sup> Mike Carter, *Fugitive Ujaama Arrested in Belize*, Seattle Times, December 20, 2006.

In December 2006, Ujaama fled the U.S. and was arrested as a fugitive outside a mosque in Belize. He was traveling on a false Mexican passport under the name “Ramirez Ramirez” and had been in Belize for 10 days at the time of his arrest.<sup>58</sup> He had only four months of parole remaining, stemming from his 2003 conviction.<sup>59</sup>

Ujaama married a Somali national, Farhiya Kahin, whose family lived in London.<sup>60</sup> They have one daughter.<sup>61</sup> Ujaama also has a son in Seattle.<sup>62</sup>

### Semi Osman

Semi Osman is of Lebanese descent and was born in Sierra Leone. He entered the U.S. on a British passport in 1995 at the age of 18.<sup>63</sup>

He later attempted to obtain U.S. citizenship by entering into a fraudulent marriage.<sup>64</sup>

In 1998, he served in the U.S. Army for one year, and, in June 2001, he joined the Naval Reserve<sup>65</sup> and received training as a mechanic.

According to court documents, Osman had a history of substance abuse.<sup>66</sup>

After divorcing his first wife, Osman married Angelica Osman. Angelica’s friend from the Dar-us-Salaam mosque married the Dog Cry Ranch owner, which is how the Osmans eventually came to Bly.<sup>67</sup>

Osman knew Ujaama from the Dar-us-Salaam mosque, where Osman led prayers.<sup>68</sup>

In May 2002, Osman was arrested at his home in Washington. He was charged with illegal possession of a handgun and attempting to secure legal status in the United States by entering a fraudulent marriage.

Investigators recovered the following in a search of Osman’s Tacoma, Washington home<sup>69</sup>:

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<sup>58</sup> Mike Carter, *Fugitive Ujaama Arrested in Belize*, Seattle Times, December 20, 2006.

<sup>59</sup> Mike Lewis, *Ujaama Returns to Court*, Seattle Post Intelligencer, January 17, 2007.

<sup>60</sup> David Heath, *Seattle Man My Give US A Way to Nab London Cleric*, Seattle Times, August 20, 2002.

<sup>61</sup> *Man Calls FBI Investigation Ridiculous*, Associated Press, July 17, 2002.

<sup>62</sup> Hal Benton, et al, *Ujaama’s Conversion: A Passion for Business Then Zealotry for Islam*, Seattle Times, July 24, 2002.

<sup>63</sup> Melanthia Mitchell, *Man Arrested in Terrorism-Related Probe Sentenced to 11 Months*, Associated Press, April 26, 2003.

<sup>64</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Press Release, January 16, 2007.

<sup>65</sup> Christopher Munsey and Patricia Kime, *Al Qaeda in the Ranks*, Navy Times, July 29, 2002.

<sup>66</sup> State of Washington v. Osman, Supreme Court of the State of Washington, NO. 76948-6, filed August 3, 2006.

<sup>67</sup> Les Zaitz, *Chance Draws Bly Into a Web of Jihadists*, The Oregonian, October 4, 2005.

<sup>68</sup> Les Zaitz, *Chance Draws Bly Into a Web of Jihadists*, The Oregonian, October 4, 2005.

<sup>69</sup> Christopher Munsey and Patricia Kime, *Al Qaeda in the Ranks*, Navy Times, July 29, 2002.

- A Lebanese passport issued in the name of Sami Samir El-Kassem; the photo appears to be that of Semi Osman as a young child. The date of the photo is listed as 1970 and place of birth is listed as Sierra Leone;
- A book titled “Acquiring New ID” that concealed a Washington state birth certificate, in the name of Daniel Anthony McClellan, between its pages;
- A document that looked like a scanned version of the Daniel McClellan birth certificate with the name altered to read “Michael McClellan;”
- A visa application for Yemen.
- Police also found literature and videos by Abu Hamza al-Masri on the importance of training.<sup>70</sup>

Osman had obtained the handgun from Abdul Raheem Al Arshad Ali, a fellow congregant from the Dar-us-Salaam mosque, who had participated in training at the camp in Bly.<sup>71</sup> On September 24, 1999, prior to Osman’s departure to Bly, Ali purchased a Smith & Wesson handgun from a gun dealer in the Seattle area for Osman, who was not legally allowed to have a firearm because of his immigration status. Ali suggested to Osman that he scrape the serial number off the frame of the gun so that it could not be traced.<sup>72</sup>

In April 2003, Osman was sentenced to 11 months in jail. Two months later, in June 2003, Osman was charged with molesting his then 10-year old stepdaughter.<sup>73</sup> He pled guilty to incest charges in November 2003.

In January 2007, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) won its bid to have Osman deported. Osman appealed the decision and remains in ICE custody.<sup>74</sup>

### Oussama Abdullah Kassir



*Oussama Kassir (source: Dagens Nyheter, Sweden)*

<sup>70</sup> Sean O’Neil and Daniel McGrory, *The Suicide Factory*, page 189, HarperCollins UK, 2006.

<sup>71</sup> Sam Skolnik, *Ex-Mosque Leader Arrested*, Seattle Post Intelligencer, November 6, 2002.

<sup>72</sup> Sam Skolnik, *Ex-Mosque Leader Arrested*, Seattle Post Intelligencer, November 6, 2002.

<sup>73</sup> State of Washington v. Semi Osman, Court of Appeals, Division II, State of Washington, No 31371-5-II, Filed March 30, 2005.

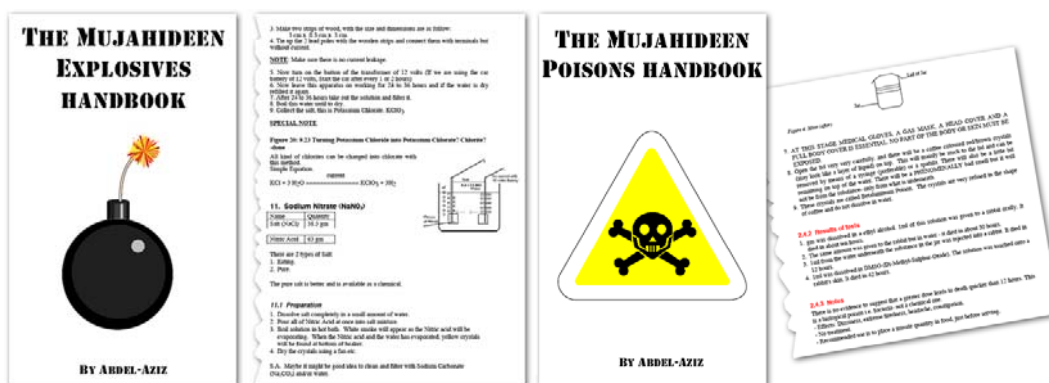
<sup>74</sup> “Convicted Felon with Ties to Al Qaeda Training Camp Ordered Deported,” Press Release, U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement, January 16, 2007.

Born in 1966, Oussama Abdullah Kassir is a Lebanese national with Swedish citizenship. His last known residence was in Stockholm.<sup>75</sup>

A devotee of Abu Hamza al-Masri, Kassir claimed he received terrorist training at camps in Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Kashmir.<sup>76</sup>

Kassir is alleged to have developed at least six jihadi web sites between December 2001 and the time of his arrest in December 2005. The sites were used to disseminate terrorist training material, such as “The Mujahideen Explosives Handbook” and “The Mujahideen Poisons Handbook.”<sup>77</sup>

Kassir provided the zip files of the texts for the terrorist handbooks on one of the web site he established in March 2002, called alqqa3qa3.com.<sup>78</sup> Also in March 2002, Kassir began to develop [www.uddat.8k.com](http://www.uddat.8k.com), the content of which dealt with firearms and bombs.<sup>79</sup> (For more on Kassir’s involvement with jihadist websites, see NEFA Senior Investigator’s PowerPoint from his involvement as an expert witness in the Kassir case.<sup>80</sup>)



Sample pages from terrorist handbooks distributed by Oussama Kassir

On December 11, 2005, Kassir was arrested at the airport in Prague while en route from Sweden to Lebanon.<sup>81</sup>

<sup>75</sup> “Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda,” Press Release, United States Attorney’s Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009,

<sup>76</sup> “Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda,” Press Release, United States Attorney’s Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009,

<sup>77</sup> “Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda,” Press Release, United States Attorney’s Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009,

<sup>78</sup> See <http://web.archive.org/web/20020921122854/http://alqqa3qa3.8m.com/>, last accessed on June 5, 2009.

<sup>79</sup> United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, Oussama Abdallah Kassir and Haroon Rashid Aswat, Indictment, No S2 04 Cr. 356 (JFK), Southern District of New York, filed February 6, 2006.

<sup>80</sup> That PowerPoint is available at <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/nefakassirekxpertppt.pdf>.

<sup>81</sup> “United States Announces the Extradition of Accused Terrorist From Czech Republic,” Press Release, United States Attorney’s Office Southern District of New York, September 25, 2007.

## Haroon Rashid Aswat



*Abu Hamza al-Masri, left, with Haroon Awat, right*

Haroon Rashid Aswat Aswat, a British national of Indian descent, was born in 1979 in the U.K. and raised in Dewsbury, near Leeds. He left the area in the mid-1990s and traveled to Pakistan and Afghanistan, where he became involved with Al-Qaida.<sup>82</sup>

When Aswat returned to London, he began attending the Finsbury Park Mosque,<sup>83</sup> where Abu Hamza al-Masri was the imam. At the mosque, Aswat recruited for Al-Qaida.<sup>84</sup>

Aswat was arrested in Zambia in July 2005 and was deported to the U.K., where he is currently awaiting extradition to the United States to stand trial for his role in the conspiracy to establish a training camp in Bly, Oregon. His appeal to block extradition to the U.S. is pending in the European Court of Human Rights.<sup>85</sup>

### Implications

- It is not necessary to travel overseas for jihad training as training camps can be established in atypical, remote locations. The Toronto 18, for example, created their own makeshift training camp in a remote area two hours north of Toronto.

In February 2005 Senate testimony, FBI Director Robert Mueller commented, “efforts by extremists to obtain training inside the U.S. is [sic] an ongoing concern.”

- Face-to-face interaction with radical ideologues is not necessarily essential for the process of radicalization to occur. Literature and other propaganda material can be distributed by those traveling overseas to study or accessed via the Internet. Abdullah al-Faisal, for example, who may have been responsible for radicalizing James Ujaama in London, was deported to his native Jamaica after he served a prison sentence in the U.K. for inciting terrorism. Even though Faisal cannot enter the United States, his taped lectures are circulated via the Internet, and may be circulated via travelers and via postal service

<sup>82</sup> *Tangled Web That Still Leaves Worrying Loose Ends*, The Sunday Times, July 31, 2005.

<sup>83</sup> *Tangled Web That Still Leaves Worrying Loose Ends*, The Sunday Times, July 31, 2005.

<sup>84</sup> *Tangled Web That Still Leaves Worrying Loose Ends*, The Sunday Times, July 31, 2005.

<sup>85</sup> “Swedish Citizen Oussama Kassir Found Guilty of Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda,” Press Release, United States Attorney’s Office Southern District of New York, May 12, 2009,

## **Chronology of Events**

Date	Event
September 24, 1999	Handgun illegally bought for Osman by fellow member of Seattle mosque.
September 30, 1999	The Osman family travels out to Bly, Oregon from Seattle.
October 1999	Ujaama travels to Bly from Seattle to stay with Osman.
October 25, 1999	Ujaama faxes Abu Hamza al-Masri describing attributes of prospective training camp location in Bly.
November 26, 1999	Kassir and Aswat arrive in N.Y. via Air India. They travel to Seattle by bus and to Bly, Oregon by car.
December 13, 1999	Klamath Falls, Oregon - patrol officer pulls Osman, Kassir, and Aswat over for a burned out brake light. Car stop draws FBI attention.
January 2000 (exact date unknown)	Kassir begins to provide jihad training at Seattle mosque.
December 2000	Ujaama travels to Afghanistan to deliver money.
February 2000	Osmans move back to Seattle from Bly.
March 7, 2000	Kassir leaves the United States.
June 2000	Ujaama travels from London to New York to collect funds for the Finsbury Park Mosque Hijrah fund from area mosques.
November 2000	Al-Masri asks Ujaama to escort another SOS follower from the U.K. to Afghanistan for training. Conspirators were also to establish safehouses and lodgings in Pakistan to facilitate future travelers from the U.K.
Early September 2001	Ujaama travels to Pakistan with the intention of carrying supplies and money to Taliban-controlled areas in Afghanistan. Does not make it across border because of U.S. response to 9/11 attacks.
December 2001	Kassir establishes mii.faiithweb.com which provides terrorist materials and instructions to build a bomb.
March 2002	Kassir establishes <a href="http://www.alqqa3qa3.8m.com">www.alqqa3qa3.8m.com</a> , which

	provides terrorist materials and bomb and poison making instructions. The web site server is located in White Plains, N.Y.
March 2002	Kassir involved with operation of <a href="http://www.uddat.8k.com">www.uddat.8k.com</a> .
May 17, 2002	Osman arrested at his home in Washington.
May 2002	Kassir makes a call to one of the individuals who attended the training camp to inquire about Osman's arrest.
July 22, 2002	Ujaama arrested in Denver as a material witness.
November 6, 2002	Abdul Raheem Al Arshad Ali arrested for illegally purchasing handgun for Semi Osman.
February 2003	Ujaama pleads guilty to support of Taliban in exchange for a reduced sentence. He also agrees to assist prosecutors in ongoing terrorism investigations.
April 12, 2003	Osman sentenced to 11 months for illegal gun possession.
June 14, 2003	Osman charged with molesting his 11-year old stepdaughter. He pled guilty to the charges in November 2003.
May 2004	Al-Masri arrested in London by Metropolitan Police. His extradition to the United States to stand trial for his part in the conspiracy to establish a training camp in Bly is currently pending in the European Court of Human Rights.
July 21, 2005	Aswat arrested in Zambia and deported to the U.K.
December 11, 2005	Kassir arrested at airport in Czech Republic based on charges filed in the Southern District of New York.
November 30, 2006	British judge approves Aswat's extradition to the U.S. to stand trial for his role in the plot to establish the training camp.
December 19, 2006	Ujaama arrested as a fugitive in Belize.
February 6, 2006	Superseding indictment filed in Southern District of New York charging Kassir with terrorism related offences.

January 2007	Osman ordered to be deported from U.S. Appealed his court order and remains in ICE custody.
September 25, 2007	Kassir arrives in New York from Czech Republic after extradition hearing.
May 12, 2009	Kassir found guilty of attempting to establish and recruit for a training camp in Bly for the purpose of providing support to Al-Qaida, and for distributing terrorist training material over the Internet.
September 2, 2009	Kassir's sentencing scheduled in Manhattan Federal Court.