

Memorandum

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OCT 20 2001

DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
Portland, OR District



To : Mr. Ronald J. Smith  
District Director

Date 10/19/2001

From : Immigration and Naturalization Service  
Michael E. Rolincew  
Section Chief, International Terrorism

Subject: Counterterrorism Division  
HESHAM MOHAMMED ABU ZUBAIDAH

ACTION MEMORANDUM

The following information is provided on Hesham Mohammed Abu Zubaidah, currently in the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

On 08/22/2001, Rosalee Abu-Zubaidah, wife of the captioned subject was interviewed by Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation at her residence. Rosalee was very cooperative and showed no hesitation in answering any questions. Relevant information provided by Rosalee is below:

Rosalee advised that (as of the date of the interview) Hesham and she had been married for thirteen (13) months. Hesham said he is Palestinian, but was born in Saudi Arabia. At times, Hesham emphasizes his Saudi Arabian ancestry and likes to flaunt it. His father is from Israel (Palestine) and his mother from Jordan.

Rosalee stated that Hesham was the black sheep of his family. Once, he broke his father's nose when he was 16 years old because his father had told him he could not leave home.

According to Rosalee, Hesham left Saudi Arabia because he wanted to build a new life here in the United States (U.S.). Three months ago (circa May 2001), Hesham told her he left Saudi Arabia because he had committed a crime there. Also, Hesham said he had gone to jail six (6) times in Saudi Arabia for promiscuous behavior with young girls and for hitting someone. Rosalee noted that in Saudi Arabia if one is caught in an automobile with a woman other than his wife or relative, that person is jailed. Hesham was whipped once in Saudi Arabia.

Hesham's father wants Hesham to come home because he does not like America. Consequently, he will not send Hesham money in the normal course of events. However, in response to Hesham's arrest and his being in trouble, his father sent him a lot of money, perhaps \$10,000. (NOTE: This is a reference to the August arrest for assaulting Rosalee while she was two months pregnant.) Hesham's father also sent him money when Hesham got in

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Division Director  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Re: Hesham Mohammed Abu Zubaidah

trouble in Chicago, where he lived from July 1998 until August 1999.

Rosalee stated that Hesham would never tell her what exactly had happened. However, later in the interview, she advised that Hesham told her he had murdered someone in Chicago at the behest of the mob. Hesham claimed that while in Chicago, he went clubbing and met some Italian mafiosi (NFI). Hesham said he was asked by the mafiosi to kill someone, which he did, and then they asked him to do something he did not want to do. Rosalee was a little unclear on this point and said Hesham did not give any real details. This was the reason Hesham left Chicago and came to Portland.

Rosalee is more frightened of Maher Al-Khatib, one of Hesham's former employer's than of anyone else. Her parents are also afraid of him. He has a lot of money and has a house in Jordan. Rosalee was once in Maher's office at Fast Trip (a convenience store) and saw three or four pistols there. Maher told her that her daughter would be taken away from her if she got Hesham in trouble and that she would regret it if she called the police on Hesham.

Rosalee stated that Hesham and she have gotten in fights before when he slapped her, but the beating on 08/12/2001 was far worse. He punched her in addition to slapping her. Rosalee stated that if Hesham were mad enough, he would show up at the apartment even if she had a restraining order against him.

Rosalee's friend, Christina Hodge, was looking after Nautica while Rosalee was at work on the swing shift at Precision Castparts (she began working there on 6/4/01). Hesham was not working at the time. Christina said Hesham tried to rape her several times, but did not press charges because she was afraid Rosalee would be upset. Rosalee told Christina that she would not be upset and to press charges. Rosalee confronted Hesham about this matter. He got very upset and began to yell, and they had a fight.

If you have any further questions, please contact either INS Detailee SSA John Connolly, (202) 323-2813, or IOS Jennifer Maitner, (202) 323-2805 at FBIHQ.