



## The John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport Plot

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A NEFA report of the JFK Plot  
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### Plot Summary

In January 2006, investigators became aware of a plot to attack New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). The primary mastermind behind the plot was an unemployed Guyanese-American, Russell Defreitas, who worked as a cargo handler at JFK Airport until he was laid off in 2001.

The intended targets of the attack included the JFK jet fuel tanks, which are fed by the Buckeye pipeline. Part of the pipeline runs through heavily populated areas of Queens, New York to JFK Airport. The conspirators hoped to cause an explosion that would destroy the airport and some of the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Defreitas formed a group of willing participants from Guyana and Trinidad. After months of planning and extensive travel between New York, Guyana, and Trinidad, the subjects were arrested in June 2007.

At the time of their arrest, the conspirators had not procured explosives.<sup>1</sup>

In June 2007, the conspirators were indicted for conspiring to attack a public transportation system.<sup>2</sup> All pled not guilty in Brooklyn Federal Court in June 2008.

### Conspirators



**Russell Defreitas**

**Russell Defreitas**, 63 years old at the time of his arrest, is a United States citizen originally from Guyana.<sup>3</sup> Defreitas lived in New York for 30 years but kept a home in Guyana.<sup>4</sup>

Defreitas worked at JFK Airport as a "trainee supervisor" for the cargo company Evergreen Eagle until he was laid off in 2001.<sup>5</sup> After he was laid off, he collected welfare and held odd jobs, such as selling incense on the street.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Goldstein, *Imam Accused in JFK Plot Wanted Help from Iran*, New York Sun, July 10, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> US v. Defreitas, et al, No. cr-07-543, (E.D. N.Y.), Indictment, Filed June 28, 2007.

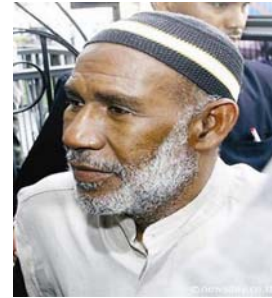
<sup>3</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Mark Ramotar, *Police Say Maps from Kadir's Home Date Back to 1980*, Guyana Chronicle, June 9, 2007.

<sup>5</sup> Alfonso A. Castillo, *Profile: Russell Defreitas*, Newsday (New York), June 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

**Kareem Ibrahim**, 62 years old at the time of his arrest, is a Trinidadian citizen. Ibrahim, who was born “Winston Kingston”, converted to Islam when he was 21.<sup>7</sup> Ibrahim once held a position in the Trinidadian political party, Congress of the People,<sup>8</sup> and had also worked as a musician in a steel drum band that toured in the United States in the 1970s.<sup>9</sup> He had not done any air travel since 1979 because he suffered from extreme claustrophobia.<sup>10</sup>



*Kareem Ibrahim*

Ibrahim worked in accounting jobs until he retired in 2005<sup>11</sup> and served as an imam for two Shia congregations in Trinidad.<sup>12</sup> He also sold Islamic books in a Trinidad market.<sup>13</sup>

He is the father of five<sup>14</sup> and lived with his granddaughter and her husband.<sup>15</sup>

Ibrahim and co-conspirator Abdul Kadir had known each other for twenty years.<sup>16</sup>

Prior to his extradition to the United States, Ibrahim was hospitalized in Trinidad for an alleged nervous breakdown.<sup>17</sup>

**Abdul Kadir**, 55 years old at the time of his arrest, was a former mayor of Linden (Guyana’s second largest city) and a former Member of Parliament, representing the People’s National Congress Reform. He converted to Islam in 1972.<sup>18</sup>

Kadir graduated from the University of Guyana in 1975, with a technical diploma in civil engineering. Kadir spent a year in Venezuela between 1977 and 1978. He then went on to receive a BSc in Civil Engineering from the University of the West Indies in 1981.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Cordielle Street and Carol Matroo, *Terror Suspect’s Daughter: My Dad Personal Acquaintance of PM*, The Trinidad Guardian, June 6, 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Joseph Goldstein, *Imam Accused in JFK Plot Wanted Help from Iran*, New York Sun, July 10, 2007.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Cordielle Street and Carol Matroo, *Terror Suspect’s Daughter: My Dad Personal Acquaintance of PM*, The Trinidad Guardian, June 6, 2007.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Joseph Goldstein, *Imam Accused in JFK Plot Wanted Help from Iran*, New York Sun, July 10, 2007.

<sup>13</sup> Darryl Heeralal and Gyasi Gonzales, *Shia Links Possible*, Trinidad Express, June 3, 2007

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Gyasi Gonzales, *Trini Suspect’s Home Searched*, Trinidad Express, June 8, 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Cordielle Street and Carol Matroo, *Terror Suspect’s Daughter: My Dad Personal Acquaintance of PM*, The Trinidad Guardian, June 6, 2007.

<sup>17</sup> *JFK Suspects Extradited*, Trinidad Express, June 25, 2008.

<sup>18</sup> Mark Ramotar, *Police Say Maps from Kadir’s Home Date Back to 1980*, Guyana Chronicle, June 9, 2007.

<sup>19</sup> Heppilena Ferguson, *Four Charged in Terror Plot*, Stabroek News (Guyana), June 3, 2007.

He served as mayor of Linden beginning in 1994, and resigned from the position in 1996.<sup>20</sup>

He was an MP for one term, beginning in 2001.

He was the imam at a Shia Islamic center in Guyana, which is alleged to have received funds from Iran.<sup>21</sup> There is no further open-source reporting which describes the extent of or exact source of the funding.



**Abdul Kadir**

Kadir has nine children.<sup>22</sup> Two of his sons, Kareem, 29, and Iqra, 25, were arrested for unlawful possession of ammunition on June 3, 2007.<sup>23</sup> Guyanese police discovered a single 762x39 rifle round in a bedroom at the Kadir's home. Iqra Kadir had recently graduated from the University of Guyana, with a degree in chemistry, when he was arrested. Both brothers were released on bail shortly after their arrest.

His daughter, Sauda Kadir, was also arrested after police discovered her in a photograph on Abdul Kadir's thumb drive, posing with "high-power" weapons with other family members.<sup>24</sup> She is one of two of Kadir's children who studied Islam in Oom, Iran.<sup>25</sup> Another photograph on the same drive showed Kadir and another son posing with automatic weapons.<sup>26</sup>

The FBI informant who had been involved in the plot stayed with one of Kadir's sons (not named in court documents) in Linden, during a May 2007 trip to Guyana.<sup>27</sup>

Kadir was first introduced into the plot through a mutual contact of his and Defreitas' (named only as "Individual F" in court documents).<sup>28</sup>

**Abdel Nur**, 57 years old at the time of his arrest, had been deported from the U.S. after being convicted on drug trafficking charges in the late 1980s.<sup>29</sup> He is a Guyanese citizen.



**Abdel Nur**

Reports describe Nur as an extremely devout Muslim who attended prayers at the Alexander Village Masjid in Georgetown, Guyana every morning.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> *Pro-Sunni Bias in Government Response to Arrests*, Stabroek News (Guyana), December 11, 2007.

<sup>22</sup> Darryl Heeralal and Gyasi Gonzales, *Shia Links Possible*, Trinidad Express, June 3, 2007

<sup>23</sup> Keisha McCammon, *Kadir's Son's Refused Bail Over Single Bullet Charge*, Stabroek News, June 7, 2007

<sup>24</sup> *Kadir's Daughter Held Over Photo*, Stabroek News, June 16, 2007.

<sup>25</sup> Heppilena Ferguson, *Four Charged in Terror Plot*, Stabroek News (Guyana), June 3, 2007.

<sup>26</sup> *Two of Kadir's Sons Held Over Ammo Find*, Stabroek News, June 7, 2007.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Nigel Williams and Heppilena Ferguson, *Kadir, Ibrahim Remanded-Extradition Trial To Start in 60 Days - Wanted Bulletin Issued for Abdel Nur*, Stabroek News, June 5, 2007.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

Nur was introduced to the plot by Kadir.<sup>32</sup> He lived in a boarding house in Guyana until the time of his arrest.

### **Additional Conspirators Mentioned in Court Documents**

Individual A – Associate of Defreitas’ in Guyana. Early participant in the plot.

Individual B – Citizen of Guyana.

Individual C – Citizen of Guyana. An associate of “A”.

Individual D – located in Trinidad. An associate of Jamaat al Muslimeen (JaM).

Individual E – Citizen of Guyana. Told source he “takes care of individual’s basic needs while they are performing their jihad duties.”<sup>33</sup>

Individual F – Citizen of Guyana. Associate of Kadir.

Individual G – An associate of Kadir’s who was asked to travel from Guyana to Trinidad to arrange the meeting between Kadir, Defreitas, and the informant with JaM.

leadership. Kadir stated to Defreitas and the informant that Individual G did not know the details of the plot.<sup>34</sup>

### **Target Selection and Pre-Operational Surveillance**

The conspirators selected jet fuel tanks as a target, with the intention of causing the maximal damage. They anticipated the attack would destroy the entire airport, and would also do considerable damage to the borough of Queens, where JFK is located.<sup>35</sup>

In addition to his intention to cause major economic damage,<sup>36</sup> Defreitas also appreciated the symbolic value of the target and anticipated the attack would evoke psychological and emotional damage, saying that because John F. Kennedy was a beloved president, attacking the airport named after him would be like “killing the man twice.”<sup>37</sup>

Defreitas claimed to the informant he had contemplated an attack at JFK while he was still an employee there. He contemplated using a rocket to hit a plane during takeoff. He claimed he could not follow through on his desire to attack at the time because he had no terrorist connections and because no one had approached him.<sup>38</sup>

As a former employee of JFK airport, Defreitas had knowledge of the locations of the jet fuel storage tanks and the pipeline that fed the tanks.

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<sup>32</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr–00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

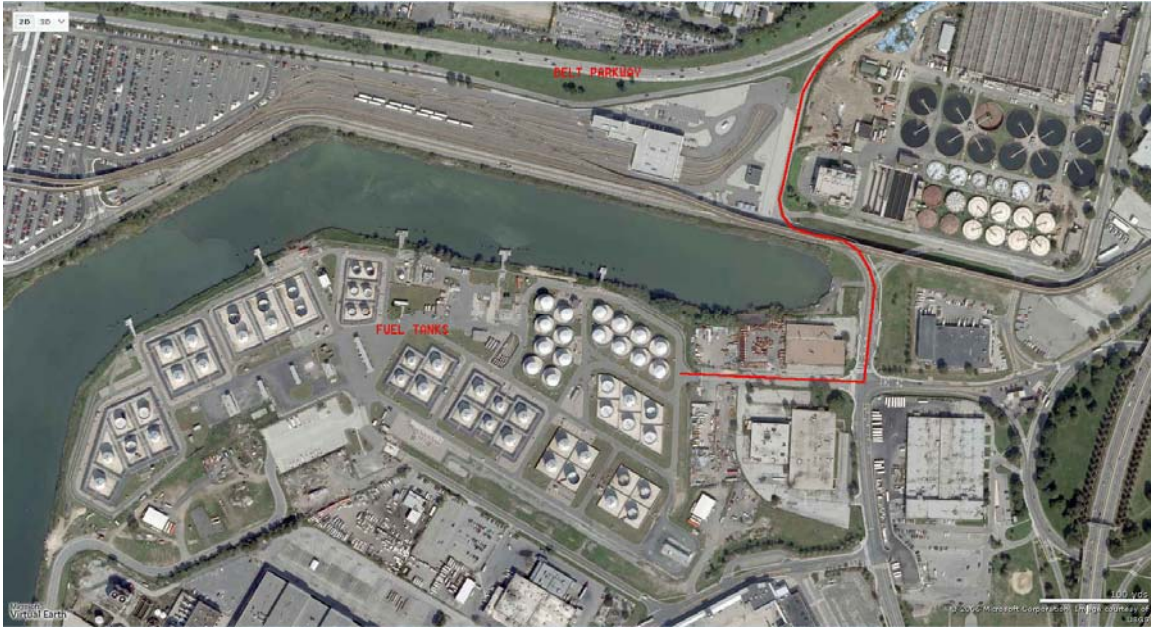
<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr–00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.



Source: <http://www.eyeball-series.org>

In early January 2007, Defreitas and the informant made four trips to JFK to select targets. They observed the locations of jet fuel tanks and identified routes into and out of the airport.<sup>39</sup> They videotaped their last two trips to the airport on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007.<sup>40</sup>

Defreitas noted the level of security that surrounded the prospective attack targets during the surveillance process.<sup>41</sup> He determined it would be necessary to disable the control tower at JFK because the jet fuel tanks are monitored by security personnel located in the tower.<sup>42</sup> During the same surveillance trip, Defreitas told the informant the JFK flight tower was also responsible for monitoring roadways surrounding the airport.<sup>43</sup>

Defreitas told the informant he had tested security at JFK during his time as a cargo handler. He said he had successfully accessed restricted areas on many occasions when he worked there, but was aware identification was now required.<sup>44</sup>

During surveillance operations, Defreitas told the informant the civilian security who patrolled the airport during the day was minimal, but the official police coverage at night was heavier.<sup>45</sup>

When Kadir was presented with the surveillance footage during Defreitas' January/February trip to Guyana, he expressed concern it was not operationally sufficient. Kadir advised Defreitas and the informant to use Google Earth to inspect the

<sup>39</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

target when they returned to New York.<sup>46</sup> The informant provided the conspirators with Google Earth images of JFK in March 2007.<sup>47</sup>

Kadir had at least some familiarity with the construction of gas pipelines. After his arrest in Trinidad, Guyana police recovered plans of a Linden pipeline from Kadir's home.<sup>48</sup> According to reports, the plans were dated 1980, a time when Kadir was still an engineering student. Kadir's wife told police the plans were likely given to her husband to review by local contractors when he was the mayor of Linden.<sup>49</sup> There has been no further reporting on whether Kadir had reviewed the Linden pipeline plans as a means of preparing for the JFK attack.

### **Method of Attack**

Although the conspirators had not reached the point of procuring explosives, they did discuss options during a January 2007 meeting in Guyana. After reviewing the JFK surveillance tapes filmed by Defreitas and the informant, the conspirators determined that dynamite alone would not be enough to penetrate the fuel tanks, which they thought were made of titanium. One of the conspirators suggested using a chemical that could penetrate the metal.<sup>50</sup>

During their May 2007 trip to Guyana, Kadir, Defreitas, and the informant discussed execution of the attack in further detail. Defreitas mentioned that because the fuel tanks were monitored from the control tower, disabling the control tower should be part of their operation. Kadir asked Defreitas and the informant about the distance between the street and the fuel tanks.<sup>51</sup>

From the photographs and surveillance footage, Kadir assessed that the tanks were double tanks and believed it would take two explosions to ignite the fuel inside the tank.<sup>52</sup>

Court documents reference discussions between Defreitas and the informant about entries and exits from JFK, but there is no mention of a precise plan of how or by whom the device would be placed.

### **Funding and Material Support**

The conspirators knew the group needed more experienced help to execute their plan and intended to ask for assistance from Jamaat al-Muslimeen (JaM), a Sunni group based in Trinidad.

JaM was involved in a failed coup attempt in 1990, and its members have been involved in overseas gun smuggling cases and drug trafficking; however, the group has not been involved in any terrorist attacks overseas.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Mark Ramotar, *Police Say Maps from Kadir's Home Dated Back to 1980*, Guyana Chronicle, June 9, 2007.

<sup>49</sup> *Drawings Were for Linden Projects*, Stabroek News, June 7, 2007.

<sup>50</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>51</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

Several of the cell members had social connections to members of JaM, including Kadir. Kadir told Defreitas and the informant that, because he had introduced Abdel Nur to JaM, Nur would be the right man to introduce Defreitas and the informant to JaM.<sup>54</sup>

Defreitas suggested taking Kadir to introduce them to the JaM leadership rather than taking Nur. Initially, Kadir agreed to make the trip to Trinidad, but then pulled out the day before the trip, saying he had another project to attend to.

JaM leader Yasin Abu Bakr was about to stand trial for sedition in Trinidad, at the time the Guyanese conspirators intended to bring him into the plot. Kadir was aware of the case against Abu Bakr and advised Defreitas and the informant that security and surveillance in Trinidad and Tobago would be heightened as a result.<sup>55</sup>

On May 20, 2007, Defreitas, Nur, and the informant traveled to Trinidad with the intention of meeting with Abu Bakr. Kadir had arranged for his contacts in Trinidad to meet Defreitas, Nur, and the informant at the airport when they arrived on May 20, 2007. Defreitas and the informant were taken to stay with Kareem Ibrahim, another associate of Kadir's.<sup>56</sup>

On May 22, 2007, Defreitas and the informant met Nur at the JaM compound. Nur told Defreitas and the informant he had already met with the JaM leader who said they should return in a few days to discuss the plan in further detail. Nur also reported the JaM leader wanted to run checks on Defreitas and the informant to determine their credibility before holding a meeting with them.<sup>57</sup>

On May 23, Defreitas presented the plan to attack JFK to Kareem Ibrahim, and explained that the group was in Trinidad to seek support from JaM. Ibrahim advised Defreitas not to discuss the plot with the JaM leader. Instead, Ibrahim suggested he could bring in some of his overseas contacts to finance the attack. Defreitas agreed to allow Ibrahim to approach his overseas contacts about the plot.<sup>58</sup>

In an August 2007 interview with National Public Radio, Abu Bakr stated he never consider getting caught up in a plot so "insane." About Nur, Abu Bakr said, "You would take someone who would have to have a massive organization with all kinds of funds and resources to do something like this, and this man doesn't have a car, as far as I know. He doesn't even drive a car." Bakr also considered that Nur might have been sent by the U.S. or Trinidadian government to entrap him, saying, "I have seen enough movies I would have thought this guy was a swallow and someone was trying to set me up."<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Chris Zambelis, *Spotlight on Trinidad and Tobago's Jamaat al Muslimeen*, The Jamestown Foundation, June 25, 2007.

<sup>54</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Dina Temple-Raston, *Radical Muslim Leader Denies Links to JFK Plot*, NPR, August 6, 2007.

## **Operational Security**

The group appeared to be concerned about securing communications. The conspirators talked about using code language when discussing the plot or when referring to JFK, and said they should avoid discussing the plot over the phone.<sup>60</sup>

Kadir code-named the plot “The Chicken Hatchery” or “Chicken Farm.”

Because of his prominence in Guyana, Kadir insisted on being seen in public with the informant and Defreitas, explaining that once they were seen together in public, people “would think twice” if they had any intention of bringing harm.<sup>61</sup>

After their meeting in February 2007, Defreitas appeared to rely on Kadir regarding matters of security. Upon returning to New York City on February 28, 2007, Defreitas’ belongings were inspected by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents, who discovered a phone book that contained Kadir’s phone number as well as numbers for Individuals A, F, and E. Defreitas became paranoid that the U.S. government was aware of their plot, and immediately contacted Kadir to discuss his concern. Kadir told Defreitas he would get back to him after consulting his “associates.”<sup>62</sup>

In a March 7, 2007 phone call, Kadir told the informant “folks do not want to deal with that hatchery (referring to JFK) because right now it is too sensitive.” This was an apparent reference to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol’s search of Defreitas, which had taken place at the airport the prior week.<sup>63</sup>

Kadir assured Defreitas he would personally meet them at the airport in Guyana when they returned in May 2007, to eliminate any problems with security.<sup>64</sup>

Kadir suggested to Defreitas that he copy the JFK surveillance footage to a thumb drive or DVD and hide it.<sup>65</sup>

Prior to their May 2007 trip to Trinidad from Guyana, Kadir told Defreitas and the informant to be aware of government surveillance on them. He told them not to carry any operational plans during their trip, in the event they were searched.<sup>66</sup>

## **Training**

There is no available reporting to indicate that any of the conspirators received formal terrorist training.

Defreitas claimed to the informant that he learned how to make bombs in Guyana,<sup>67</sup> however, there is no open-source reporting to support his claim.

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<sup>60</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr–00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr–00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

### Ideological Doctrine and Motivation

Defreitas believed Muslims incurred the “wrath of the world” while Jews always got a “pass.”<sup>68</sup> He believed there is a war being fought for Islam and all Muslims should be part of the fight.

Defreitas claimed to the informant that while he was an employee at JFK he had observed military parts, including missiles, being shipped to Israel. He felt these weapons would be used to kill Muslims and he wanted to do something to get the “bastards” back.

During their trip to Guyana, the conspirators discussed the necessity of formal instruction in Islam,<sup>69</sup> which indicates some were truly committed to attacking in the name of Islam.

Kadir wanted to keep the number of “innocents” (women and children) killed in the attack to a minimum, and proposed the attack be executed in the early morning hours to reduce casualties. Kadir felt the primary damage should be economic.<sup>70</sup>

In a 2004 newspaper interview, Kadir said he was influenced by the writings of Walter Rodney, Kwame Nkrumah, Eldridge Cleaver, and Malcolm X.<sup>71</sup>

### Investigation and Arrests

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), New York Police Department, and Port Authority Police Department worked jointly on the investigation.

The FBI had been working with the informant in this case since 2004. The informant was convicted on drug trafficking and RICO charges in 1996. He was also convicted on drug trafficking charges in New York Supreme Court in 2003. The informant agreed to cooperate with the government in exchange for financial assistance and a reduced sentence on his 2003 trafficking charges.<sup>72</sup>



*Just prior to Defreitas' arrest; Source: ABC News*

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Heppilena Ferguson, *Four Charged in Terror Plot*, Stabroek News (Guyana), June 3, 2007.

<sup>72</sup> U.S. v. Defreitas, et al, No. 1:07-cr-00543-DLI, (E.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed June 1, 2007.

Defreitas was arrested on June 1, 2007 after he met with the informant at the Linewood Diner in Brooklyn.

Kadir was arrested after boarding a plane to Venezuela from Trinidad. According to Kadir's daughter, Kadir intended to continue on to Iran for an Islamic conference after he picked up an Iranian visa in Venezuela.<sup>73</sup>

Kadir's thumb drive, recovered by police at the time of his arrest in Trinidad, contained pictures of JFK's jet fuel tanks, in addition to photos of various family members posing with automatic weapons.<sup>74</sup>

Abdel Nur turned himself in to police in Trinidad. After he had been named a suspect in the case, Guyanese police searched Nur's apartment in Guyana. They recovered receipts for international money transfers.<sup>75</sup> According to Guyanese news reports, U.S. authorities requested a photograph and fingerprints of Nur in April 2007.<sup>76</sup> At that time, police took Nur in to photograph and fingerprint him; they subsequently released him.

Ibrahim was arrested at his home in Tacarigua, Trinidad<sup>77</sup> on June 1, 2007. In a search of his home conducted after his arrest, police recovered computers, cell phones, and recordings of Islamic lectures.<sup>78</sup>

The Guyana Police Force cooperated with the FBI investigation by providing photographs and executing search warrants.<sup>79</sup>

### **Conclusions**

- Most often, terrorists plot to attack targets that are in close proximity to where they live, or targets with which they are very familiar. A recent study of 60 terrorist incidents that occurred during the past 25 years, conducted by the National Institute of Justice, found that most of the preparations for an attack, as well as the targets of attack, are local to the conspirators.<sup>88</sup>
- Satellite imagery programs that are easily accessible online, such as Google Earth, are used by terrorist and insurgent groups to conduct pre-operational surveillance. Insurgent groups in Iraq, for example, were found to have been using Google Earth

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<sup>73</sup> *US to Use Taped Conversations from Back in 2006 as Evidence*, Stabroek News (Guyana), October 26, 2008.

<sup>74</sup> Darryl Heeralal, *Digital Images of JFK Fuel Depots Found on Terror Suspect's Camera*, Trinidad Express, June 10, 2007.

<sup>75</sup> Nigel Williams and Heppilena Ferguson, *Kadir, Ibrahim Remanded—Extradition Trial To Start in 60 Days - Wanted Bulletin Issued for Abdel Nur*, Stabroek News, June 5, 2007

<sup>76</sup> *FBI Sought Information on Nur in April – Sources*, Kaieteur News (Guyana), June 5, 2007.

<sup>77</sup> Darryl Heeralal and Gyasi Gonzales, *Shia Links Possible*, Trinidad Express, June 3, 2007.

<sup>78</sup> Gyasi Gonzales, *Trini Suspect's Home Searched*, Trinidad Express, June 8, 2007.

<sup>79</sup> *JFK Terror Plot: More Guyanese on FBI Radar*, Stabroek News, June 7, 2007.

<sup>88</sup> Brent Smith, *A Look at Terrorist Behavior: How They Prepare, Where They Strike*, NIJ Journal, July 2008.

imagery to pinpoint the locations of allied troop bases.<sup>89</sup> Similarly, the al Aqsa Martyr’s Brigade used Google Earth imagery to locate targets in Israel.<sup>90</sup>

- Despite the fact the conspirators were Shia, they sought to bring JaM, a Sunni organization, in to their plot. They assessed that JaM shared their view that the United States is the enemy. Although it is uncommon to see Sunnis and Shia conspiring together to commit terrorists acts, it should not be considered improbable.
- Terrorist attacks are committed by individuals who fit a wide range of demographic and social descriptions. In the case of the JFK plot, the conspirators were in their 60s. There is no one-size-fits-all “profile” for terrorists.

### **Chronology of Events**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Informant is introduced into investigation. Defreitas sees informant at a Queens Mall. and recognizes him from a Brooklyn mosque.	July 13, 2006
Defreitas arranges to meet informant and tells him he plans a trip to Guyana.	July 28, 2006
Defreitas tells informant he envisions an attack that would make 9/11 seem small.	August 1, 2006
Informant meets Defreitas in Brooklyn and drives Defreitas to his residence. Defreitas tells the informant a contact of his has vouched for his (informant’s) credibility. Defreitas invites informant to meet him in Guyana for Ramadan.	August 2, 2006
Defreitas confides to informant there are “brothers” who intend to do something bigger than the WTC. He tells informant a group will travel from Trinidad to Guyana to New York to conduct the attack.	August 7, 2006
Defreitas reveals to informant details of a plan to attack JFK Airport. He says the cell has been searching for someone in New York to help with the operation. He further says informant needs to travel to Guyana to be vetted.	August 8, 2006
Defreitas travels to Guyana.	August 17, 2006
Informant has a conversation over the phone with Defreitas’ contact, “Individual A,” who is located in Guyana. “A” asks if informant is willing to die as a martyr. Informant says yes.	September 10, 2006
Informant travels to Guyana and meets with Defreitas and other conspirators to discuss details of the plot.	September 20, 2006
In Guyana, conspirators discuss two plans: 1 - to smuggle mujahideen from Asia into Guyana and then to the U.S. 2 - to attack within the U.S. where it will inflict most harm.	October 10, 2006
Conspirator known as “Individual E:” tells the group he is friends with the leader of JaM. Conspirator known as “Individual A” reveals to “E” their plan to blow up a jet fuel line that feeds JFK.	October 12, 2006
Group suggests Defreitas and informant return to New York to determine the type of device needed to blow up pipeline.	October 24, 2006 (approximate date)
Informant returns to New York and continues to talk with Guyana conspirators over the telephone.	October 27, 2006
Informant is informed of a plan for Abdel Nur to travel from Guyana to Trinidad to arrange a meeting with the JAM leadership.	November 2006
Informant learns Nur’s trip to Trinidad is delayed because his passport has expired.	December 2006

<sup>89</sup> Thomas Harding, *Terrorists Use Google Maps to Hit UK Troops*, The Telegraph (London), January 13, 2007.

<sup>90</sup> Clancy Chassay, *Google Earth Used to Target Israel*, The Guardian (London), October 25, 2007.

Defreitas travels back to NY with a ticket paid for by Kadir.	January 1, 2007
First day of JFK surveillance. Defreitas points out a gas station outside of the airport and jet fuel tanks as possible targets for an attack. He then directed informant to drive to a location near Terminal 1 where additional tanks are located.	January 3, 2007
Defreitas and informant return to JFK and identify escape routes. They also look at other sets of fuel tanks as possible attack targets.	January 4, 2007
Defreitas and informant purchase a video camera for surveillance.	January 7, 2007
Defreitas and informant videotape prospective targets at JFK.	January 10, 2007
Defreitas and informant conduct surveillance of parked airplanes.	January 11, 2007
Defreitas and informant return to Guyana with videotapes of JFK.	January 14, 2007
Informant meets with "Individual E" to discuss procurement of explosives.	January 22, 2007
"Individual A" and "Individual E" become paranoid that "Individual C" is a spy for the Guyanese government. "Individual A" says he refuses to follow through with a plan to travel to Trinidad because of his suspicions.	January 25, 2007
Defreitas, "Individual E," and informant engage in an argument because informant had removed JFK video from "E's" computer. "E" says he wants nothing more to do with the plot.	February 13, 2007
Defreitas and informant meet with "Individual F" and show him the JFK video.	February 18, 2007
"Individual F," informant, and Defreitas travel to Linden to meet Kadir and show him the JFK video.	February 19, 2007
Defreitas and informant return to New York. Defreitas is searched at the airport.	February 28, 2007
Defreitas calls Kadir to tell him he was searched at the airport and U.S. customs agents found Kadir's phone number.	March 1, 2007
Informant informs Kadir by phone he has downloaded Google Earth images of the target.	March 5, 2007
Defreitas and informant call Kadir to ask him if he will introduce them to JaM leadership personally. Kadir agrees.	April 11, 2007
Defreitas and informant travel to Guyana. Kadir meets them at the airport.	May 10, 2007
Defreitas and informant meet with Nur in Georgetown to explain travel to Trinidad.	May 14, 2007
Kadir meets with informant and tells him he will not be able to travel to Trinidad because of another "project".	May 19, 2007
Defreitas and informant travel to Trinidad to meet with the JaM leader. They are taken to Ibrahim's home. Nur travels on a separate flight.	May 20, 2007
Defreitas and informant meet Nur at the JaM compound in Trinidad. Nur tells them he has already met with the leader and they must return to the compound in a few days.	May 22, 2007
Defreitas tells Kareem Ibrahim about the plot in detail, showing him surveillance video and Google Earth images. Ibrahim advises that he has contacts overseas who would be willing to finance the attack.	May 23, 2007
Defreitas and informant return to New York.	May 26, 2007
Ibrahim tells Defreitas and informant he is sending a representative overseas to meet with his contacts to discuss funding the plot.	May 27, 2007
Kadir departs to Trinidad. He intended to travel on to Venezuela and then to Iran, but he is arrested in Trinidad.	May 31, 2007
Defreitas is arrested in Brooklyn.	June 1, 2007
After months of trying to fight extradition, Ibrahim, Kadir, and Nur are flown to New York.	June 2008