



# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- Nineteen individuals (11% of the overall total) who committed al-Qaeda related offenses (AQROs) in the U.S. between 1997 and 2011 were either European citizens or had previously lived in Europe.
- The threat to America from those linked to Europe has remained reasonably constant – with European-linked individuals committing AQROs in ten of the fifteen years studied.
- The majority (63%) of the nineteen European-linked individuals were unemployed, including all individuals who committed AQROs between 1998 and 2001, and from 2007 onwards.
- 42% of individuals had some level of college education. Half of these individuals committed an AQRO between 1998 and 2001, while the remaining two individuals committed offenses in 2009.
- 16% of offenders with European links were converts to Islam. Between 1998 and 2001, and between 2003 and 2009, there were no offenses committed by European-linked converts.
- Over two thirds (68%) of European-linked offenders had received terrorist training, primarily in Afghanistan. However, nine of the ten individuals who had received training in Afghanistan committed their AQRO before 2002. Only one individual committed an AQRO afterwards (Oussama Kassir, whose charges were filed in 2006).
- Among all trained individuals, 92% committed an AQRO between 1998 and 2006.
- 16% of individuals had combat experience. However, there were no European-linked individuals with combat experience who committed an AQRO after 2005.
- Active Participants – individuals who committed or were imminently about to commit acts of terrorism, or were formal members of al-Qaeda – committed thirteen AQROs (62%). These were evenly spread throughout the period studied. All seven cases involving European-linked offenders between 1998 and 2001 involved Active Participants. There were also Active Participant cases in 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2009.
- The most severe manifestations of the threat the U.S. faces from Europe were al-Qaeda's (AQ) 9/11 attacks and the 'Shoe Bomb' plot of 2001. Both these attacks were carried out by cells containing operatives who had either lived in Europe for a sustained period of time or who were European citizens. The most significant threat since then was the 'Underwear Bomb' plot of 2009.
- However the severity of the European-linked threat emerging specifically from AQ has diminished since. For example:
  - While ten of European-linked offenders (52%) were linked to AQ, nine of these cases occurred between 1998 and 2002.
  - From 2003 onwards, there has only been one case of an AQRO individual with links to Europe connected to AQ – that of 'Underwear Bomber' Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab in 2009.
  - No European-linked individuals with combat experience committed an AQRO in the U.S. after 2005.
  - The 'Underwear Bomb' plot was the first AQRO committed by a European-linked individual with terrorist training since 2006.
- Therefore, between 1998 and 2002, individuals charged were usually connected to al-Qaeda; and, up until 2006, individuals were highly likely to have been terrorist trained, mainly in Afghanistan. Combat experience among individuals was rare and only featured among individuals charged up until 2005.
- Since 2005, individuals charged were less likely to have terrorist training or combat experience; less likely to be linked to AQ or another Designated Terrorist Organisation (DTO); and, subsequently, less likely of carrying out an attack that could lead to mass casualties.

## THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

- This report only provides part of the picture. It studies those who committed suicide attacks or were convicted in the U.S. and does not factor in Europeans who may currently be fighting U.S. forces or attacking U.S. interests abroad. It also does not include individuals convicted in Europe for planning to attack the U.S.
- The evidence suggests that European and American counterterrorism strategy has been effective in reducing the European aspect of the AQ and AQ-inspired threat facing the U.S. homeland. However, as the Boston Marathon bombings proved, the threat is on-going.

## INTRODUCTION

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In February 2013, the Henry Jackson Society released *Al-Qaeda in the United States: A Complete Analysis of Terrorism Offenses*, offering the most comprehensive look into international terrorism trends in the U.S. and how the threat has evolved over time.

The report profiled 171 individuals who were convicted in U.S. courts (civilian and military) for al-Qaeda related offenses (AQROs) or committed suicide attacks within the U.S. between 1997 and 2011.<sup>1</sup> It provided statistical analysis on their background (such as age, nationality, occupation, education and whether they were a religious convert); data relating to types of offenses, type of charge and their subsequent sentence; outlined individual connections to other known terrorists or designated terrorist organisations; and studied whether these individuals had received terrorist training or had combat experience.

While *Al-Qaeda in the United States* highlights the threat posed specifically to the U.S. homeland, the origins of the individuals responsible for this threat are genuinely international: be it from North America, the Middle East, Africa or the subject of this paper: Europe.

The Boston Marathon bombings of April 15, 2013 proved this threat to be on-going. Suspected bombers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev previously resided in Dagestan, and were ethnically Chechen.<sup>2</sup>

However, terrorism plots originating in Europe have aimed to attack American interests long before the Boston bombings. For example, in 2001 Djamel Beghal, one of Osama bin Laden's senior lieutenants, was convicted in France for his involvement in an al-Qaeda-inspired plot to target the U.S. Embassy and U.S. cultural center in Paris with a suicide bomber in 2001.<sup>3</sup> In December 2001, British citizen Saajid Badat conspired to blow up a plane heading to the U.S. using a shoe bomb.<sup>4</sup> The transatlantic 'Liquid Bomb' plot of 2006 saw al-Qaeda-inspired London operatives planning to detonate homemade liquid bombs on transatlantic planes en route to the U.S. and Canada.<sup>5</sup> All were at least in part directed at the U.S. and led to convictions in European courtrooms. Two other cases with significant European connections – that of Badat's 'Shoe Bomb' accomplice, Richard Reid, and the 'Underwear Bomber' Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab – led to convictions in the U.S.

Furthermore, these are just a sample of the cases that have led to convictions in court – it was reported in 2009 that 40% of CIA operations attempting to thwart attacks against the U.S. were conducted against targets in Britain alone.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, the threat to the U.S., from either European citizens or from those based in Europe, is proven.

This paper studies those individuals of European citizenship who were convicted in the U.S. of AQROs, and how Europe has been used as a base from which to launch mass casualty terrorist attacks against the States.

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1 One individual was convicted of offenses on two separate occasions; another individual was convicted on three separate occasions. In each of these cases, the convictions have been counted separately. As a result, there was a combined total of 174 convictions and attacks.

2 According to the United Nations Composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings, the Russian Federation is classified as part of Europe. See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm>

3 'Six jailed over Paris bomb plot', *BBC News*, March 15, 2005, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4350525.stm>

4 'Terror suspect admits plane plot', *BBC News*, February 28, 2005, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/gloucestershire/4304223.stm>

5 'Liquid bomb plot: What happened', *BBC News*, September 7, 2009, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8242479.stm>

6 'CIA warns Barack Obama that British terrorists are the biggest threat to the US', *Daily Telegraph*, February 7, 2009, available at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/barackobama/4550144/CIA-warns-Barack-Obama-that-British-terrorists-are-the-biggest-threat-to-the-US.html>

# Part 1: European Citizens

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## Zacarias Moussaoui

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 33
- **Date at time of charge:** December 11, 2001
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** Unspecified target as part of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** French
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** Finsbury Park Mosque
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

### Case summary

Zacarias Moussaoui is the only individual to have been convicted in connection with the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. Moussaoui pleaded guilty to conspiring with al-Qaeda to help prepare for, and launch, the attacks.

### Wider European connections

Moussaoui was born and raised in France<sup>7</sup> before spending 1993 – February 2001 in London.<sup>8</sup> It was in London that he began to develop extremist views.<sup>9</sup> He also gained a Master's Degree in International Business Studies at South Bank University, London.

By 1997, Moussaoui was living in Brixton, London, with extremist brothers David and Jérôme Courtailler (later convicted of conspiring with criminals engaged in a terrorist enterprise, and of belonging to an international criminal organisation, respectively).<sup>10</sup> Toward the end of 1998, he attended, and lived at, the Brixton Mosque, London, with childhood friend Xavier Jaffo (later killed fighting jihad in Chechnya).<sup>11</sup> There, they were exposed to Abdullah el-Faisal's sermons advocating violence and suicide bombings.<sup>12</sup>

Moussaoui eventually began attending the Finsbury Park Mosque, where he met 'Shoe Bomber' Richard Reid and Abu Hamza.<sup>13</sup> He also attended the Four Feathers Youth Club near Regent's Park, London, where he became

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7 United States of America v. Zacarias Moussaoui – Superseding Indictment, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, July 2002, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/136.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/136.pdf); Sean O' Neill & Daniel McGrory, *The Suicide Factory: Abu Hamza and the Finsbury Park Mosque* (London: Harper Perennial, 2006), p. 221

8 United States of America v. Zacarias Moussaoui – Statement of Facts, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/137.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/137.pdf)

9 'Mosque leader warns over extremist converts', *The Guardian*, December 26, 2004, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2001/dec/26/september11.uk>

10 'Europe Fears Islamic Converts May Give Cover for Extremism', *New York Times*, July 19, 2004, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/19/world/europe-fears-islamic-converts-may-give-cover-for-extremism.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

11 'Restless convert in quest for jihad', *BBC News*, May 3, 2006, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4942924.stm>; Evan Kohlmann, Expert Report: U.S. v. Hassan Abu Jihaad, August 2007, available at <http://www1.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/abujihaadexpertreport.pdf>

12 'Restless convert in quest for jihad', *BBC News*, May 3, 2006

13 'Indicted man followed path of hijackers', *Chicago Tribune*, December 12, 2001, available at [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2001-12-12/news/0112120263\\_1\\_airman-flightschool-abu-qatada-finsbury-park-mosque](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2001-12-12/news/0112120263_1_airman-flightschool-abu-qatada-finsbury-park-mosque); O' Neill & McGrory, *The Suicide Factory* (2006), p. 91

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

influenced by the extremist teachings of the radical cleric Abu Qatada.<sup>14</sup>

In 1998, Moussaoui trained at Khalden training camp in Afghanistan, swore loyalty to Osama bin Laden and established contact with AQ. He also trained at Derunta camp, also in Afghanistan.<sup>15</sup>

According to the U.S., Moussaoui knew of al-Qaeda's plot to fly airplanes into prominent buildings in the U.S., and agreed to travel to the United States to participate in the plan.<sup>16</sup> At Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's request (the 'mastermind' of 9/11), Moussaoui began to receive flight training in the U.S. However, his conduct raised the suspicions of his instructor as Moussaoui, having had very little training, wanted to learn to fly large jets without any intention of obtaining a pilot's license. On August 16, 2001, the instructor reported his suspicions to the authorities.<sup>17</sup> Moussaoui was arrested later that day by Immigration and Naturalization Service (I.N.S.) and F.B.I. agents in Minnesota.<sup>18</sup>

Osama bin Laden has denied Moussaoui's involvement in 9/11, while Moussaoui himself has alternately admitted and then denied being the '20<sup>th</sup> hijacker'.<sup>19</sup>

## Richard Reid

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 28
- **Date at time of charge:** January 16, 2002
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** Passengers on American Airlines 63 (bound from Paris, France to Miami, Florida)
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** British
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** Finsbury Park Mosque
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** High school education or below
- **Convert:** Yes

### Case summary

Richard Reid was convicted for attempting to detonate a bomb concealed in his shoe while aboard a U.S.-bound transatlantic aircraft. He was instructed by AQ to detonate his device on a commercial flight in mid-air, yet he failed

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<sup>14</sup> 'Indicted man followed path of hijackers', *Chicago Tribune*, December 12, 2001

<sup>15</sup> United States of America v. Zacarias Moussaoui – Statement of Facts, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division; 'Moussaoui offers final diatribe in court', *Associated Press*, May 4, 2006

<sup>16</sup> United States of America v. Zacarias Moussaoui – Statement of Facts, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division

<sup>17</sup> *The 9/11 Commission Report: The Full Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States*, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (W.W. Norton & Co, 2004), p. 247

<sup>18</sup> United States of America v. Zacarias Moussaoui – Government's Response to Court's Order on Computer and Email Evidence, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division

<sup>19</sup> 'Bin Laden purportedly says Moussaoui had nothing to do with Sept. 11', *USA Today*, May 23, 2006, available at [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-05-23-bin-laden-tape\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-05-23-bin-laden-tape_x.htm); United States of America v. Zacarias Moussaoui – Defendant's Motion to Withdraw Guilty Plea, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, May 2006, available at <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/moussaoui/withdrawguilty.pdf>

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

to do so successfully and, following an emergency landing, was arrested on December 22, 2001.

## Wider European connections

Richard Reid was born in Bromley, South East London. He was educated in London and, after committing a series of muggings in the mid-1990s, spent time in a young offender's institution. It was during this period that he converted to Islam.<sup>20</sup>

Reid's radicalisation primarily occurred while in Europe. He initially worshipped at the Brixton Mosque in South London, where he heard sermons from Abdullah el-Faisal (eventually convicted in the U.K. of inciting racial hatred and soliciting murder).<sup>21</sup> Reid is also known to have attended al-Muhajiroun meetings (a group now proscribed in the U.K.)<sup>22</sup> and sought advice from London-based jihadist ideologue Abu Qatada.<sup>23</sup>

Reid also attended the Finsbury Park Mosque in London, where he was identified as a potential recruit to be sent to Afghan training camps and then potentially perform martyrdom missions for al-Qaeda.<sup>24</sup> The imam of the mosque at this time was Abu Hamza al-Masri, connected to a variety of terrorists throughout the world (subsequently convicted in the U.K. in February 2006 of inciting-murder and race-hate charges and now facing terrorism charges in the U.S.).<sup>25</sup>

By late 1998, Reid had been sent to Afghanistan, where he was based for a prolonged period and established connections with AQ.<sup>26</sup> While there, he attended Khalden training camp on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, led by the Libyan terrorist Ibn al-Sheikh al-Libi.<sup>27</sup> Reid also attended Derunta training complex near Jalalabad, Afghanistan, where he was taught how to make a bomb by the camp's leader, Abu Khabab al-Masri.<sup>28</sup> In August 2001, Richard Reid was also known to have taken a surveillance course on two occasions, and to have also taught a jihad class at Kandahar Airport.<sup>29</sup>

Eventually, Reid was assigned (along with Badat) with the 'Shoe Bomb' operation. His handler was Nizar Trabelsi – the individual identified by Djamel Beghal as a suicide bomber in the U.S. Embassy in Paris plot.<sup>30</sup>

In the final stages before the attempted attack, Reid returned to Europe. He visited Istanbul, Turkey, Manchester, U.K. and Brussels, Belgium, where he exchanged his existing British passport for a new one at the British consulate. He then flew on to Amsterdam and Paris, where he booked a flight departing Paris and heading to Miami, Florida.<sup>31</sup> On December 21, 2001, Reid attempted to board his flight, yet was delayed getting through security and missed his flight. He instead flew the next day, where he made his unsuccessful attempt at detonating his bomb.

## Semi Osman

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 32

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20 'Who is Richard Reid?', *BBC News*, December 28, 2001, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/1731568.stm>

21 'Hate preacher cleric jailed', *BBC News*, March 7, 2003, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/2829059.stm>; 'Race hate preacher Faisal deported', *The Guardian*, May 25, 2007, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2007/may/25/terrorism.race>

22 'Essex boys sign up for "holy war"', *The Guardian*, February 24, 2002, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/2002/feb/24/religion.september11>

23 'Profile: Abu Qatada', *The Guardian*, February 18, 2009, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/2009/feb/18/abu-qatada-profile>

24 Sean O'Neill & Daniel McGregory, *The Suicide Factory* (2006), p. 87

25 'Hamza guilty of inciting murder', *BBC News*, February 7, 2006, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4689556.stm>

26 'British National Indicted for Conspiring with "Shoe Bomber" Richard Reid', United States Department of Justice, October 4, 2004, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/868.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/868.pdf)

27 'Sources: Reid is al Qaeda operative', *CNN*, December 6, 2003, available at [http://articles.cnn.com/2003-01-30/world/reid.alqaeda\\_1\\_qaeda-khalden-rohan-gunaratra?s=PM:WORLD](http://articles.cnn.com/2003-01-30/world/reid.alqaeda_1_qaeda-khalden-rohan-gunaratra?s=PM:WORLD)

28 O'Neill & McGrory, *The Suicide Factory* (2006), p. 100

29 David Matthew Hicks – Charge Sheet, United States Department of Defense, February 6, 2007, available at <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20070301hicks.pdf>

30 'Belgium arrests 14 for alleged terrorist jailbreak plot', *The Guardian*, December 21, 2007, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/dec/21/terrorism.alqaida>

31 United States of America v. Richard Colvin Reid – Government's Sentencing Memorandum, United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, January 17, 2003, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/864.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/864.pdf)

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

- **Date at time of charge:** June 2002
- **Sentence:** 11 months
- **Target:** None explicitly assigned
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [United States]
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** British Sierra Leonean
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** Bly, Oregon training camp
- **Employment status:** Employed [skilled]
- **Education:** Unspecified
- **Convert:** No

## Case summary

Semi Osman was convicted of illegal possession of a handgun with its serial number removed. Osman had also formerly hosted a terrorist training camp at a ranch in Bly, Oregon.

While in the U.S., he temporarily led the Dar-us-Salaam Mosque in Seattle, Washington, and became fascinated by the teachings of London-based cleric, Abu Hamza el-Masri.<sup>32</sup>

Osman's conviction relates to an incident on September 24, 1999, when Abdul Raheem al-Arshad Ali, a former leader of a Seattle mosque, bought a .40 caliber handgun on Osman's behalf (who was not allowed to possess one). Ali told Osman to scratch off the serial number so it could not be traced.<sup>33</sup>

In October 1999, Osman was visited at his ranch by James Ujaama, a former congregant from the Dar-us-Salaam Mosque. After seeing the ranch, Ujaama faxed Abu Hamza el-Masri, suggesting that a training camp could be established, as the surrounding terrain was comparable to that in Afghanistan and weapons and ammunition could be concealed.<sup>34</sup>

Abu Hamza chose his close associates Oussama Kassir and Haroon Rashid Aswat to oversee the camp's development.<sup>35</sup> However, upon arrival, Kassir became angry at the condition in the camp, believing that Ujaama's claims had been exaggerated. Ujaama subsequently left the camp.

From late November to December 1999, following Ujaama's departure, Kassir led Aswat and Osman on nighttime training missions, practicing reconnaissance by checking fence lines and looking for intruders.<sup>36</sup>

Kassir and Aswat distributed CD-ROMs containing instructions on how to make bombs and poisons, saying that such techniques may be useful in the future and that they had previously received jihadist training in Afghanistan. In December 1999, Kassir and the others discussed a plan to kill truck drivers traveling through Oregon and steal their cargo in order to fund their training camp.<sup>37</sup> However, the camp was cancelled after two weeks, and in total,

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32 'Plea agreement helping effort to extradite London radical with ties to bin Laden', *Seattle Times*, August 3, 2002

33 'Ex-Mosque Leader Arrested', *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, November 5, 2002

34 United States of America v. Earnest James Ujaama – Indictment, United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/171.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/171.pdf)

35 United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa et al., – Indictment, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/507.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/507.pdf)

36 'Jihad unravels at Oregon ranch', *Sunday Oregonian*, October 18, 2009

37 United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa et al., – Indictment, United States District Court, Southern District of New York

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

only about ten to fifteen trainees attended.<sup>38</sup>

On May 17, 2002, Osman was arrested at his home in Tacoma, Washington. After executing a search warrant, authorities found the following items:

- the handgun that led to Osman's conviction;
- literature and videos of Abu Hamza al-Masri emphasising the importance of terrorist training;
- literature on how to poison water supplies; and
- al-Qaeda and Taliban training manuals.<sup>39</sup>

## Wider European connections

Osman entered the U.S. on a British passport in 1988.

## Wesam al-Delaema

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 32
- **Date at time of charge:** September 9, 2005
- **Sentence:** 25 years [by a U.S. court; reduced to 8 years, by a Dutch court]
- **Target:** U.S. troops in Iraq
- **Received terrorist training:** Alleged but unproven [Syria]
- **Known combat experience:** Yes [Iraq]
- **Nationality:** Dutch
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** Fajullah mujahideen
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Unspecified
- **Convert:** No

## Case summary

Wesam al-Delaema pleaded guilty to conspiring to murder U.S. soldiers in Fallujah, Iraq, by planting roadside bombs. Al-Delaema was the first suspect to face criminal prosecution in the United States for terrorism in Iraq.

Al-Delaema travelled to Fallujah in October 2003, where he and his co-conspirators stated their intention to kill Americans using improvised explosive devices (IEDs). They also showed on video how IEDs that they had buried in a road near Fallujah would be detonated and would destroy U.S. vehicles and their occupants. In October 2003, al-Delaema and fellow members of his cell then went to a dirt and gravel road, where they videotaped themselves

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<sup>38</sup> O'Neill & McGrory, *The Suicide Factory* (2006), p.194; 'Ranch's efforts at terror training detailed: Muslim who lived at Oregon site tells', *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, August 9, 2002, available at <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/fnews/730252/posts>

<sup>39</sup> 'The Conspiracy to Establish a Jihad Training Camp in Bly, Oregon', *The NEFA Foundation*, June 2009, available at [http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/NEFA\\_Bly0609.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/NEFA_Bly0609.pdf); 'Terror-Camp Conspirator Still in Limbo', *Seattle Times*, October 10, 2010, available at [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2013128666\\_osman11m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2013128666_osman11m.html)

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

uncovering artillery shells and detonating cords that they had buried there earlier. The cell discussed how they had placed the bombs fifty meters apart in order to hit multiple vehicles.<sup>40</sup>

Al-Delaema also filmed the effect of roadside-bomb attacks. Upon his return to the Netherlands, he frequently tried to obtain propaganda footage of those trying to kill Americans in Iraq.<sup>41</sup>

## Wider European connections

Al-Delaema moved to the Netherlands in 1991, and was granted asylum in 2001.<sup>42</sup> Al-Delaema resided in Amersfoort, Netherlands, where he was unemployed and received disability benefits but still worked illegally at a carwash and an auto repair shop.<sup>43</sup>

## Oussama Kassir

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 39
- **Date at time of charge:** February 6, 2006
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** None explicitly assigned
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Swedish
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** Bly, Oregon training camp; Finsbury Park Mosque
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Unspecified
- **Convert:** No

## Case summary

Oussama Kassir was convicted of charges relating to his attempts to establish a terrorist training camp in Bly, Oregon, and his operation of several terrorist websites that contained instructions on bomb- and poison-making.

Following the lack of success of the Bly training camp, Kassir returned to Europe. In December 2001 and March 2002, he established two websites which contained bomb-making instructions and other terrorist materials. He also posted the ‘Mujahideen Explosives Handbook’ and ‘Mujahideen Poisons Handbook’.<sup>44</sup>

## Wider European connections

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40 United States of America v. Wesam Al Delaema – Amended Affidavit In Support of Criminal Complaint, July 2005, available at [http://www.nefafoundation.org/file/FeaturedDocs/U.S.\\_v\\_Delaema\\_AmmendedAffidavit.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/file/FeaturedDocs/U.S._v_Delaema_AmmendedAffidavit.pdf)

41 ‘Dutch Citizen Charged in Terrorism Conspiracy Against Americans in Iraq’, United States Department of Justice, July 29, 2005, available at [http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2005/July/05\\_crm\\_393.htm](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2005/July/05_crm_393.htm)

42 ‘Dutch terror suspect “tortured in US prison”’, *Radio Netherlands Worldwide*, October 15, 2010, available at [http://www.rnw.nl/english/bulletin/dutch-terror-suspect-tortured-us-prison; Delaema, Wesam al, Asser Institute – Centre for International and European Law, available at http://www.asser.nl/default.aspx?site\\_id=36&level1=15248&level2=&level3=&textid=39780](http://www.rnw.nl/english/bulletin/dutch-terror-suspect-tortured-us-prison; Delaema, Wesam al, Asser Institute – Centre for International and European Law, available at http://www.asser.nl/default.aspx?site_id=36&level1=15248&level2=&level3=&textid=39780)

43 United States of America v. Wesam Al Delaema – Opposition to Defendant’s Motion to Suppress – Attachment 4, March 14, 2005, available at [http://www.nefafoundation.org/file/FeaturedDocs/US\\_v\\_Delaema\\_DutchPoliceReport2.pdf](http://www.nefafoundation.org/file/FeaturedDocs/US_v_Delaema_DutchPoliceReport2.pdf)

44 United States of America v. Mustafa Kamel Mustafa et al., – Indictment, United States District Court, Southern District of New York

## THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

Kassir moved to Sweden in 1984, eventually becoming a naturalised citizen. By 1999, he had moved to London, where he sought out Abu Hamza el-Masri for advice after his wife had asked him for a divorce.<sup>45</sup> Kassir also lived in Finsbury Park Mosque for a time.<sup>46</sup>

### Dritan Duka

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 28
- **Date at time of charge:** May 7, 2007
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** U.S. troops at the Fort Dix military base, New Jersey
- **Received terrorist training:** No
- **Combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Macedonian
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** The 'Fort Dix Five' cell
- **Employment status:** Employed [self-employed/family business]
- **Education:** High school education or below
- **Convert:** No

### Shain Duka

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 26
- **Date at time of charge:** May 7, 2007
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** U.S. troops at the Fort Dix military base, New Jersey
- **Received terrorist training:** No
- **Combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Macedonian
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** The 'Fort Dix Five' cell

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<sup>45</sup> 'Swede: "I love bin Laden ... I hate Bush"', *Seattle Times*, September 3, 2002

<sup>46</sup> 'Swede referenced in indictment speaks out', *Associated Press*, September 3, 2002

## THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

- **Employment status:** Employed [self-employed/family business]
- **Education:** High school education or below
- **Convert:** No

### Eljvir Duka

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 23
- **Date at time of charge:** June 5, 2007
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** U.S. troops at the Fort Dix military base, New Jersey
- **Received terrorist training:** No
- **Combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Macedonian
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** The 'Fort Dix Five' cell
- **Employment status:** Employed [self-employed/family business]
- **Education:** High school education or below
- **Convert:** No

#### Case summary

Brothers Dritan, Shain and Eljvir Duka were members of the 'Fort Dix Five', a group of men who planned to attack the Fort Dix military base in New Jersey. They were convicted for crimes relating to a conspiracy to murder members of the U.S. military. The cell was arrested after several of its members had attempted to buy firearms in order to carry out a future attack.<sup>47</sup>

#### Wider European connections

Dritan, Shain and Eljvir Duka were born in Debar, Macedonia.<sup>48</sup>

### Hysen Sherifi

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 24 [July 2009 charge]; Unspecified – 24/25 [September 2009 charge]
- **Date at time of charge:** July 22, 2009 [indictment]; September 24, 2009 [superseding indictment]

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<sup>47</sup> 'Five Radical Islamists Convicted of Conspiring to Kill Soldiers at Fort Dix', United States Department of Justice, December 22, 2008

<sup>48</sup> 'U.S. terror charges stun a close-knit community', *International Herald Tribune*, May 11, 2007

## THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

- **Sentence:** 45 years
- **Target:** U.S. military targets – specifically the U.S. Marine Corps base at Quantico, Virginia, and the U.S. military base at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo
- **Received terrorist training:** Unspecified
- **Combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Kosovar
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** Raleigh cell
- **Employment status:** Unspecified
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

### Case summary

Hysen Sherifi was recruited by Daniel Patrick Boyd as part of a cell that trained, raised money, and stockpiled weapons for jihadist attacks against perceived enemies of Islam (including American military targets – in particular the Quantico U.S. Marine Corps base in Virginia, and, specifically to Sherifi, the U.S. military forces based at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo).

In 2008, Sherifi was given extremist videos by cell member Bajram Aslanni, which he could use to recruit others, and was asked to raise money. In April 2009, while in the U.S., Sherifi aimed to solicit personnel and funds in support of the *mujahideen*. In July 2009, Sherifi and cell members Daniel and Zakariya Boyd practised the use of weapons and military tactics in North Carolina.<sup>49</sup>

### Wider European connections

Hysen Sherifi was born in Gjilan, Kosovo. Between summer 2008 and spring 2009, Sherifi travelled to Pristina, Kosovo, to fight violent jihad.

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<sup>49</sup> United States v. Daniel Patrick Boyd et al., – Superseding Indictment, United States District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division, September 24, 2009, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/1075.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1075.pdf)

# Part 2:

## Non-European Citizens Living in Europe

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## Mohamed Rashed Daoud al-‘Owhali

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 21
- **Date at time of charge:** August 26, 1998
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** U.S. Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Known combat experience:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Nationality:** Saudi Arabian
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** Taliban
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

### Case summary

Mohamed Rashed Daoud al-‘Owhali was a member of AQ convicted on various charges of terrorism and murder, linked to the truck-bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya on August 7, 1998. Al-‘Owhali was a passenger in the vehicle used to bomb the embassy, an attack that killed 213 people. A simultaneous attack took place against the U.S. embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Overall, the bombings led to 224 deaths and over 4,000 injuries.

### Wider European connections

Al-‘Owhali was born in Liverpool, England.<sup>50</sup>

## Ahmed Ressam

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 32
- **Date at time of charge:** December 17, 1999 [false documents and nitroglycerin charges]; January 22, 2000 [additional charges]
- **Sentence:** 37 years
- **Target:** Los Angeles International Airport, California
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Known combat experience:** No

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<sup>50</sup> 'Dead man walking', *The Observer*, August 5, 2001, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/theobserver/2001/aug/05/life1.lifemagazine8>

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

- **Nationality:** Algerian
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** Groupe Fateh Kamel [GFK]; Armed Islamic Group [GIA]
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** High school education or below
- **Convert:** No

## Case summary

Ahmed Ressay was convicted of plotting to bomb Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), California, on New Year's Eve 1999. He was arrested while trying to transport explosives into the U.S. Ressay had spent several months training in Afghanistan in preparation for the mission.

## Wider European connections

In 1984, Ressay developed an ulcer and was sent to Paris, France, for treatment. There, he had access to books that were banned in Algeria and which criticised the country's military dictatorship for not allowing democracy to take root. When he returned home to Algeria, he began to take up the cause of militant Islamic rebels.<sup>51</sup> Ressay also used to live in France between 1992 and 1994.

In November 1993, Ressay was arrested in Corsica, France on immigration violations. To avoid deportation back to Algeria, he created a false passport and flew to Montreal, Canada, on February 20, 1994.<sup>52</sup> In 1998, Ressay trained in Afghanistan for several months, leaving in January 1999 with the intention to attack the U.S.<sup>53</sup>

The GFK cell that Ressay joined in Canada was co-ordinated by Abu Doha, assessed to be the head of a terrorist cell in the U.K. in the late 1990s and linked to AQ.<sup>54</sup>

## L'Houssaine Kherchtou

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 36
- **Date at time of charge:** Unspecified date between September – November 2000
- **Sentence:** Awaiting sentence
- **Target:** U.S. Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan; Pakistan]
- **Known combat experience:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Nationality:** Moroccan
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]

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51 'Ahmed Ressay: The would-be millennium bomber', *CBC News*, July 27, 2005

52 United States of America v. Ahmed Ressay – Government's Sentencing Memorandum, United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, April 20, 2005, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/150.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/150.pdf)

53 Jason Burke, 'Al-Qaeda – a meaningless label', *The Guardian*, January 12, 2003, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2003/jan/12/alqaida.terrorism>

54 United States of America v. Ahmed Ressay – Government's Sentencing Memorandum, United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, April 20, 2005

## THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

- **Other key networks:** al-Farouq training camp; Abu Sadeek training camp; Jihad Wal training camp
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Vocational qualification
- **Convert:** No

### Case summary

L'Houssaine Kherchtou was a member of the al-Qaeda cell that bombed the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 7, 1998. Following his arrest, he became a key co-operating witness in the trial of those involved in the 1988 Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 224 people.<sup>55</sup> He is now in a witness protection programme in the United States.<sup>56</sup>

### Wider European connections

Kherchtou moved to France in 1989 before illegally entering Italy, where he visited Naples and Rome before settling in Milan. There he regularly attended the Islamic Cultural Institute, which was described by the U.S. Treasury in 2001 as 'the main al-Qaeda stationhouse in Europe'. Kherchtou became familiar with its manager, Sheikh Anwar Shaban (a member of al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya who was killed by Croatia forces in 1995 while in Bosnia).<sup>57</sup>

## Mohamed Atta

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of suicide attack:** 33
- **Date at time of suicide attack:** September 11, 2001
- **Target:** North Tower, World Trade Center
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Egyptian
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** 9/11 cell; The Hamburg Contingent
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

## Ziad Jarrah

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- **Gender:** Male

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55 'At Detainee's Trial, Insider Gives Glimpse Into Al Qaeda', *New York Times*, October 20, 2010

56 'Junior', *The New Yorker*, September 11, 2006

57 'Italy's Money Cops, Bane of the Mafia, Turn Attention to al Qaeda's Finances', *Wall Street Journal*, October 30, 2001, available at <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1004393051227599880.html>

## THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

- **Age at time of suicide attack:** 26
- **Date at time of suicide attack:** September 11, 2001
- **Target:** Unspecified target in Washington, D.C. [believed to be the U.S. Capitol]
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Lebanese
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** 9/11 cell; The Hamburg Contingent
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

### Marwan al-Shehhi

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of suicide attack:** 23
- **Date at time of suicide attack:** September 11, 2001
- **Target:** South Tower, World Trade Center
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Emirati
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** 9/11 cell; The Hamburg Contingent
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

#### Summary

Mohamed Atta, Ziad Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehhi were ‘pilot hijackers’ for the 9/11 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., tasked with flying their planes into assigned targets. All on board the flights were killed as a result and, of the 2,996 people who lost their lives on September 11, 2,606 died when the planes hit the World Trade Center.<sup>58</sup> The men were previously members of the ‘Hamburg Cell’, based in Germany.

Mohamed Atta was the operational leader of the 9/11 cell. He was a ‘pilot hijacker’ tasked with flying American

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<sup>58</sup> ‘Accused 9/11 plotter Khalid Sheikh Mohammed faces New York trial’, *CNN*, November 13, 2009, available at <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/11/13/khalid.sheikh.mohammed/index.html>

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Ziad Jarrah's target was, most likely, the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. (another possibility, the White House, was regarded by the plotters as harder to strike). However, with the flight approximately twenty minutes away from its target, the aircraft's passengers attempted to overpower the hijackers and regain control of the aircraft. Jarrah was forced to crash the plane in an open field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Marwan al-Shehhi was tasked with flying American Airlines Flight 175 (bound for Los Angeles, California, from Boston, Massachusetts) into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

Having formed the Hamburg Cell (see below), Atta, Jarrah and al-Shehhi decided, by late 1999, to fight violent jihad in Chechnya. However, having heard about the difficulty in entering Chechnya, the men travelled to Afghanistan where they received training and swore loyalty to Osama bin Laden.<sup>59</sup>

Atta arranged for the 9/11 hijackers to receive flight training in the United States. In the year prior to the attacks, Atta met with bin Laden to discuss targets for the attack.<sup>60</sup>

## **Wider European Connections**

In July 1992, Atta moved to Germany, staying briefly in Stuttgart before relocating to Hamburg.<sup>61</sup> There he completed a degree in Town Planning from the Technical University of Hamburg. During his time in Germany, Atta became increasingly radicalised.<sup>62</sup> In 1995, he tried to organise a Muslim student association in Hamburg, and met Ramzi bin al-Shibh,<sup>63</sup> a member of al-Qaeda who later helped coordinate the attacks on September 11.<sup>64</sup>

Jarrah moved to Greifswald, Germany in 1996.<sup>65</sup> Jarrah was not outwardly pious when he arrived in Germany, however became more so after returning from a trip to Lebanon.

Al-Shehhi also studied in Germany, arriving in April 1996. Though very religious, at this stage he still wore western clothes.

In 1997, Atta joined a working group, at the al-Quds Mosque in Hamburg, designed to improve relations between Muslims and Christians (Jarrah also attended the al-Quds Mosque).<sup>66</sup> However, Atta claimed that there was a global Jewish conspiracy based in New York controlling the media and financial world. He advocated jihad and asserted that Saddam Hussein was an American agent put in place to give the U.S. an excuse to intervene in the Middle East.<sup>67</sup>

By approximately June 1997, al-Shehhi began refusing to visit restaurants that either served, or dealt with, alcohol. In September 1997, Jarrah moved to Hamburg, Germany, to study aircraft engineering at the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg.<sup>68</sup> He subsequently became increasingly religious.

Al-Shehhi's first association with the other hijackers began in late 1997 when, having left Bonn without the university's consent, he decided to complete his studies in Hamburg, Germany.

In 1998, Atta moved into a Hamburg flat with bin al-Shibh and al-Shehhi.<sup>69</sup> By late 1999, bin al-Shibh, Jarrah, Mohamed Atta, and al-Shehhi were prepared to leave their student lives in order to fight jihad. They would hold vociferously anti-American discussions at their apartment three to four times a week.<sup>70</sup>

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59 *The 9/11 Commission Report* (2004), p. 164

60 *Ibid.*, p. 166

61 *Ibid.*, p. 160

62 Steve Coll, *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the C.I.A., Afghanistan and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10th, 2001* (London, UK: Penguin Group, 2004), p. 476

63 *The 9/11 Commission Report* (2004), p. 161

64 *Ibid.*, p. 434

65 'Ziad Jarrah', Investigative Services Division, F.B.I. Headquarters, April 19, 2002

66 *The 9/11 Commission Report* (2004), p. 163

67 *Ibid.*, p. 160

68 *Ibid.*

69 *Ibid.*, p. 161

70 *Ibid.*, p. 164

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

Bin al-Shibh claims that he and al-Shehhi were approached by an individual called Khalid al-Masri while on a train journey in Germany, who discussed the topic of violent jihad with them. They later contacted Khalid al-Masri to express their interest in fighting in Chechnya, and he subsequently put them in contact with Mohamedou Ould Slahi (a key al-Qaeda operative who was living in Duisburg, Germany).<sup>71</sup>

Jarrah, bin al-Shibh, al-Shehhi, and Atta all travelled to meet Slahi in Germany, who recommended that they train in Afghanistan first, before going to Chechnya from there. Slahi advised them about obtaining their visas, and provided instructions for reaching Afghanistan.<sup>72</sup>

## James Ujaama

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 36 [2002 charge]; 41 [2007 charges]
- **Date at time of charge:** August 28, 2002; January 7, 2007; August 13, 2007
- **Sentence:** 2 years – including time served, plus three years supervised release [2003 conviction]; 2 years [February 2007 conviction]; Awaiting sentence [August 2007 conviction]
- **Target:** None explicitly assigned
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Afghanistan]
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** American
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [AQ]
- **Other key networks:** Bly, Oregon training camp; Finsbury Park mosque
- **Employment status:** Employed [Self-employed]
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** Yes

### Case summary

James Ujaama pleaded guilty to indictments of attempting to establish a terrorist training camp in Bly, Oregon and stockpiling weapons and ammunition in the United States. He also attempted to raise money for terrorists in Afghanistan between June 2000 and December 19, 2001. These charges against Ujaama were restored by the government in 2007 after he reneged on a 2003 plea agreement (which had seen him convicted of lesser charges relating to assisting the Taliban, in exchange for testifying in other terrorism cases).

### Wider European connections

In 1997, Ujaama travelled to London, where he lived intermittently from then on (it has been suggested in reports that his conversion to Islam actually took place in London).<sup>73</sup> In London he allied himself with Abu Hamza al-Masri and attended the Finsbury Park Mosque. Abu Hamza eventually gave him a letter of introduction that enabled him to attend a training camp in Afghanistan.<sup>74</sup>

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71 Ibid., p. 165

72 Ibid., p. 166

73 'I'd Never Heard of Al-Qaida Until 9/11', *Seattle Post*, July 17, 2002

74 'Hamza Lawyers Hit Out At "Tainted" Evidence', *Press Association*, April 15, 2003

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

Ujaama also disseminated Abu Hamza's ideological views and statements on the need for violent jihad against non-Islamic governments.

Between spring 2000 and September 2001, Ujaama designed and helped operate the 'Supporters of Shariah' website for Abu Hamza. The website requested money, goods, and services for the Taliban.<sup>75</sup>

Ujaama also travelled with Feroz Abbasi, (a former Guantánamo Bay detainee), from London to Pakistan and facilitated Abbasi's travel to camps associated with al-Qaeda.<sup>76</sup> During his trip to Pakistan, Abu Hamza gave Ujaama currency and other items to pass on to individuals living in Taliban-controlled areas. Ujaama entered Afghanistan with the assistance of Taliban officials and installed software on their computers.

In early September 2001, Abu Hamza again intended to use Ujaama to transport currency from London to Taliban-controlled parts of Afghanistan, via Pakistan. On September 5, 2001, he was questioned by officials at London Heathrow Airport, U.K. about this proposed journey. Ujaama told these officials that he was planning to deliver computer equipment and money to individuals in Afghanistan for use in a Taliban-supported school and that he was willing to travel into Afghanistan without a visa if necessary.<sup>77</sup>

## Syed Hashmi

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 26
- **Date at time of charge:** May 24, 2006
- **Sentence:** 15 years
- **Target:** U.S. troops, Afghanistan
- **Received terrorist training:** No
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** American
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [Al-Muhajiroun]
- **Other key networks:** None
- **Employment status:** Unspecified
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

### Case summary

Syed Hashmi pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to al-Qaeda in attacks against U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan.<sup>78</sup>

### Wider European connections

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75 United States of America v. Earnest James Ujaama – Plea Agreement, United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, April 14, 2003, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/172.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/172.pdf)

76 O'Neill & McGrory, *Suicide Factory* (2006), p. 196; 'Feroz Abbasi', *Daily Telegraph*, July 5, 2003, available at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/1434914/Feroz-Abbasi.html>

77 United States of America v. Earnest James Ujaama – Plea Agreement, United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, April 14, 2003

78 'U.S. Citizen Pleads Guilty in Manhattan Federal Court to Conspiring to Provide Material Support to Al Qaeda', United States Attorney Southern District of New York, April 27, 2010

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

In December 2003,<sup>79</sup> Hashmi moved to the U.K., ‘in order to seek knowledge to better my religion’.<sup>80</sup> Once there, he established links with the (now banned) U.K. branch of al-Muhajiroun.<sup>81</sup>

In February, Hashmi allowed al-Qaeda operative Mohammed Junaid Babar to store equipment – including ponchos, waterproof socks, and raincoats – in his London apartment, knowing that Babar was going to transport them to Abdul Hadi al-Iraqi (who was then head of al-Qaeda’s operations in Afghanistan) in South Waziristan, Pakistan.<sup>82</sup> During his stay, Babar also introduced Hashmi to Omar Khyam, the leader of the ‘Fertiliser Bomb’ cell, a cell which discussed attacking targets in the U.K. using ammonium nitrate fertiliser. This cell consisted of Omar Khyam (the leader of the cell), Anthony Garcia, Waheed Mahmood, Jawad Akbar, and Salahuddin Amin (all convicted in the U.K.), and Mohammad Momin Khawaja (convicted in Canada). Hashmi attended meetings with other UK extremists over the need to support al-Iraqi, which likely included meeting other members of Khyam’s cell.

Hashmi was arrested at London Heathrow Airport, U.K. while trying to board a flight to Pakistan. He was held in British custody until May 25, 2007,<sup>83</sup> when he became the first American citizen to be extradited from the U.K. on terrorism charges.<sup>84</sup>

## Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab

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- **Gender:** Male
- **Age at time of charge:** 23
- **Date at time of charge:** December 26, 2009
- **Sentence:** Life
- **Target:** Passengers on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 (bound from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Detroit, Michigan)
- **Received terrorist training:** Yes [Yemen]
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** Nigerian
- **Linked to a DTO:** Yes [Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula]
- **Other key networks:** None
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Attended college or above
- **Convert:** No

### Case summary

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab attempted to detonate a bomb concealed in his underwear while aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253, flying from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Detroit, Michigan on December 25, 2009.<sup>85</sup>

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79 ‘Terror suspect linked to Al Qaeda loses extradition battle’, *Daily Mail*, March 20, 2007, available at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-443477/Terror-suspect-linked-Al-Qaeda-loses-extradition-battle.html#ixzz1kf6ZNMHS>

80 ‘U.S. Citizen Gets 15-Year Sentence for Helping Al-Qaeda’, *CNN*, June 10, 2010

81 ‘US man pleads guilty to aiding al-Qaeda’, *BBC News*, April 28, 2010, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/8647985.stm>

82 Syed Hashmi and the Government of the United States of America, High Court of Justice, EWHC 564 (Admin), March 20, 2007

83 ‘Britain Extradites Terrorism Suspect’, *Washington Post*, May 27, 2007, available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/26/AR2007052601445.html>

84 ‘U.S. Citizen Gets 15-Year Sentence for Helping Al-Qaeda’, *CNN*, June 10, 2010

85 ‘“Underwear Bomber” Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab Pleads Guilty’, US Attorney’s Office – Eastern District of Michigan, October 12, 2011, available at <http://www.fbi.gov/detroit/press-releases/2011/underwear-bomber-umar-farouk-abdulmutallab-pleads-guilty>

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

## Wider European connections

Abdulmutallab came from an extremely wealthy family. He stayed in a £2m flat during his time spent in London, studying at University College London (UCL)<sup>86</sup> and attending the Regent's Park Mosque.<sup>87</sup> At UCL, he was president of the Islamic Society during 2006-2007 academic year, during which time the society held events that were described as one individual who attended as 'brainwashing, like they were trying to indoctrinate people'.

During his time in London, Abdulmutallab began to be monitored by British security services due to his radical links<sup>88</sup> (although he was not considered a terrorist threat).<sup>89</sup>

## Nadia Rockwood

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- **Gender:** Female
- **Age at time of charge:** 36
- **Date at time of charge:** July 21, 2010
- **Sentence:** Probation [5 years]
- **Target:** None explicitly assigned
- **Received terrorist training:** No
- **Known combat experience:** No
- **Nationality:** American
- **Linked to a DTO:** No
- **Other key networks:** Two-person cell
- **Employment status:** Unemployed
- **Education:** Vocational qualification
- **Convert:** Yes

## Case summary

Nadia Rockwood pleaded guilty to knowingly providing false statements to the F.B.I., having denied delivering a letter (containing a list of targets for assassination, composed by her husband, Paul Rockwood) to another individual who, in reality, was an undercover Alaska state trooper.<sup>90</sup>

## Wider European connections

Nadia Rockwood was a former British citizen, raised in Harrow, North London. There she studied Ballet and Jazz at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts.<sup>91</sup>

Before committing their offenses, Nadia and Paul Rockwood were planning to move near Nadia's mother in Kent, U.K.,<sup>92</sup> and her sentence is being served in the U.K.<sup>93</sup>

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86 'Wealthy, quiet, unassuming: the Christmas Day bomb suspect', *Independent*, December 27, 2009

87 Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens & Jacob Amis, 'The Making of the Christmas Day Bomber', *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology*, vol. 10, July 23, 2010, available at <http://www.currenttrends.org/research/detail/the-making-of-the-christmas-day-bomber>

88 'From shoes to soft drinks to underpants', *The Economist*, December 30, 2009, available at [http://www.economist.com/node/15179544?story\\_id=15179544&source=hptextfeature](http://www.economist.com/node/15179544?story_id=15179544&source=hptextfeature)

89 'Lonely Trek to Radicalism for Terror Suspect', *New York Times*, January 16, 2010

90 'Alaska Man Pleads Guilty to Making False Statements in Domestic Terrorism Investigation', United States Department of Justice, July 21, 2010

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93 'US-British Couple Admit Terror Hit List Lies', *Sky News Online*, July 22, 2010 — 25 —

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

## ANALYSIS

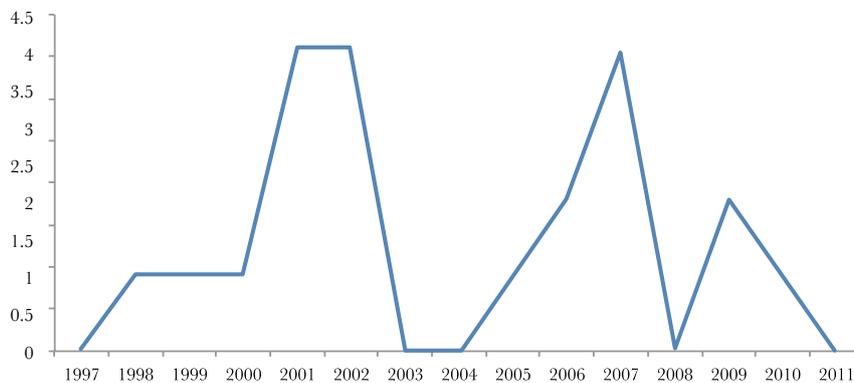
Only nine individuals of European citizenship (5% of individuals overall) committed an AQRO. However, a further ten (6% of individuals overall) had previously lived in Europe. Therefore, 11% of individuals who committed an AQRO in the U.S. were either a European citizen or had lived in Europe. Because one individual (James Ujaama) was charged on three separate occasions, 12% of all AQROs were committed by European citizens or those who had lived there.

## TIMELINE

The three years with the highest frequency of AQROs taking place among these individuals were 2001, 2002, and 2007 (four AQROs in each year).<sup>94</sup> All AQROs taking place in 2001 were connected to the terrorist attacks of September 11. Half of the 2002 cases were down to separate charges received by James Ujaama; while three of the four AQROs in 2007 were committed by one family (the Dukas); the other AQRO was committed by Ujaama. Therefore, in the years with the highest rate of AQROs by European-linked individuals, there was very little diversity in the cases – instead they tended to be interlinked.

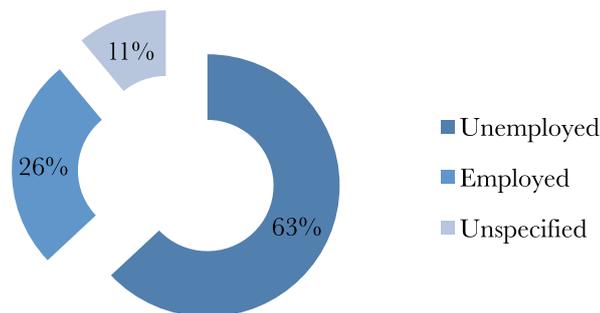
The only period in which there was a steady year-on-year increase in European-linked AQROs was between 2005 and 2007.

### Rate of AQROs among European offenders



## OCCUPATION

Twelve out of the nineteen individuals (63%) were unemployed. Of the five (26%) who were in employment, only one was in skilled employment and four were self-employed. The occupation of two individuals (11%) was unspecified.



Between 1998 – 2001, all seven individuals who committed AQROs were unemployed. In the years from 2002 onwards, five out of twelve individuals were unemployed.

Of those employed, the only offender in skilled employment committed an AQRO in 2002. Three of the individuals who were self-employed were the Dukas, charged in 2007 – making up 75% of all self-employed individuals.

All AQRO offenders with European links and in employment committed their offense between 2002 and 2007.

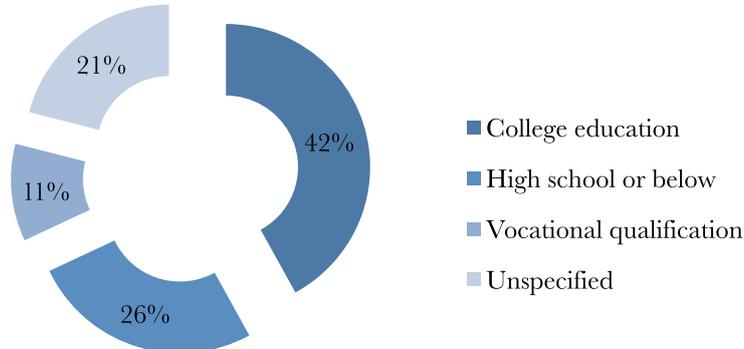
<sup>94</sup> The date of the AQRO is defined by when the attack took place or when files were charged against the perpetrator.

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

Therefore, none of the three cases since 2007 have featured individuals in employment.

## EDUCATION

42% (n=8) of European-linked individuals were known to have received some form of college education. Five individuals' (26%) education level was at high school education or below. Two (11%) had studied for or achieved a vocational qualification, and four (21%) were unspecified.

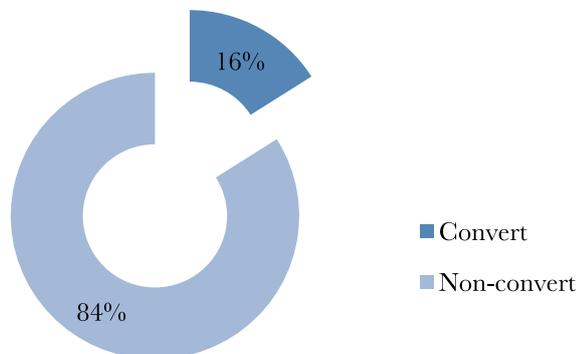


Half of those with college education committed an AQRO between 1998 and 2001, while the remaining two individuals committed offenses in 2009. Therefore, those who received a higher level of education committed offenses towards the beginning and the end of the period studied. As a result, between 2002 and 2007, there was a significant lack of college educated AQRO offenders with links to Europe – only one individual, James Ujaama.

The only individuals with a high school education or below after 2002 were all featured in the same case – the Dukas, in 2007.

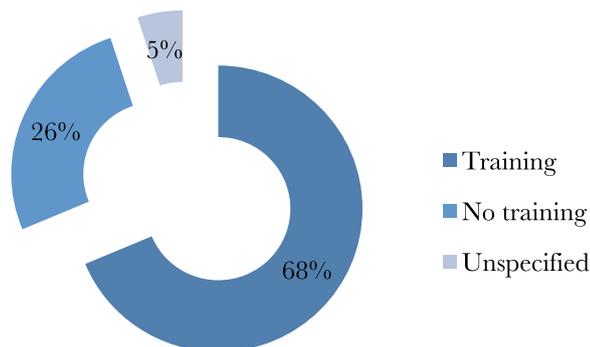
## CONVERTS

16% (n=3) of offenders with European links were converts, two of whom committed their offense in 2002. Therefore, between 1998 and 2001, and between 2003 and 2009, there were no offenses committed by European-linked converts. This ended, however, with the case involving Nadia Rockwood in 2010.



## TERRORIST TRAINING

68% of European-linked offenders (n=13) had received terrorist training. A further 26% (n=5) had not received training, and in one case it was unspecified (5%). As one individual (Mohamed Rashed Daoud al-'Owhali) had trained in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, there were fourteen separate incidences of terrorist training.



# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

Overall, nine individuals (47%) trained in just Afghanistan; one individual trained in both Afghanistan and Pakistan; one in Syria; one in the U.S. (in Bly, Oregon); and one in Yemen (all 5%).

Among all trained individuals, 92% (n=12) committed an AQRO between 1998 and 2006. Furthermore, all of the individuals who committed AQROs between 1998 and 2005 had received terrorist training.

Therefore, there was a significant drop in European-linked individuals who had received training and committed an AQRO after 2006. Since then, only one individual has received training and subsequently committed an AQRO – Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who trained in Yemen.

Also noticeable was the significant drop in individuals who committed an AQRO and who had trained in Afghanistan. Nine of the ten individuals who had received training in Afghanistan committed their AQRO in the years up to 2002. Only one committed an AQRO afterwards (Oussama Kassir, charged in 2006) – and even this was relating to offenses committed in 2000.

## COMBAT EXPERIENCE

16% (n=3) had combat experience – two cases came from fighting in Afghanistan, and one in Iraq.

Both individuals who fought in Afghanistan committed their AQROs in 1998 (al-'Owhali) and 2000 (Kherchtou). There were no European-linked individuals with combat experience who committed AQROs after 2005 (al-Delaema, who fought in Iraq in 2005).

## ROLES

There were three separate types of offender within the European cases.<sup>95</sup>

- **Active Participants** – Individuals who committed or were imminently about to commit acts of terrorism, or were formal members of al-Qaeda;
- **Aspirants** – Individuals who demonstrated an interest in terrorism but whose plans were not advanced enough to pose an imminent threat or whose role was limited;
- **Facilitators** – Individuals involved in the preparation for acts of terrorism, either operationally; by fundraising; or by transferring documentation, material goods or finances.

Active Participants committed thirteen AQROs (62%), Facilitators committed seven (33%) and an Aspirant committed one (5%).

The range of offenses was generally spread evenly throughout the time frame studied. All seven cases involving European-linked offenders between 1998 and 2001 involved Active Participants, and there were also Active Participant cases in 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2009. All Facilitator offenses were committed in the years between 2002 and 2010, and the Aspirant (Sherifi) committed his AQRO in 2009.

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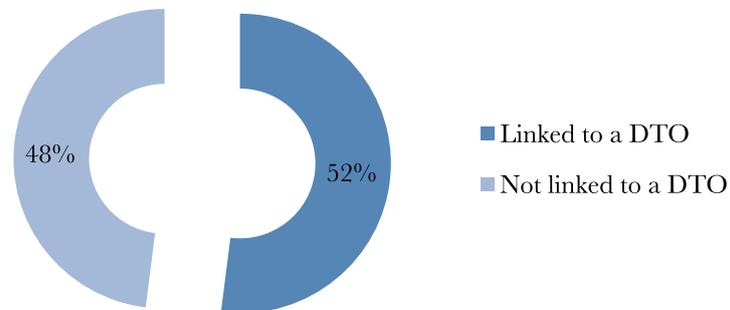
<sup>95</sup> Role categorisations taken from *Al-Qaeda in the United States*

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

## LINKS TO DTOs

Ten of the European-linked offenders (52%) were linked to a Designated Terrorist Organisation (DTO) – namely, al-Qaeda. However, nine of these cases occurred between 1998 and 2002 (during this time period, only one case was not connected to a DTO – that of Semi Osman).

From 2003 onwards, there has only been one case of an AQRO individual with links to Europe and was connected to a DTO – that of Abdulmutallab and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in 2009.



## CONCLUSION

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The threat to America from those linked to Europe has remained reasonably constant – with European-linked individuals committing AQROs in ten of the fifteen years studied. However, the nature of this threat has very much shifted.

Between 1998 and 2002, individuals were usually connected to al-Qaeda; and, up until 2006, individuals were highly likely to be terrorist trained, mainly in Afghanistan. While combat experience was rare, if it was to have occurred it would have done so in the period up to 2005.

Since 2005, however, there has been a significant change. While there was still a consistent level of Active Participants, they were less likely to be trained; not to have fought abroad; not to be linked to AQ or another DTO; and, subsequently, to be less likely of carrying out an attack that could lead to mass casualties.

The threat to America from al-Qaeda within Europe was reduced with the clampdown on the former recruiting centers of the 1990s, such as the Finsbury Park Mosque in London. However, a case such as that of Abdulmutallab – a former European resident, terrorist trained and linked to DTO – shows that some cases will continue to buck the trend. Furthermore, this research only shows part of the picture as, while studying in those who committed suicide attacks or were convicted in the U.S., it does not include those who may still be fighting jihad abroad or those who have been killed doing so. It also does not include individuals convicted in Europe for planning to attack the U.S. Furthermore, the Boston bombings – which occurred outside the field of study for this report – proves that there is a sustained threat to America by radicalised individuals.

Nevertheless, the evidence from this study suggests that, while there is no room for complacency, European and American counterterrorism strategy has worked on some level. Considerable progress has been made in reducing – although not eliminating – the European aspect of the AQ and AQ-inspired threat facing the U.S. homeland.

# Appendix:

## Non-European Citizens with Other Connections to Europe

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## Ali Mohamed

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### **Case summary**

Ali Mohamed defected from the United States Army in order to assist al-Qaeda. He travelled between Afghanistan, Sudan, and the United States, providing al-Qaeda with top-level intelligence and training, assisting in fundraising, and once organised a meeting between Hezbollah and Osama bin Laden. He also trained some of those responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.<sup>96</sup>

### **Wider European connections**

Mohamed was known to have visited England, Slovakia and Italy. In 1992, Mohamed was detained by the authorities at an airport in Rome, Italy, due to their suspicions over the false compartments in his luggage. He told interrogators that he was involved in security for the Summer Olympics in Spain.<sup>97</sup>

## Wadih el-Hage

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### **Case summary**

Wadih el-Hage worked for a number of Osama bin Laden's companies and served as his personal secretary. He was an al-Qaeda member and lied to a grand jury about his role in the group. El-Hage was convicted in the same trial as those charged for their role in the 1998 attacks on the U.S. embassies in East Africa, although he himself had no role in the bombings.

### **Wider European connections**

In December 1995, el-Hage visited London. While there, he met Khalid al-Fawwaz, who ran the Advice and Reform Committee, Osama bin Laden's London office. Al-Fawwaz is currently awaiting trial in the U.S. on terrorism charges.

## Mamdouh Mahmud Salim

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### **Case summary**

Mamdouh Mahmud Salim attempted to murder Louis Pepe, a prison guard, by stabbing him in the eye with a sharpened comb. Salim was in prison at the time, awaiting trial for a variety of terrorism charges. He was charged in the same indictment as the likes of Osama bin Laden, Mohammed Atef, and the 1998 U.S. Embassy Bombers.

### **Wider European connections**

Salim launched Arabic religious radio stations in Sudan, Cyprus, and Germany in the mid-1990s.<sup>98</sup> Salim was arrested on September 16, 1998 in Hamburg, Germany.<sup>99</sup> He had opened an account at a local bank and had given Mamoun Darkazanli the power of attorney to sign checks on his behalf.

Darkazanli was the imam of a mosque in Hamburg that some of the September 11, 2001 hijackers attended. He appeared on a 1999 wedding video with Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah and was acquaintances with Mohamed Atta.

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<sup>96</sup> *The 9/11 Commission Report* (2004), p.68

<sup>97</sup> 'The Masking of a Militant', *New York Times*, December 1, 1998

<sup>98</sup> 'Prosecutors to cross examine al Qaeda inmate', *CNN*, September 8, 2002

<sup>99</sup> 'Press Release', United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, January 6, 1999

## Mohammed Junaid Babar

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### Case summary

Mohammed Junaid Babar pleaded guilty to providing material support to terrorists and terrorist organisations. In November 2002, Babar – an al-Qaeda operative – travelled to the U.K. to fundraise for jihad in Afghanistan.<sup>100</sup> He admitted to providing a senior member of al-Qaeda with money, waterproof socks, night-vision goggles, and sleeping bags to be used as part of the campaign against the U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan.

Babar also supplied recruits at a terrorist training camp with aluminum powder and attempted to buy ammonium nitrate for the ‘Fertiliser Bomb’ plotters in the U.K. – a cell which discussed attacking targets in the U.K. using ammonium nitrate fertiliser (see ‘Syed Hashmi’). After a one-month stay in London, U.K., Babar returned to Pakistan.

On September 11, 2001, Babar’s mother was in the northern tower of the World Trade Center at the time of al-Qaeda’s terrorist attacks, but managed to escape the building before it collapsed. Shortly after, on September 20, 2001, Babar travelled to Pakistan with the intention of going to fight in Afghanistan on behalf of anti-U.S. forces. Babar eventually became an F.B.I. ‘supergrass’, and his testimony played a crucial role in convicting the ‘Fertiliser Bomb’ cell members.<sup>101</sup>

### Wider European connections

In November 2002, Babar travelled to the U.K. in late 2002 to fundraise for jihad in Afghanistan.<sup>102</sup>

In spring 2003, Babar returned to London to meet with Khyam, Mahmood, and Mohammad Sidique Khan (the ringleader of the 7/7 London bomb plots). Khyam told Babar that he was in the U.K. to buy equipment to send back to Pakistan for a training camp that he was setting up. In May 2003, Khyam contacted Babar in Pakistan to ask if he could stay in his house in Lahore. Babar agreed and, in June 2003, Khyam and Garcia moved in with him.<sup>103</sup>

In January 2004, Babar again travelled to the U.K., where he met with Mahmood, Khyam, Garcia, and Akbar. During this visit he stayed with Syed Hashmi for two weeks and collected two or three garbage bags full of gear – including waterproof socks, ponchos and raincoats – from other al-Qaeda supporters in London. It was his intention to deliver them to AQ’s Abdul Hadi al-Iraqi when he returned to Pakistan. He stored the items in Hashmi’s bedroom, with Hashmi’s knowledge.<sup>104</sup>

## Pirouz Sedaghaty

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### Case summary

Pirouz Sedaghaty was found guilty of helping to smuggle \$149,985 to the Saudi Arabian branch of the al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, in the hope that it reached the *mujahideen* in Chechnya. In 2004, this branch was found to have ties to al-Qaeda, while the one in Oregon was a specially designated global terrorist organisation controlled by, and providing support to, terrorists.<sup>105</sup> Sedaghaty conspired to, and filed, a false tax return as part of the Foundation’s efforts to hide the trail of money.<sup>106</sup>

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100 Operation Crevice: Timeline and Facts and Figures, Metropolitan Police Directorate of Public Affairs, available at [http://www.nefoundation.org/file/FeaturedDocs/MPS\\_OpCrevice-Timeline.pdf](http://www.nefoundation.org/file/FeaturedDocs/MPS_OpCrevice-Timeline.pdf)

101 United States of America v. Mohammed Junaid Babar, United States Department of Justice, November 23, 2010, available at <http://www.scribd.com/bkatzoom/d/50234039-Babar-5kletter>

102 Operation Crevice: Timeline and Facts and Figures, Metropolitan Police Directorate of Public Affairs

103 United States of America v. Mohammed Junaid Babar, United States Department of Justice, November 23, 2010

104 Ibid.

105 ‘Judge won’t lift charity’s terrorist designation’, *The Oregonian*, November 8, 2008

106 United States of America v. Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, Inc.; Pirouz Sedaghaty; Soliman Hamd Al-Buthe – Indictment, United States District Court, District of Oregon, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/480.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/480.pdf)

**Wider European connections**

Sedaghaty provided funds to the Chechen *mujahideen* from a bank account based in London.<sup>107</sup>

## Sabri Benkahla

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**Case summary**

Sabri Benkahla was part of a jihadist cell based in Virginia. He was convicted in February 2007 of perjury; of making false statements to the F.B.I.; and of obstructing justice. His false statements included comments about the actions of his associates, and the denial of his involvement with a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) training camp in Pakistan in 1999.<sup>108</sup>

**Wider European connections**

Benkahla travelled via Britain when travelling to and from Pakistan.<sup>109</sup>

## Ehsanul Sadequee

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**Case summary**

Ehsanul Sadequee was convicted for supporting terrorists and the Pakistani terrorist organisation LeT.

In late 2004 and early 2005, Sadequee began conspiring to provide material support to terrorists engaged in violent jihad. In late 2004, Sadequee and Syed Haris Ahmed, his co-defendant, discussed the need to receive training in preparation for violent jihad. On several occasions in late 2004 and early 2005, Ahmed, Sadequee, and another individual went paintballing as part of this training.<sup>110</sup>

**Wider European connections**

Sadequee sent videos of potential targets to attack to U.K. contacts subsequently convicted of terrorism offences relating to use of the internet: Younes Tsouli (a propagandist for al-Qaeda in Iraq) and Aabid Khan (convicted in August 2008 of possessing articles for terrorist purposes).

## Syed Maaz Shah

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**Case summary**

Syed Maaz Shah was convicted in 2007 for firing a semi-automatic rifle during firearms training sessions at a private property near Willis, Texas on the weekends of January 13 to 14 and March 10 to 11, 2006. Shah was also originally charged with two counts of possession of a firearm by an alien; however, prosecutors dropped the charges due to jurisdictional issues as, under federal law, Shah's status as a non-immigrant student-visa holder prohibited him from possessing a firearm.

Training alongside Shah were Kobie Williams and Adnan Mirza (both convicted for supporting the Taliban and conspiring to unlawfully possess firearms).

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<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> “Virginia Jihad” Member Convicted of Perjury, Obstruction, United States Department of Justice, February 5, 2007, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/522.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/522.pdf)

<sup>109</sup> United States of America v. Sabri Benkahla – Brief for the United States, United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/542.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/542.pdf)

<sup>110</sup> United States of America v. Syed Haris Ahmed – Criminal Indictment (Superseding), United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, July 19, 2006, available at [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/139.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/139.pdf)

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLE TO THE U.S. TERROR THREAT

Shah admitted to law enforcement officers that he had been participating in firearms training in order to prepare for ‘jihad’ against the United States. He believed that Americans were ‘invaders’ in Iraq, and that he needed to undertake firearms training in preparation for ‘what may come’.<sup>111</sup>

## **Wider European connections**

Shah had previously travelled to Britain.<sup>112</sup>

## Hassan Abu-Jihaad

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### **Case summary**

Hassan Abu-Jihaad – a convert to Islam, formerly known as Paul Hall – was convicted for providing classified information concerning the movements of a U.S. Naval battalion tasked with enforcing sanctions against the Taliban and partaking in missions against al-Qaeda.

### **Wider European connections**

Information to which Abu-Jihaad had access had been acquired by a member of Azzam Publications, an extremist website run by two British men in London, U.K.: Babar Ahmad and Syed Talha Ahsan (both men face extradition to the U.S., where they are wanted on charges of providing material support to terrorists, relating to their support of the Chechen *mujahideen*; the Taliban; and associated extremist groups).

## Christopher Paul

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### **Case summary**

Christopher Paul admitted that, from at least April 1999 to January 2000, he conspired to use explosive devices. Paul provided explosives training to co-conspirators in Germany in order to prepare them to conduct attacks using explosives on targets in Europe and the United States.

### **Wider European connections**

Paul regularly visited Germany and his co-conspirators were also German. Paul was in contact with Mohamedou Ould Slahi (currently detained at Guantánamo Bay) in Germany in 1998.<sup>113</sup>

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[www.henryjacksonsociety.org](http://www.henryjacksonsociety.org)

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111 United States of America v. Syed Maaz Shah – Government Exhibit List, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, May 21, 2007

112 ‘FBI agent describes group’s jihad plot’, *Houston Chronicle*, December 2, 2006

113 ‘Ohio terrorist ties to al-Qaida operative revealed’, *Associated Press*, April 13, 2010

