

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

Synopsis:

Wissam HAMMOUD was indicted for numerous crimes involved in Operation Hitman, FM-53-0003. The following report was authored by Detective Mike Otis of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, stemming from an interview of Wissam HAMMOUD at HAMMOUD's request, while facing trial and being incarcerated in the Hillsborough County Jail:

Details:

On 04/07/2004, Special Agent Leo Martinez (FBI) and Detective Michael Otis (Sarasota County SO) conducted an interview at the Hillsborough County jail, of inmate Wissam Hammoud. This interview was in the presence of Hammoud's attorney, Matthew Farmer and had been arranged through the United States Attorney's Office. No special arrangements or consideration was discussed as it relates to any charges against Hammoud, during this interview.

Hammoud indicated that he wished to provide information that he had obtained while in custody at the Hillsborough County Jail.

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Hammoud stated that he has been attending a Muslim prayer service held on Fridays at the Hillsborough County Jail. Two weeks ago (March 26th, 2004) another inmate named ALI AHMED spoke with Hammoud during the prayer service.

Hammoud advised that AHMED had been directed to him by another inmate named DONALD HORTON, who mistakenly had told AHMED that Hammoud was a Shi'ite Muslim.

AHMED provided Hammoud with a letter written in Arabic, which Hammoud translated. According to Hammoud, the letter indicated that AHMED was from Yemen and had recently arrived in Tampa from California. AHMED was arrested for having a blade (concealed weapon), and was requesting financial assistance from Hammoud in obtaining \$100 for bail. This letter was turned over to Special Agent Martinez.

During the conversation with AHMED, he spoke in his native language, however Hammoud advised that AHMED was able to speak fluent English. AHMED told Hammoud that he was involved in an "operation", and that he was doing work for Allah. AHMED did not provide any specific information regarding the "operation". AHMED advised that his clothing was at a local

Case Number:FM-48-0040	Serial #:249
Author:McAllister, Scott F.	Office:Ft. Myers
Activity Start Date:04/07/2004	Activity End Date:04/07/2004

Approved By:Emerson, Stephen A.

Description:Jailhouse Interview of Wissam HAMMOUD

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mosque, and he was trying to contact a subject named ABU HASSAM or MARWAN, however the mosque would not accept collect calls from the jail.

AHMED provided Hammoud with his booking number of 04016883 at the Hillsborough County Jail, in the event Hammoud was able to assist him with the bail money.

Hammoud indicated that this was all the information AHMED told him. Hammoud described AHMED as being approximately 5'9", 180 pounds, with a scar on his face and 2-3 gold capped teeth.

Hammoud advised that he did not observe AHMED at last Friday's prayer service, and has learned that he was released from the Hillsborough County Jail.

Prior to departing the Hillsborough County Jail, the booking number provided by AHMED was checked through jail records. The following information was obtained.

Subject: JOHN ALI AHMED, date of birth: 05/16/1976, Social Security # [REDACTED]
Place of birth: Yemen , Black Hair, Brown Eyes, 5'11", 165 Lbs.
Address: 1212 Sligh Av E, Tampa Florida 33637
Occupation: cashier at Food Mart (no address provided)
Arrested 03/15/2004 by Temple Terrance PD, released 03/27/2004
Charges: Disorderly Intoxication and Carrying a Concealed Weapon (Knife)

On 04/08/2004, a Criminal History check based on the above information revealed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Saudi who had lived in Sarasota. He advised that this subject had lived on Escondito Drive in the Prestancia subdivision with his family. In August of 2001, ABDULL AZIZ ALHIJJI and his family left the United States.

Hammoud stated he met ALHIJJI through his own relatives in Sarasota, (the Kazbour's) in 1996. He described ALHIJJI as a heavy drinker and smoker of cannabis, however very well schooled in Islam. Hammoud indicated that ALHIJJI'S wife ANWD GHAZZAWI (maiden name) had family that provided her with money, however ALHIJJI claimed that he received none of this money from his wife. Hammoud advised that ALHIJJI had been attending Manatee Community College (MCC). Hammoud claimed that he often worked out with ALHIJJI at Shapes Fitness located near his residence in Prestancia.

Hammoud advised that in 2000 and 2001, he had played soccer with ALHIJJI at the property of the Islamic Society of Sarasota and Bradenton, located on North Lockwood Ridge Road in Sarasota. ALHIJJI had brought with him a friend to the soccer games. Hammoud advised that this friend was ADNAN EL SHUKRIJUMAH, who the FBI is seeking information on. Hammoud identified ADNAN EL SHUKRIJUMAH from an FBI flyer that was brought to the interview by his attorney, Matthew Farmer.

Hammoud stated that on two occasions prior to September 11th, 2001, ALHIJJI had entertained Saudi's at his residence in Sarasota. Hammoud advised that he did not stay for any of these parties because he did not drink or smoke cannabis.

Hammoud advised that ALHIJJI traveled on a weekly basis to either the Tampa or Orlando area. He would also travel to the Venice area and spoke to Hammoud about taking flight training in Venice. Hammoud believes that ALHIJJI had known some of the terrorist from the September 11th 2001 attacks, who had been taking flight training at Venice Airport during that time.

Hammoud stated that OSAMA BIN LADEN was a hero of ALHIJJI and that ALHIJJI had shown him a web site containing information about BIN LADEN. Hammoud advised that ALHIJJI would speak of going to Afghanistan and becoming a freedom fighter or Mujahedin and wanted Hammoud to also go and become a freedom fighter.

During the interview, Hammoud was questioned concerning knowledge of a subject residing in Sarasota named MOHAMED MEZROUB. Hammoud stated that MEZROUB was a friend of ALHIJJI, and that he had also talked about going to Afghanistan to fight for the Mujahedin.

Hammoud advised that he and his wife had helped ALHIJJI and his wife AHWD, by clearing the residence on Escondito Drive in Sarasota, and putting their belongings in storage after they left the country. The Hammoud's were asked to sell one of ALHIJJI'S vehicles, a Volkswagen Beetle, and send them the proceeds when this was done.

Hammoud indicated that ALHIJJI is working for a Saudi owned oil company named ARAMCO, which has a branch office in Texas. Hammoud advised that after ALHIJJI left the United States in August of 2001, he went back to Saudi Arabia. Hammoud indicated that he was then transferred to an office in London.

Hammoud advised that ALHIJJI'S mother DEBBI ALHIJJI lives in Saudi Arabia. He provided a home phone number for her of 011-966-389-825-25 and a cell phone number for her of

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011-966-528-632-56.

Hammoud provided a current home number for AHWAD ALHIJJI in London of 011-442-380-428-264, and a cell phone number of 447-788-154-903.

A letter sent to the Hammoud's from the ALHIJJI's concerning the sale of the Volkswagen, had a return address of; 1 Kirk Gardens, Totton, Southamton 50409UZ.

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Prior to the conclusion of the interview, Hammoud was asked about any other persons he was able to identify that would be considered as radical. Hammoud stated that a subject named AL ZUBADI was a subject living in Sarasota that was a Shi'ite, however had looked up to Saddam Hussain. Hammoud advised that AL ZUBADI was very radical, however did not provide specific information.

This concludes the information provided by Wissam Hammoud during the interview which ended at approximately 1500 hours.

Indexing:

Wissam Taysir Hammoud
Leo Martinez
Michael Otis
Wahbi Abdo Ammed
Donald Ian Horton
Patrick Banks
Anoud Esam AlHijji
Usama Bin Laden
Mohaned Mezroub
Adnan G. Shukrijumah