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HAMID HAYAT CONVICTED OF TERRORISM CHARGES

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, and FBI Special Agent in Charge Drew Parenti announced today that a federal jury convicted HAMID HAYAT, age 23, of Lodi, California with one count of providing material support or resources to terrorists and three counts of making false statements to the FBI in matters related to international/domestic terrorism.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the FBI as well as the Sacramento Joint Terrorism Task Force (which is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement).

According to Assistant United States Attorney S. Robert Tice-Raskin and Laura L. Ferris, and Department of Justice Trial Attorney David B. Deitch, who prosecuted the case, the jury found that defendant HAMID HAYAT provided himself as "material support" between March, 2003 and June, 2005 by attending a jihadi training camp, and subsequently attempted to conceal his training from the FBI, knowing and intending that his training would ultimately be used to prepare for and carry out acts of terrorism in the United States. HAMID HAYAT was also convicted of making false statements to the FBI on June 3 and June 4, 2005 when he falsely stated that he had never attended a jihadi camp, that he had never received weapons or other types of jihadi training, and that he had never received training to fight against the United States.

"Today's verdict makes clear that we can prevent acts of terrorism by winning convictions against those who would plot to commit violence against our citizenry in the name of an extremist cause. The jury is to be commended for their dedication throughout this lengthy trial. My deepest thanks to the FBI, the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the Bureau of Immigration Customs Enforcement for their professionalism and hard work," said United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott.

FBI SAC Drew Parenti stated, " The FBI and the member agencies comprising the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) appreciate the time and effort shown by the jury in reviewing the evidence and witness testimony in this trial. As the government has contended throughout this investigation, when information concerning terrorists activities is received it must be reviewed and pursued aggressively, within the confines of the law, which is what took place in this

investigation. The FBI is pleased the jury understood the evidence and the seriousness of the charges against Hamid Hayat, and found him guilty as charged."

I would like to personally commend and recognize the extremely hard work, dedication, and professionalism of the FBI employees, task force members, and United States Attorney's office staff who devoted countless hours to this investigation and prosecution."

Evidence at trial established that, during a period of months between October, 2003 and November, 2004, defendant HAMID HAYAT attended a jihadi training camp in Pakistan and ultimately returned to the United States with the intent to wage jihad upon receipt of orders.

According to evidence adduced at trial, between March, 2003 and August, 2003, defendant HAMID HAYAT, during the course of numerous recorded conversations with a cooperating witness, pledged his belief in violent jihad, pledged to go to a jihadi training camp and indicated that he, in fact, was going to jihadi training.

On May 30, 2005, while enroute back to the United States from Pakistan, defendant HAMID HAYAT's plane was diverted to Narita, Japan. When questioned by the FBI on that day, defendant HAMID HAYAT concealed the fact that he had received jihadi training, and that he was returning to the United States for the purpose of waging jihad. HAMID HAYAT was thereafter permitted to return to the United States.

On June 3 and 4, 2005, when questioned by the FBI in Lodi and Sacramento, California, defendant HAMID HAYAT again attempted to conceal the fact that he had received jihadi training, and that he had returned to the United States for the purpose of waging jihad.

On June 4, 2005, after advisement and waiver of his rights, defendant HAMID HAYAT admitted during three separate interviews, including two videotaped interviews, that he attended a jihadi training camp in Pakistan in 2000 for a few days. Defendant admitted that he attended a camp in 2003/2004 located in the vicinity of Balakot, Pakistan, and actively trained at this camp for approximately three to six months. Defendant further admitted that he was trained for jihad, that he came to the United States for jihad, and that he was prepared to wage jihad upon the receipt of orders.

As part of the evidence at trial, a government expert regarding Pakistani extremist groups opined that jihadi training camps, in fact, existed and operated in various parts of Pakistan from 2000 to 2005, and specifically opined that a series of camps were located in the Balakot area of Pakistan, including a well known Jaish-e-Muhammed camp in Balakot. In addition, a Department of Defense imagery expert opined that he was "confident" that certain images of buildings and a location in the vicinity of Balakot were, in fact, a militant training camp.

The government further introduced a series of incriminating writings seized from HAMID HAYAT on the day of his arrest on June 5, 2005 and the HAYAT home during execution of a federal search warrant on June 7th.

Agents seized an Arabic "jihadi supplication" from HAMID HAYAT's wallet stated, "Oh Allah we place you at their throats and we seek refuge in you from their evils." According to a government expert in Islamic law, the supplication was of the type that would be carried by a warrior/jihadi who perceived himself as being engaged in war for God against an enemy.

Agents also seized a "jihadi scrapbook" bearing the name of HAMID HAYAT. The scrapbook included a series of newspaper articles (including articles from well-known extremist groups in Pakistan) that extolled the military efforts of the Taliban, expressed support for Osama Bin Laden and other known terrorists, and espoused virulent anti-American sentiments.

Agents also recovered a June, 2000 magazine from Jaish-e-Muhammed, a well known extremist group in Pakistan. The magazine included various articles supportive of violent jihad, such as an editorial by Masood Azhar arguing that Pakistani men should focus on jihad rather than sports, profiles of jihadi martyrs who lost their lives in the disputed Kashmir region, and an article about the mujahideen movement in the Philippines which suggested that it was the religious and moral responsibility of Islam to help out mujahideen wherever they are fighting.

Agents also recovered two Urdu books by Jaish-e-Muhammed leader Masood Azhar entitled the Virtues of Jihad (2000) and Windows from the Prison (2003). In these books Azhar, among other things, extolled the concept of violent jihad, suggested that violent jihad was the duty of every Muslim and a central element of Islam, and suggested that violent jihad should be waged around the world including countries like the United States. These themes were repeated in HAMID HAYAT's statements to the cooperating witness.

The maximum penalty for all charges against defendant HAMID HAYAT is 39 years of imprisonment. Sentencing for defendant HAMID HAYAT is set for July 14, 2006 before United States Judge Garland E. Burrell.

Earlier today, a separate federal jury announced that it was unable to reach a verdict with respect to UMER HAYAT, age 48, also of Lodi, with two counts of making false statements to the FBI. A status conference for the UMER HAYAT case is set for May 5, 2006.

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