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## Irhaby007's American Connections

Report #6 in a NEFA Series, "Target: America"  
A NEFA analysis of U.S. v. Ahmed  
July 2007  
\*Updated January 2008\*

### **U.S.-Based Plotters**

On July 19, 2006, Syed Haris Ahmed, a naturalized U.S. citizen studying at Georgia Tech University, and Ehsanul Islam Sadequee, a U.S. citizen who reportedly met Ahmed at the Al-Farooq Masjid in Atlanta,<sup>1</sup> were indicted for conspiring to provide material support to terrorists.<sup>2</sup>

When announcing the indictments, David Nahmias, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, commented, "The indictment does not [emphasis in the Department of Justice press release] allege that these defendants had proceeded to the point that they posed an imminent threat to the United States. But in today's world we no longer wait until a bomb is built and ready to explode."<sup>3</sup>

Providing additional analysis, FBI Director Robert Mueller told the Senate Intelligence Committee in January 2007 that Ahmed and Sadequee "had long-term goals of creating a large network of extremists in preparation for conducting attacks, possibly inside the United States."<sup>4</sup>

### **The Casing Targets – D.C. Landmarks and Locations in Virginia**

According to the Ahmed indictment, "on or about April 11, 2005, Ahmed and Sadequee made short digital video recordings ('video clips') of symbolic and infrastructure targets of potential terrorist attacks in the Washington, D.C., area, including the United States Capitol; the headquarters building of the World Bank in downtown Washington; the Masonic Temple in Alexandria, Virginia; and a group of large fuel storage tanks near I-95 in northern Virginia."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bill Torpy, "Tech Student Charged with Supporting Terror Group," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, April 20, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> "Superseding Indictment Filed in Atlanta Terrorism Support Case," Department of Justice Press Release, July 19, 2006,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/DOJPR\\_AtlIndictment.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/DOJPR_AtlIndictment.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Statement of Robert Mueller, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, January 11, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MuellerTestimony\\_01112007.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MuellerTestimony_01112007.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

### **Transmitting the Surveillance Video to British Co-Conspirators**

Federal prosecutors assert that Ahmed and Sadequee "made these video clips to establish their credentials with other supports of violent jihad as well as for use in support of violent jihad."<sup>6</sup>

After making the tapes, Sadequee sent them to Younis Tsouli,<sup>7</sup> a twenty-three-year-old Moroccan with U.K. residency who studied Information Technology at Westminster College of Computing.<sup>8</sup> According to U.S. prosecutors, Tsouli "stored the video clips...on computer equipment in his home in the United Kingdom."<sup>9</sup> Sadequee allegedly communicated with Tsouli "both before and after the April 11, 2005, trip to Washington D.C."<sup>10</sup>

### **The Arrest and Conviction of the British Co-Conspirators**

Tsouli and Waseem Mughal, a twenty-three-year-old who holds a biochemistry degree from the University of Leicester,<sup>11</sup> were arrested in October 2005 in England and indicted in November 2005 on a number of charges, including conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to cause an explosion; a third individual, Tariq Al-Daour, a twenty-year-old Jordanian who became a British citizen in 2004 and had applied to study law,<sup>12</sup> was indicted on terror financing charges.<sup>13</sup> In July 2007, two months into their trial, all three men pled guilty to inciting murder for terrorist purposes.<sup>14</sup>



Younis Tsouli



Tariq Al-Daour



Waseem Mughal

<sup>6</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>8</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf), and Sean O'Neill, "Al Qaeda's 'British Propagandists,'" *The Times of London*, April 24, 2007.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>11</sup> Sean O'Neill, "Al Qaeda's 'British Propagandists,'" *The Times of London*, April 24, 2007.

<sup>12</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf), and Sean O'Neill, "Al Qaeda's 'British Propagandists,'" *The Times of London*, April 24, 2007.

<sup>13</sup> "Three Men Charged with Terrorism Offences," Metropolitan Police Service Press Release, November 4, 2005,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MetPolice\\_Indictments.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MetPolice_Indictments.pdf). Note: At the time, press sources reported the British trio may have been targeting the White House and the Capitol using homemade bombs. See: Mark Hosenball, "U.K. Officials Reveal Plot to Blow up White House, Capitol," *Newsweek*, November 4, 2005.

<sup>14</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf).

During the course of their trial, British prosecutors noted that Tsouli, Al-Daour, and Mughal, who believed they were fighting a "global conspiracy" to eradicate Islam,<sup>15</sup> had a "particularly close affiliation" with Al Qaeda in Iraq.<sup>16</sup> The Crown Prosecution Service added, "behind the apparent normality of their daily lives, these young men firmly believed, supported and set about inciting others to follow an extreme ideology of violent holy war against so-called disbelievers."<sup>17</sup>

Not surprisingly, when searching their homes, authorities seized an array of jihadist material, including beheading videos. At Tsouli's house, officials discovered a Powerpoint, which an expert later labeled "a detailed guide to the science and use of a variety of military and improvised explosives."<sup>18</sup> Additionally, Al-Daour possessed CDs with poison and explosives instructions; British prosecutors claimed that one file provided details on a rotten meat toxin that is "the most toxic substance known to man" when pure. Anti-terrorism police also found information on rocket-propelled grenades and excerpts from "The Book of Jihad" at Al-Daour's residence.<sup>19</sup> Similarly, a raid on Mughal's home turned up a recipe for rocket propellants and a 26-minute video titled "Martyrdom Operations Vest."<sup>20</sup>

Still other details are equally revealing. For example, according to British prosecutors, when queried during an online chat about what he would do with €1m, Al-Daour responded, "Sponsor terrorist attacks, become the new Osama." Al-Daour also advocated suicide bombings only if they resulted in a significant number of deaths because "a Muslim life is worth more than that."<sup>21</sup> And following the 7/7 London suicide bombings, Tsouli wrote, "Brother I am very happy. From the moment the infidels cry, I laugh." He added, "I seriously think there are certain individuals that should be assassinated, striking at precise targets."<sup>22</sup>

In July 2007, Tsouli received a ten year sentence, while Al-Daour was jailed for six and a half years. Finally, Mughal was given a seven and a half year sentence.<sup>23</sup> In December 2007, those sentences were extended after an appeal by the Solicitor

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<sup>15</sup> "Man Admits Using Internet to Urge Jihad," *The Guardian*, July 4, 2007.

<sup>16</sup> "Three Men 'Urged Holy War on Web,'" *BBC*, April 23, 2007.

<sup>17</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> "Court Told of 'Suicide Vest Film,'" *BBC*, April 24, 2007.

<sup>19</sup> "Man Admits Using Internet to Urge Jihad," *The Guardian*, July 4, 2007.

<sup>20</sup> Mark Hosenball, "U.K. Officials Reveal Plot to Blow up White House, Capitol," *Newsweek*, November 4, 2005 and Brian Krebs, "Terrorism's Hook Into Your Inbox," *The Washington Post*, July 5, 2007.

<sup>21</sup> "Man Admits Using Internet to Urge Jihad," *The Guardian*, July 4, 2007.

<sup>22</sup> Sean O'Neill, "Terrorist 007 'was Internet Propagandist for al-Qaeda,'" *The Times of London*, April 26, 2007.

<sup>23</sup> "Trio Jailed for Using Internet to Incite Murder," Metropolitan Police Service Press Release, July 5, 2007, [http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MetPolice\\_Sentencing.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MetPolice_Sentencing.pdf) and "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf), and Sean O'Neill, "Al Qaeda's 'British Propagandists,'" *The Times of London*, April 24, 2007.

General. Tsouli's sentence was lengthened to sixteen years, and Al-Daour received a ten year term. The Court of Appeals extended Mughal's sentence to twelve years.<sup>24</sup>

(Note: For more information on Tsouli, Al-Daour, and Mughal, see below.)

### **Meeting with Canadian Co-Conspirators to Discuss Potential Targets**

As detailed in the Ahmed indictment, on March 6, 2005,<sup>25</sup> Ahmed and Sadequee, who attended high school in Canada, traveled to Toronto "to meet with like-minded Islamic extremists."<sup>26</sup> According to court filings, the men stayed until March 13<sup>th</sup> and<sup>27</sup> "met regularly with at least three subjects of an FBI international terrorism investigation."<sup>28</sup> Press reports have identified two of those individuals as Fahim Ahmad and Jahmaal James.<sup>29</sup> Further, Ahmed and Sadequee "stayed with an individual with whom they were conspiring concerning...plots against civilian and military installations in the United States."<sup>30</sup>

During interviews with FBI agents, Ahmed admitted that while in Canada the men "discussed strategic locations in the United States suitable for a terrorist strike, to include oil refineries and military bases."<sup>31</sup> The Ahmed indictment notes that after returning from Canada, Ahmed and Sadequee specifically talked about "the possibility of attacking Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia."<sup>32</sup> Court filings allege that while in Canada, the men "also plotted how to disable the Global Positioning System in an effort to disrupt military and commercial communications and traffic."<sup>33</sup>

### **The Arrest of the Canadian Co-Conspirators – Plotting Attacks in Canada**

On June 2, 2006, Canadian authorities arrested seventeen individuals, including Fahim Ahmad and Jahmaal James, on terrorism-related charges.<sup>34</sup> Following the arrests,

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<sup>24</sup> "Longer Sentences for al-Qaeda Men," *BBC News*, December 18, 2007.

<sup>25</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>26</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006. Note: Sadequee studied at the Institute of Islamic Learning in Ajax from 1999-2001. See: Tim Harper, "Atlanta Terror Suspects: Danger or Naïve?" *Toronto Star*, June 16, 2006.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>29</sup> Doug Struck, "School Ties Link Alleged Plotters," *The Washington Post*, June 11, 2006. Note: The third individual may have been British-Pakistani Aabid Khan (a.k.a. Abu Umar), who was arrested at Manchester Airport in England in June 2006 after returning from Pakistan. Khan was allegedly in Canada at the same time as Ahmed and Sadequee. See: Kate Jaimet, "British Connection in Terror Plot," *The Ottawa Citizen*, June 8, 2006 and Stewart Bell, "U.S. Prosecutors Link Alleged Terror Cell to al-Qaeda," *National Post*, July 20, 2006.

<sup>30</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>31</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>32</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>33</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. NY), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>34</sup> "Seventeen Arrested on Anti-Terrorism Charges," Royal Canadian Mounted Police Press Release, June 3, 2006, [http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/RCMPPR\\_Arrests.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/RCMPPR_Arrests.pdf).

FBI spokesman Richard Kolko acknowledged that some of the Canadian suspects "may have had limited contact with the two people recently arrested from Georgia."<sup>35</sup>

Elaborating on the charges against the Canadian cell, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Mike McDonnell told the media that these "individuals...were planning to commit a series of terrorist attacks against solely Canadian targets in southern Ontario."<sup>36</sup>

He added, "This group took steps to acquire three tons of ammonium nitrate<sup>37</sup> and other components necessary to create explosive devices. To put this in context, the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people took one ton of ammonium nitrate. This group posed a real and serious threat. It had the capacity and intent to carry out these attacks."<sup>38</sup>

Media reports have speculated that the cell considered an array of plots, including a plan to behead Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, as well as to bomb the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Toronto office of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.<sup>39</sup>

### **Ahmed's Desire to Join Lashkar-e-Tayyiba**

According to federal prosecutors, Ahmed traveled to Pakistan in July 2005 with the intention of joining and fighting with Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LET).<sup>40</sup> The U.S. has designated LeT a Foreign Terrorist Organization.<sup>41</sup> Prosecutors allege Ahmed hoped to participate "in violent jihad in Kashmir or elsewhere, including in the United States if so requested."<sup>42</sup>

### **Training for Jihad**

The Ahmed indictment charges that "on several occasions in or around late 2004 and early 2005, Ahmed, Sadequee, and another person known to the Grand Jury engaged in physical and rudimentary paramilitary training, including activities with paintball guns, in Northwestern Georgia."<sup>43</sup> More specifically, during a bond hearing, federal prosecutors asserted that these "military-style training exercises" took place in "the mountains of Georgia."<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> "Toronto Terror Plot Foiled – Canada," *CMV*, June 3, 2006.

<sup>36</sup> Transcript of Press Conference Featuring RCMP Assistant Commissioner Mike McDonnell, June 3, 2006, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/RCMPNewsConference.pdf>.

<sup>37</sup> According to press reports, investigators intervened and controlled the delivery of the ammonium nitrate. See: "Sting Led to Canada Terrorism Arrests," *Associated Press*, June 5, 2006.

<sup>38</sup> Transcript of Press Conference Featuring RCMP Assistant Commissioner Mike McDonnell, June 3, 2006, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/RCMPNewsConference.pdf>.

<sup>39</sup> Mark Hosenball, "Narrow Escape?" *Newsweek*, June 7, 2006.

<sup>40</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>41</sup> "U.S. Redesignates Jaish e-Mohammed and Lashkar e-Tayyiba Foreign Terrorist Organizations," U.S. State Department Press Release, December 23, 2003, [http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/StDept\\_JeM&LeT.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/StDept_JeM&LeT.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>43</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>44</sup> Stewart Bell, "Probe Had Global Dimension," *National Post*, June 5, 2006.

Additionally, in July 2005, Ahmed flew to Pakistan in an effort to obtain "paramilitary training." However, Ahmed was unsuccessful and returned to the U.S.<sup>45</sup> Back in the U.S., Ahmed "researched shaped explosive charges" and "reviewed a copy of Gun List magazine, a periodical for gun enthusiasts and would-be buyers and sellers of firearms."<sup>46</sup>

### **Countermeasures Utilized to Avoid Detection**

Court filings paint a portrait of two individuals who went to great lengths in an effort to shield their plans from law enforcement.

For instance, the indictment alleges that between September 2005 and March 2006, Ahmed repeatedly "engaged in efforts to detect and evade suspected surveillance by government authorities." In support of this activity, Ahmed researched "methods to defeat surveillance by government authorities." Further, during a conversation in November 2005, "Ahmed cautioned another individual to avoid discussing certain topics on the telephone" as he believed the government was monitoring his calls. That same month, while communicating with "another supporter of violent jihad," Ahmed "encouraged this individual to read the federal terrorism indictment against Jose Padilla, claiming that the indictment provides information on how much the government can monitor and how much code the government knows."<sup>47</sup>

Moreover, during interviews with federal agents, Sadequee and Ahmed lied repeatedly. For example, when questioned about his trip to Canada, Sadequee told agents he went to Toronto by himself, stayed with his Aunt, and traveled in January 2005.<sup>48</sup> (Sadequee, who was arrested by the FBI on April 20, 2006 in Bangladesh,<sup>49</sup> was initially charged with making false statements in connection with an ongoing federal terrorism investigation.<sup>50</sup>) And, during an August 19, 2005 interview at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport, Ahmed claimed "he went to Canada simply to visit friends and family and that he went to Pakistan simply to see family and attend religious school."<sup>51</sup> In March 2006 interviews with Joint Terrorism Task Force agents "Ahmed attempted to conceal the true nature of his, Sadequee's, and their co-conspirators' discussions, activities, and plans."<sup>52</sup>

Additionally, when authorities searched Sadequee's luggage following his return from Bangladesh in August 2005, they discovered a CD-ROM with encrypted files in the

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<sup>45</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>46</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>47</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>48</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>49</sup> "Superseding Indictment Filed in Atlanta Terrorism Support Case," Department of Justice Press Release, July 19, 2006,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/DOJPR\\_AtIIndictment.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/DOJPR_AtIIndictment.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>51</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>52</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

lining of his suitcase.<sup>53</sup> Remarkably, FBI experts have not been able to decode those files.<sup>54</sup>

Finally, prosecutors charge that Ahmed and Sadequee utilized multiple email addresses and "coded language."<sup>55</sup>

### **Additional Information – Ahmed's Ties to Terrorists in Chicago**

A FBI affidavit in a Ohio terrorism prosecution reveals that Syed Haris Ahmed (hereinafter "Haris"), had sustained contact with Zubair Asif Ahmed (hereinafter "Zubair") and Khaleel Ahmed (hereinafter "Khaleel"),<sup>56</sup> two members of a Chicago/Toledo cell indicted in February 2007 for planning to wage jihad against U.S. forces in Iraq.<sup>57</sup>

Haris admitted to law enforcement agents that he met Zubair online, and they communicated frequently via email. Zubair also participated in an online Islamic studies chat group that Haris established. Haris even met with Zubair in Chicago and was eager to have Zubair visit him in Atlanta. Haris reported that he told Zubair he was training to "go to jihad" and that Zubair also "wanted to go to Jihad."<sup>58</sup>

In July 2004, according to court documents, Zubair and two of his co-conspirators traveled to Cleveland to meet with a FBI informant, from whom they sought military training. During that trip, Zubair "discussed...training in, among other things, firearms, sniper tactics, and counter-surveillance techniques. Zubair explained his desire to learn to move with a .50 caliber machine gun, or Gatling gun." Zubair also allegedly "attempted to travel to Afghanistan" to fight U.S. troops.<sup>59</sup>

### **Additional Information – The Role of the Internet and Irhaby007**

According to open source reporting, radical websites played a vital role in connecting Ahmed/Sadequee, the Canadian cell, and Tsouli/Al-Daour/Mughal.<sup>60</sup> Notably, media reports allege that investigators first stumbled upon the Canadian cell while monitoring jihadist websites and observed a number of individuals "reading and

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<sup>53</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>54</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>55</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>56</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. OH.), Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Steven C. Gubanich, Filed November 20, 2007.

<sup>57</sup> U.S. v. Amawi, (N.D. OH.), Superseding Indictment, Filed February 2, 2007.

<sup>58</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. OH.), Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Steven C. Gubanich, Filed November 20, 2007.

<sup>59</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. OH.), Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Steven C. Gubanich, Filed November 20, 2007.

<sup>60</sup> Stewart Bell, "Web Forum Linked Cells," *National Post*, June 15, 2006 and Sandra Contenta, "Irhaby007 Linked to Terror Suspects," *The Toronto Star*, June 17, 2006. Note: In a March 2005 online conversation with a member of the Toronto cell, Tsouli wrote, "I'm moving inshallah this summer to Jihadland...So if you want to come with me, inshallah, we can go together or even with some of your friends." The Toronto suspect responded, "Yea, we see wut happens inshallah. The bros here are leaving also in the summer so with the permission of Allah, may Allah allow us to be martyrs in his cause in wutever land he wishes for us." See: Stewart Bell, "Terror Suspects in Canada, U.K. Made Plans Online," *The National Post*, April 26, 2007.

espousing anti-Western sentiments and vowing to attack at home, in the name of oppressed Muslims."<sup>61</sup>

The central player in that online network was Younis Tsouli, who was known on the Internet as "Irhaby007" (or "Terrorist 007"). Tsouli occupied an exalted status in the online jihadist community and served as an Internet jack-of-all-trades, registering over 180 web site domains in Europe and the U.S.<sup>62</sup> As the Crown Prosecution Service noted, Tsouli and his co-conspirators used those websites "to publish daily statements and films of the murder of coalition forces, police, officials and civilians together with footage of the beheading of hostages."<sup>63</sup>

Media reports reveal that in August 2005, one of those websites, irhabi.007.ca, received over 14,000 hits from Mexico, Canada, France, Britain, Belgium, Sweden, and other nations.<sup>64</sup> More significantly, Tsouli also set up and administered<sup>65</sup> the Muntada al-Ansar al-Islami chat forum, which was Al Qaeda in Iraq's mouthpiece at the time.<sup>66</sup> Providing additional details, the Crown Prosecution Service asserted that the forum was a place where "terrorists were recruited" and where they "could become acquainted, inspired and educated from the explosives and weapons manuals and presentations, shared and available for downloading."<sup>67</sup>

During the course of his work, Tsouli developed especially close ties with Abu Maysarah al-Iraqi, the media chief for then-Al Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. (*Note: The following paragraph is drawn from NEFA researcher Evan Kohlmann's "The Real Online Terrorist," Foreign Affairs, September/October 2006 which provides an in-depth look at Tsouli's online activities.*) For example, in July 2004, Tsouli helped distribute Zarqawi's first full-length video "The Winds of Victory," assistance that was desperately needed due to Al Qaeda's inability to mass distribute a 90 megabyte video file.<sup>68</sup> Expressing his appreciation in a rare public statement, Abu Maysarah remarked: "Bless the terrorist, Irhaby 007. In the name of Allah, I am pleased with your presence my beloved brother. May Allah protect you."<sup>69</sup> The relationship between Abu Maysarah and Tsouli became so tight that Tsouli even began building an official website for Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.<sup>70</sup> In an online exchange with Mughal, Tsouli also boasted

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<sup>61</sup> Michelle Shephard, "Terror Cops Swoop," *The Toronto Star*, June 3, 2006.

<sup>62</sup> Brian Krebs, "Terrorism's Hook into Your Inbox," *The Washington Post*, July 5, 2007.

<sup>63</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf).

<sup>64</sup> Sean O'Neill, "Terrorist 007 'was Internet Propagandist for al-Qaeda'," *The Times of London*, April 26, 2007.

<sup>65</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf).

<sup>66</sup> Brian Krebs, "Terrorism's Hook into Your Inbox," *The Washington Post*, July 5, 2007.

<sup>67</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf).

<sup>68</sup> <ftp://www.ahd.state.ar.us/incoming/GIS/ALQA3EDAH>, July 2004. *See also:*

<http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=39830>, July 12, 2004.

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.ansarnet.ws/vb/showthread.php?t=76510>, October 11, 2004.

<sup>70</sup> <http://209.51.152.42/~aqcorpo/pages>, April 9, 2005.

that Al Qaeda had asked him to translate their publication Thurwat al-Sanam, or The Tip of the Camel's Hump.<sup>71</sup>

Despite his central role in the cyberjihad, Tsouli sought to become more actively involved and expressed a desire to fight in Iraq, telling Mughal in an online conversation, "It sucks that we are here and not there." Reassuring Tsouli of the significance of his efforts, Mughal responded, "A lot of the funding that the brothers are getting is coming because of the videos. Imagine how many have gone after seeing the videos. Imagine how many have become shahids."<sup>72</sup>

Additional evidence highlighting the importance of the Internet in this network is the case of Abu Umar, an individual mentioned briefly in the Ahmed/Sadequee indictment. According to that document, "Sadequee provided Ahmed with the name and contact information of Abu Umar...Sadequee advised that Abu Umar could assist Ahmed in obtaining paramilitary training in Pakistan to prepare for violent jihad."<sup>73</sup> Abu Umar, who has been identified in the press as Aabid Khan,<sup>74</sup> frequently posted on the Al-Tibbyan website, a jihadist forum where he forged relationships with members of the network.<sup>75</sup> In one posting, Khan labeled LeT "the best group in Kashmir" and noted that "it would be really sad if they had left the path of jihad."<sup>76</sup> Khan visited members of the Canadian cell at the same time as Ahmed and Sadequee<sup>77</sup> and helped Jahmaal James attend an LeT training camp in Pakistan.<sup>78</sup> Khan was arrested at Manchester Airport in England in June 2006 after returning from Pakistan.<sup>79</sup>

Examining this case and others like it, authorities have expressed deep concern about the impact of the Internet on terrorist recruitment. In a May 2006 speech, Jack Hooper, Deputy Director of Operations for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, observed that the World Wide Web "is used increasingly as a multi-faceted tool for communications, recruitment, proselytizing and the transfer of techniques."<sup>80</sup> And in a June 2006 speech, FBI Director Robert Mueller commented:

"Radical fundamentalists are particularly difficult to pinpoint in cyberspace. There are between 5,000 to 6,000 extremist websites on the Internet, encouraging extremists to initiate their own radicalization and to cultivate relationships with other like-minded persons. Although we have destroyed many terrorist training camps in the past five years, extremists increasingly turn to the Internet for virtual instruction. Of course, not

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<sup>71</sup> "Man Admits Using Internet to Urge Jihad," *The Guardian*, July 4, 2007.

<sup>72</sup> Sean O'Neill, "Terrorist 007 'was Internet Propagandist for al-Qaeda,'" *The Times of London*, April 26, 2007.

<sup>73</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>74</sup> Stewart Bell, "U.S. Prosecutors Link Alleged Terror Cell to al-Qaeda," *National Post*, July 20, 2006.

<sup>75</sup> Stewart Bell, "An Exclusive Report: Training Ground," *National Post*, September 2, 2006.

<sup>76</sup> Stewart Bell, "Web Forum Linked Cells," *National Post*, June 15, 2006.

<sup>77</sup> Stewart Bell and Joseph Brean, "British Arrest May Have Toronto Link," *National Post*, June 8, 2006.

<sup>78</sup> Stewart Bell, "Holy Warriors or Just Holy?" *National Post*, September 6, 2006.

<sup>79</sup> Kate Jaimet, "British Connection in Terror Plot," *The Ottawa Citizen*, June 8, 2006.

<sup>80</sup> Statement by Jack Hooper, Deputy Director Operations Canadian Security Intelligence Service to the Senate Committee on National Security and Defense, May 29, 2006, <http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/JackHooperStment.pdf>.

every extremist will become a terrorist. But the radicalization process has become more rapid, more widespread, and anonymous in this Internet age, making detection that much more difficult."<sup>81</sup>

### **Additional Information – Tsouli's Contacts with a Bosnian-Based Terror Cell**

Younis Tsouli provided assistance, including funds and an instructional video on making a bomb vest,<sup>82</sup> to members of a Bosnian-based terror cell convicted in January 2007.<sup>83</sup> A Bosnian indictment alleged that the cell, which was composed of a Swedish citizen, a Turkish national, and three Bosnians, planned "to commit a terrorist act in...Bosnia and Herzegovina or some other European country" to force the withdrawal of "forces from Iraq and Afghanistan."<sup>84</sup>

According to that indictment, when Bosnian authorities raided an apartment where some of the cell members were staying, they discovered a pistol with a silencer, ammunition, a "video recording displaying how to make an improvised explosive device," and an audiotape containing the following message: "These brothers are ready to attack and inshallah, they will attack Al-Oufar who are killing our brothers and Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan, Shishahn and many other countries. These weapons are going to be used against Europe, against those whose forces are in Iraq and in Afghanistan."<sup>85</sup> Cell members also acquired at least twenty kilograms of explosives, which two of the men "partially cut, shaped and prepared for the...suicide belt."<sup>86</sup> While investigators never explicitly identified a target, media reports speculated the target may have been the British Embassy in Sarajevo.<sup>87</sup>

A key figure in the Bosnian cell was Swedish citizen Mirsad Bektasevic, who used the Internet name "Maximus" and whose voice "more than rather likely" was on the tape threatening attacks.<sup>88</sup> Bektasevic reportedly served as an online recruiter for the Iraqi jihad<sup>89</sup> and communicated via email with Tsouli and his British co-conspirators.<sup>90</sup> Further, the Bosnian indictment notes that both Tsouli and Waseem Mughal "were in possession of a Swedish telephone number...and Bosnian telephone number...used by" Bektasevic.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Remarks Prepared for Delivery by Director Robert S. Mueller, III, Federal Bureau of Investigation, The City Club of Cleveland, June 23, 2006, [http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MuellerSpeech\\_Cleveland.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/MuellerSpeech_Cleveland.pdf).

<sup>82</sup> Sebastian Rotella, "A World Wide Web of Terrorist Plotting," *The Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 2007.

<sup>83</sup> "Bosnia Jails 4 in Plot to Blow up European Landmark," *CBC News*, January 11, 2007.

<sup>84</sup> Indictment against Mirsad Bektasevic, et al., Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, No. KT-392/05, April 6, 2006.

<sup>85</sup> Indictment against Mirsad Bektasevic, et al., Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, No. KT-392/05, April 6, 2006.

<sup>86</sup> Indictment against Mirsad Bektasevic, et al., Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, No. KT-392/05, April 6, 2006.

<sup>87</sup> Daniel McGroarty, "British Computer Whiz-Kid Exports Terror Via Internet," *The Times of London*, June 7, 2006.

<sup>88</sup> Indictment against Mirsad Bektasevic, et al., Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, No. KT-392/05, April 6, 2006.

<sup>89</sup> Anton La Guardia, "Arrests Reveal Zarqawi Network in Europe," *The Guardian*, December 22, 2005.

<sup>90</sup> Mark Hosenball, "Online Face of Terror," *Newsweek*, June 12, 2006.

<sup>91</sup> Indictment against Mirsad Bektasevic, et al., Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, No. KT-392/05, April 6, 2006.

Bekatasevic, who spent time living in Copenhagen,<sup>92</sup> was also in contact with a cell in Denmark that was dismantled in the wake of the Bosnia arrests.<sup>93</sup> Following the arrests, Danish police spokesman commented, "We had a very short period to investigate but our information indicated that their action was imminent."<sup>94</sup> In February 2007, Abdul Basit Abu-Lifa was sentenced to seven years in Danish prison for his involvement in the Bosnian plot; three of his co-defendants were convicted by a jury but a three-judge panel overturned the decision.<sup>95</sup> Bekatasevic's indictment references a conversation between Bekatasevic and Abdul Basit about procuring a bomb belt, in which Bekatasevic said, "try to see if we can get more money, because I...found some really good stuff..."<sup>96</sup>

While the Canadian and Atlanta cells have not explicitly been tied to the Bosnian group in open sources, *The Los Angeles Times* reports that the Bosnian cell "was in contact with suspects in...North America."<sup>97</sup>

### **Additional Information – Financing Terror Through Crime**

According to the Crown Prosecution Service, Tsouli and his co-conspirators bought the web sites they administered "using stolen identities and credit card details."<sup>98</sup> In fact, an extensive *Washington Post* article reveals that Tariq Al-Daour's computer contained nearly 37,000 stolen credit card numbers, which were procured using Trojan horses and phishing scams. Using those numbers, Al-Daour and his associates charged more than \$3.5 million in purchases; some of those purchases included hundreds of prepaid cell phones and over 250 plane tickets.<sup>99</sup> Al-Daour also used 43 online gambling websites, including BetonBet.com, AbsolutePoker.com, and ParadisePoker.com, to launder money.<sup>100</sup>

As authorities have clamped down on traditional financing pipelines, such as charitable front groups, and as terrorist networks have grown more and more decentralized, terrorists have increasingly turned to criminal activities to finance their

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<sup>92</sup> While in Copenhagen in 2005, Bektasevic and his Danish associates made a video in which they identified themselves as "Al Qaeda in Northern Europe." Younis Tsouli allegedly designed a logo featured in that video. See: Sebastian Rotella, "A World Wide Web of Terrorist Plotting," *The Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 2007.

<sup>93</sup> "Danish Terror Suspects Linked to Bosnian Arrests," *Associated Press*, October 28, 2005.

<sup>94</sup> "Danish Terror Suspects Linked to Bosnian Arrests," *Associated Press*, October 28, 2005.

<sup>95</sup> Jan Olsen, "Danish Teenager Sentenced to 7 Years in Bosnia-Linked Terror Plot," *Associated Press*, February 16, 2007.

<sup>96</sup> Indictment against Mirsad Bektasevic, et al., Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, No. KT-392/05, April 6, 2006.

<sup>97</sup> Sebastian Rotella, "A World Wide Web of Terrorist Plotting," *The Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 2007.

<sup>98</sup> "Three Men Admit Using Internet to Incite Terrorism in First British Case," Crown Prosecution Service Press Release, July 5, 2007,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS\\_PR\\_GuiltyPleas.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/CPS_PR_GuiltyPleas.pdf).

<sup>99</sup> Brian Krebs, "Terrorism's Hook Into Your Inbox," *The Washington Post*, July 5, 2007. Note: The *Post* further notes, "al-Daour and Mughal compiled shopping lists for items that fellow jihadists might need for their battle against the American and allied forces in Iraq, including global positioning satellite (GPS) devices, night-vision goggles, sleeping bags, telephones, survival knives and tents."

<sup>100</sup> Brian Krebs, "Terrorism's Hook Into Your Inbox," *The Washington Post*, July 5, 2007.

operations locally. Throughout the world, Al Qaeda,<sup>101</sup> Hamas, and Hezbollah operatives have involved themselves in an array of criminal enterprises, including counterfeiting, drug dealing, cigarette smuggling, credit card fraud, auto theft, and kidnapping.

According to press reports, terrorist involvement in criminal activity has been greatly facilitated by increased cooperation with organized criminal networks. As Robert Charles, formerly the State Department's Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) under Secretaries Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, assessed, "transnational crime is converging with the terrorist world."<sup>102</sup> The head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, has echoed Charles' analysis, noting "the world is seeing the birth of a new hybrid of organized-crime-terrorist organizations."<sup>103</sup> In the years to come, the crime-terror nexus will likely be further strengthened due to the spread of radical Islam in prison.

Although criminality is outlawed under Islamic law, the Al Qaeda manual advises that "necessity permits the forbidden."<sup>104</sup> Reflecting this theory, when Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) operatives questioned whether hacking into foreigners' bank accounts was acceptable in Islam, JI leader Abu Bakr Bashir reportedly responded, "[if] you can take their blood; then why not take their property?"<sup>105</sup>

### **Additional Information – Terrorist Exploitation of Paintball & Outdoor Training**

As noted above, the Ahmed indictment alleges that Ahmed, Sadequee, and another individual "engaged in physical and rudimentary training, including activities with paintball guns, in Northwestern Georgia."<sup>106</sup> Significantly, members of the Canadian cell with whom Ahmed/Sadequee had contact trained with paintball guns and live ammunition at a remote woodlands site in Washago, Canada during a ten-day "winter survival" exercise.<sup>107</sup>

Terrorists have demonstrated a strong affinity for paintball in recent years. For example, throughout 2001, a Northern Virginia-based cell affiliated with LeT regularly played paintball in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. A court ruling in the case notes that the men used "paintball as a vehicle for jihad" and in "preparation for real combat;" further, "to improve their paintball skills, the group asked those with military experience...to lead drills."<sup>108</sup> Similarly, members of a Miami cell, indicted in June 2006<sup>109</sup> for plotting to wage

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<sup>101</sup> In February 2002, Dennis Lormel, Chief of the FBI's Financial Crimes Section, testified before Congress that "Al Qaeda has been known to encourage and instruct terrorist cells in terrorist training camps in Afghanistan in ways they can fund their terrorist activities through various criminal activity." See: Statement of Dennis Lormel, Chief, Financial Crimes Section, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Before the House Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, February 12, 2002,

[http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/LormelTestimony\\_02122002.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/LormelTestimony_02122002.pdf).

<sup>102</sup> David Kaplan, "Paying for Terror," *U.S. News and World Report*, November 27, 2005.

<sup>103</sup> David Kaplan, "Paying for Terror," *U.S. News and World Report*, November 27, 2005.

<sup>104</sup> "The Al Qaeda Manual,"

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/AQManual1.pdf> and

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/Atlanta/AQManual2.pdf>

<sup>105</sup> David Kaplan, "Paying for Terror," *U.S. News and World Report*, November 27, 2005.

<sup>106</sup> *U.S. v. Ahmed*, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>107</sup> Jackie Bennion, "The Radical Informant," *PBS*, January 30, 2007.

<sup>108</sup> *U.S. v. Khan*, (E.D. VA.), No. 03-296-A, Memorandum Opinion, Filed March 4, 2004.

"'jihad,' against the United States government,"<sup>110</sup> trained by playing paintball, even using an American flag for target practice.<sup>111</sup> And, according to the BBC, investigators determined that 7/7 suicide bomber Mohammad Sidique Khan regularly played paintball with a group of radical associates "immediately after watching extremely violent videos depicting Muslim suffering around the world."<sup>112</sup>

Reflecting this trend, the official British government report on the 7/7 bombings states,

"Camping, canoeing, white-water rafting, paintballing and other outward bound type activities are of particular interest because they appear common factors for the 7 July bombers and other cells disrupted previously and since...It is worth noting that for some extremist activities – e.g. fighting overseas – physical fitness and resilience are essential. They [such trips] may also be used to help with bonding between members of cells already established, or for more direct indoctrination or operational training and planning."<sup>113</sup>

### **Additional Information – Other Plots Targeting Military Facilities in the U.S.**

As noted above, during interviews with FBI agents, Ahmed admitted that while in Canada meeting with his co-conspirators, the men "discussed strategic locations in the United States suitable for a terrorist strike, to include...military bases."<sup>114</sup> The indictment notes that after returning from Canada, Ahmed and Sadequee specifically talked about "the possibility of attacking Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia."<sup>115</sup>

Since 9/11, other indicted terrorists have considered launching attacks against military facilities in the U.S.

In December 2007, three California men – Kevin James, Levar Washington, and Gregory Patterson – pled guilty<sup>116</sup> to conspiring to levy war against the U.S. government.<sup>117</sup> According to a FBI affidavit, one of the conspirators admitted that "the first group of targets considered...were military recruitment offices in the southern California area. The plan was to attack approximately 10 recruitment offices for which

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<sup>109</sup> U.S. v. Batiste, (S.D. FL.), 06-CR-20373, Indictment, Filed June 23, 2006.

<sup>110</sup> U.S. v. Batiste, (S.D. FL.), 06-CR-20373, Government's Motion for Pretrial Detention, Filed June 29, 2006.

<sup>111</sup> "Feds: Miami Terror Cell Practiced with Paintball," *Associated Press*, July 6, 2007.

<sup>112</sup> "7 July Bomber's Motives Examined," *BBC*, November 17, 2005.

<sup>113</sup> "Report of the Official Account of the Bombings in London on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2005," House of Commons, May 11, 2006.

<sup>114</sup> U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006.

<sup>115</sup> U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

<sup>116</sup> Note: A fourth conspirator, Hammad Samana, was ruled mentally unfit to stand trial. See: "Two Plead Guilty to Domestic Terrorism Charges of Conspiring to Attack Military Facilities, Jewish Targets," Department of Justice Press Release, December 14, 2007.

<sup>117</sup> "Two Plead Guilty to Domestic Terrorism Charges of Conspiring to Attack Military Facilities, Jewish Targets," Department of Justice Press Release, December 14, 2007.

they estimated 30 to 40 casualties."<sup>118</sup> The same FBI affidavit cites an interview with another co-conspirator in which he laid out details of the planned attack:

"Samana said that the plan was for co-conspirator #1 to enter the military location selected as the first target, followed by co-conspirator #2 and Samana. All three participants would then begin shooting the people in the military location. The plan was not to become martyrs during this attack, but rather to attack and then flee in a car they drove to the location. Co-conspirator #1 told Samana that they would be 'quiet' about the attack while they planned their next action. In other words, the group not claim credit for the attack."<sup>119</sup>

In preparation for the attack, members of the group conducted surveillance of U.S. military facilities in the Los Angeles area.<sup>120</sup>

Also in December 2007, court filings in a Connecticut case shed light on another alleged plot targeting U.S. military facilities. Between 2003 and 2006, Derrick Shareef, who has pled guilty to plotting a grenade attack on a Chicago-area mall,<sup>121</sup> and Hassan Abujihad, who has been indicted on terrorism and espionage charges for passing classified military information to an Al-Qaida webmaster,<sup>122</sup> discussed a series of plans.

According to Shareef, "in or about 2003," Shareef and Abujihad talked about attacking a U.S. military recruiting station in a Phoenix mall. At Abujihad's direction, Shareef visited the recruiting station, where he took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. Sharing his observations with Abujihad, Shareef noted that recruiters from all four branches of the armed services were present, and that they "were very relaxed and...appeared to be unarmed." The men then pointed out that a recruiting station was an appealing target because "you could go in with a gun or a grenade and get them all at once."<sup>123</sup>

The following year, in 2004, Abujihad purportedly developed a plan to attack U.S. military facilities in or near San Diego, California. Shareef told a FBI informant that that "Abujihad's plan called for diversionary fire that would draw soldiers from their barracks after which pre-positioned attackers would shoot the soldiers as they their barracks."<sup>124</sup> Then, in October 2006, Shareef and the FBI informant "discussed logistics

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<sup>118</sup> U.S. v. Samana, (C.D. CA.), No. 05-16662M, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent James Clinton Judd, Filed August 2, 2005.

<sup>119</sup> U.S. v. Samana, (C.D. CA.), No. 05-16662M, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent James Clinton Judd, Filed August 2, 2005.

<sup>120</sup> U.S. v. Samana, (C.D. CA.), No. 05-16662M, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent James Clinton Judd, Filed August 2, 2005.

<sup>121</sup> "Rockford Man Pleads Guilty in Foiled Plan to Set Off Grenades in Rockford Shopping Mall," Department of Justice Press Release, November 28, 2007.

<sup>122</sup> U.S. v. Abujihad, (D.C. CT.), No. 3:07-CR-57, Indictment, Filed March 21, 2007.

<sup>123</sup> U.S. v. Abujihad, (D.C. CT.), No. 3:07-CR-57, Motion in Limine and Memorandum in Support of the Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 801(d)(2)(E) and 801(d)(2)(A), Filed October 19, 2007.

<sup>124</sup> U.S. v. Abujihad, (D.C. CT.), No. 3:07-CR-57, Motion in Limine and Memorandum in Support of the Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 801(d)(2)(E) and 801(d)(2)(A), Filed October 19, 2007.

for a possible attack" on the base; Shareef theorized that they "should be able to kill at least ten (10) people for each mujahideen fighter that they had."<sup>125</sup>

Moreover, in May 2007, authorities indicted six men who were allegedly plotting to attack the Fort Dix Army base in New Jersey. A court filing states that one of the suspects "explained that they could utilize six or seven jihadists to attack and kill at least one hundred soldiers by using rocket-propelled grenades ("RPGs") or other weapons." In a separate conversation, the same suspect declared, "my intent is to hit a heavy concentration of soldiers..." The men considered Fort Dix an appealing target because one of the suspects, Serdar Tartar, used to deliver pizzas there and thus knew "it like the palm of his hand."<sup>126</sup>

Court filings allege that the group also conducted surveillance of Fort Monmouth (N.J.), Lakehurst Naval Station (N.J.), Dover Air Force Base (DE), and the U.S. Coast Guard Building in Philadelphia. The men even discussed attacking the Army-Navy football game and American warships that were docking in the Port of Philadelphia.<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> U.S. v. Abujihad, (D.C. CT.), No. 3:07-CR-57, Motion in Limine and Memorandum in Support of the Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 801(d)(2)(E) and 801(d)(2)(A), Filed October 19, 2007.

<sup>126</sup> U.S. v. Duka, (D. N.J.), No. 07-M-2046(JS), Complaint, Filed May 7, 2007.

<sup>127</sup> U.S. v. Duka, (D. N.J.), No. 07-M-2046(JS), Complaint, Filed May 7, 2007.