

ATTACHMENT A

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

Tab T  
Exhibit 8 - Removal Proceedings  
Public Version

DETROIT FREE PRESS, )  
et. al., )  
Plaintiffs, )  
v. )  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, )  
Defendant )

Civil Action  
No. 02-70339

Honorable Nancy G. Edmunds

DECLARATION OF BRENT E. POTTER

I, Brent E. Potter, declare as follows:

1. I have been employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent since January 1997. In May, 1997, I was assigned to the Chicago Field Office. From November, 1997 until the present, I have been assigned to the investigation of the Global Relief Foundation ("GRF"), involving its possible ties to terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaeda, and its possible support of terrorist activities.

2. Based upon my duties as a Special Agent assigned to investigate GRF, I have personal knowledge of the information that has been gathered on GRF and its executives, including Mr. Rabi Sami Haddad, during the course of the FBI's investigation of GRF. I am also familiar with investigations conducted by the FBI concerning the Al-Qaeda terrorist network and affiliated terrorist groups. [REDACTED]

Tab T ~~XXXXXX~~  
EX 8 - Removal Proceedings

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I make this declaration to the best of my information,<sup>1</sup> knowledge and belief that I have acquired as part of my official duties as a Special Agent investigating GRF and its operations.

3. Mr. Haddad is currently Chairman of the Board of GRF and has been in that position since 1993.<sup>2</sup> On or about December, 14, 2001, the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, blocked, pending investigation, GRF's funds, accounts, and business records under the authorization of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ("IEEPA") and Executive Order 13224 issued pursuant to IEEPA establishing a National Emergency created by the threat of terrorism. The organization is being investigated to determine whether it violated IEEPA.<sup>3</sup> See discussion below.

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<sup>1</sup> In my duties as a Special Agent, and specifically in my duties investigating GRF and its executives, I have come into possession of both classified and unclassified information. The information contained herein is unclassified.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Haddad's resume, which was provided by Mr. Haddad, through his attorney, to the Immigration and Naturalization Service on or about January 10, 2002, states that he was also CEO of GRF from 1993 to 1998, and that from 1998 until the present, he also has been Director of Public Relations for GRF.

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Section 106 of the U.S.A. Patriot Act of 2001, P.L.56 (October 26, 2001), which amends IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. Section 1702, the President has authority to block the property of an organization pending investigation.

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. FBI investigation has determined that the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization was established by Usama Bin Laden in the late 1980s. It helped finance, recruit, transport, and train Sunni Islamic extremists for the Afghan resistance against the Soviet Union, which had invaded Afghanistan in 1979. In its earliest stages, it was providing training camps for military and intelligence training, and guesthouses in various areas of the world, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, for the use of Al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups. Later, after the Soviets were driven from Afghanistan in 1989, the organization served to bring together

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Haddad's resume confirms a link with Pakistan during that same time period. It states that from 1988 to 1989 he was an "Aid Worker, Muslim Aid-UK," in which position he allegedly coordinated humanitarian aid logistics and distribution to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. His resume also states that from 1989-1990, he was an "Aid Worker, Saudi Red Crescent-Kingdom of Saudi Arab [sic]," in which position he allegedly "coordinated humanitarian aid logistics and distribution to Afghan refugees in Pakistan." In addition, his resume states his affiliation with "LaJnatul Birr Al-Islamiyah-Pakistan" from 1990-1993.

those Arabs who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union for a new purpose, namely to continue the jihad ("Holy War") outside of Afghanistan. One of its goals was to establish a Muslim state throughout the world. Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda worked with allied Islamic extremist groups in attempts to overthrow regimes which they deemed "non-Islamic" and remove Westerners from Muslim countries. The same training cells and guesthouses that were used to drive the Soviets out of Afghanistan were used as terrorist facilities to fight this expanded jihad.

6. By at least 1992, Al-Qaeda's primary enemy was the United States. Al-Qaeda had opposed American involvement in the 1991 Gulf War. After the war, Al-Qaeda focused on driving American troops out of Saudi Arabia, the "Holy Land" and Bin Laden's native land, and Somalia, among other areas, by violence. In February 1998, Bin Laden issued a statement under the banner of "The World Islamic Front for Jihad Against the Jews and Crusaders" that "in compliance with God's order, we issue the following fatwa [proclamation of Islamic Law] to all Muslims: the ruling to kill all Americans and their allies, including civilians and military, is the individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it" and that "all effort must be directed at this enemy, kill it, fight it, destroy it, break it down, plot against it, ambush it, and God the almighty willing, until it is gone."

7. Al-Qaeda members and associates have been linked to numerous terrorist plots against the United States and United States interests abroad. They claim to have provided training to individuals who participated in the attack on United States military personnel in Somalia in 1993 that killed eighteen soldiers. Individuals associated with Al-Qaeda have been linked to the plot to bomb twelve United States trans-Pacific flights that was foiled in Manila in January 1995, for which three conspirators were convicted at trial in New York in September 1996. At Bin Laden's direction, Al-Qaeda members and associates, including members of the related Egyptian Islamic Jihad, carried out the bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, on August 7, 1998 that killed 224 persons and injured more than 5,000 others and which resulted in the conviction of four conspirators at trial in New York in May, 2001.<sup>5</sup> United States Government investigation of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and Pentagon that killed more than 3000 people has established that Al-Qaeda members and associates planned and carried out that attack. A recently publicly released videotape of Bin Laden corroborates the fact of Al-Qaeda's involvement.

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<sup>5</sup>The 302-count indictment on which the four individuals were convicted is cited below. The charges against them included conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals and conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction.

[REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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<sup>6</sup> FBI investigation has determined that Abdallah Azzam co-founded Mekhtab Al-Khidemat in or around 1984 with Usama Bin Laden, who was his primary financial backer. Mekhtab Al-Khidemat maintained offices in various parts of the world, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States. Al-Qaeda grew out of this organization sometime in the late 1980s. Azzam was killed in 1989. Both Al-Qaeda and Mekhtab Al-Khidemat have been designated as terrorist organizations pursuant to Executive Order 13224, issued by President George W. Bush on September 24, 2001. See below.

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8  Mr. Haddad's  
resume  states that he spent time in Nebraska, at the  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in or around 1983 to 1985.

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21.

22. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Peshawar, Pakistan, has a significance in the history of the Al-Qaeda terrorist movement. [REDACTED]

23. For instance, FBI investigation has determined that the Mekhtab Al-Khidemat (the "Services Office"), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], was the forerunner of the Al-Qaeda organization. Known also as the Mujahideen Services

Office (MSO), it was ostensibly a charitable foundation whose purpose was to assist refugees and orphans of the Afghan conflict during the late 1980's and early 1990's. Jointly founded by Bin Laden and Abdallah Azzam, its true purpose was to provide infrastructure to support the Afghan mujahideen jihad movement against the armed forces of the Soviet Union. This support took the form of fund-raising in order to provide weapons and supplies, the recruiting of prospective mujahideen in various countries in the world, including the United States, and the means to transport these new recruits to Pakistan for military training. Within Pakistan, the MSO operated guesthouses, travel offices and military training camps to prepare new mujahideen for combat service in Afghanistan. Out of this operation grew Al-Qaeda, in or around the late 1980s, with its headquarters in Afghanistan and Peshawar, Pakistan, and the location there of training camps and guesthouses.

24. In a public indictment, the Grand Jury for the Southern District of New York empaneled to investigate the August 7, 1998 bombings of the United States embassies in Kenya and Nairobi concluded the same:<sup>10</sup>

At all relevant times from in or about 1989  
until the date of the filing of this

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<sup>10</sup> This is the indictment under which four members of Al-Qaeda were charged, taken to trial, and convicted of the bombings of the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The defendants were sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole on or about October 18, 2001. Most of the defendants in the indictment remain at large.

Indictment [1998], an international terrorist group existed which was dedicated to opposing non-Islamic governments with force and violence. This organization grew out of the "mekhtab al khidemat" (the "Services Office") organization which had maintained offices in various parts of the world, including Afghanistan, Pakistan (particularly in Peshawar) and the United States, particularly at the Alkifah Refugee Center in Brooklyn, New York. The group was founded by defendants USAMA BIN LADEN and MUHAMMAD ATEF, a/k/a "Abu Hafs Al Masry," together with "Abu Ubaidah al Banshiri" and others. From in or about 1989 until the present, the group called itself "al Qaeda" ("the Base"). From 1989 until in or about 1991, the group (hereafter referred to as "al Qaeda") was headquartered in Afghanistan and Peshawar, Pakistan.

Indictment, para. 1, pp. 3-4.

25. Governmental evidence introduced in United States v. Usama Bin Laden, et al., Case Number S98 Cr. 1023, United States District Court, - Southern District of New York, the 2001 trial that arose out of the afore-mentioned indictment in the embassy bombing case, established the history of the Mekhtab Al-Khidemat, as it developed

into the Al-Qaeda terrorist network. Four persons were convicted at that trial and are serving life sentences.

26.

27. The Grand Jury for the Southern District of New York found:

At various times from at least as early as 1989, the defendant USAMA BIN LADEN, and others known and unknown, provided training camps and guesthouses in various areas, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Sudan, Somalia and Kenya for the use of al Qaeda and its affiliated groups.

Indictment, para. 12a, pp. 11-12.

28. Evidence introduced at the 2001 trial in United States v. Usama Bin Laden, et al., demonstrated that in the late 1990s, GRF maintained communication with Wadih el Hage, a convicted defendant in that case closely linked to Usama Bin Laden. At the time, Wadih el Hage resided in Nairobi, Kenya, and was playing an active role

in the Al-Qaeda terrorist cell operating in Nairobi. He had formerly served as personal secretary to Bin Laden in the Sudan prior to moving to Kenya in 1994. While in Kenya, evidence showed that el Hage maintained telephone contact in 1996 and 1997 with Bin Laden's military commander, Muhammad Atef, by calling Bin Laden's satellite telephone in Afghanistan. Evidence also established that el Hage visited Bin Laden in Afghanistan on two occasions during 1997. During this time period, 1996 and 1997, evidence developed in the course of the investigation showed that el Hage was in contact with GRF offices in Belgium and Bridgeview, Illinois. In particular, he had contact with Bridgeview after returning from a visit with Al-Qaeda leadership in Afghanistan in February 1997. While the exact nature of the information he passed on to Bridgeview in this time frame is unknown, during this same period of time, he was also distributing to various Al-Qaeda contacts a report written by Al-Qaeda's military commander Atef which described the group's developing relationship with the Taliban.

29. Although GRF holds itself out as a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable relief organization, FBI investigation has revealed that the organization espouses political and religious causes consistent with those of terrorist organizations, including promoting the Islamic jihad movement against established governments in the Middle East and Asia. For instance, a confidential source provided to the FBI a newsletter entitled Global News, apparently circulated openly, which has sought to promote extremist Islamic political and

religious causes. In an issue published in approximately 1995,<sup>11</sup> an article promoted financial support for a Quraan memorization school in Pakistan, which, according to the publication, is sponsored by the Global Relief Foundation [which is] very committed to raise a generation of reciters of God's Book, who will also be very knowledgeable about other religious sciences, so that they can be a treasure of Afghanistan of the future, and leaders of the Daawa (propagation) march, and carriers of the flags of Islam and Jihad. . .

[emphasis added]

In the same issue of Global News, GRF promoted the political agenda of Kashmir in the struggle between Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India:

Kashmir is a historic Islamic land which was usurped by the Hindus unjustly when Indian forces occupied the land of Kashmir in 1974. . . . The Kashmiri Islamic movement commenced its armed Jihad against the Hindu forces in 1990, and it has made numerous sacrifices in order to liberate what has remained in the hands of the Hindus of Kashmiri land . . . . The Hindus have declared this an ideological war which targets Islam and the Muslims in all of the

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<sup>11</sup> The Global News is printed in Arabic. The cited excerpts were translated by a Foreign Language Specialist at the FBI.

Indian sub-continent. The union between the aims of the Indian Hindu authorities and the new world order was the result of having assigned the role of uprooting Islam, to India . . . Generous brother/exalted sister, this is an invitation for you to do what God has commanded. Would you be in the first ranks of giving and sacrifice, and to take some of the responsibility. . .

Further in that issue, there was a discussion of the aftermath of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989:

Following the defeat of Communism, the west took it upon itself to destroy the fruits of this blessed Jihad, and the international conspiracy began to halt the establishment of an Islamic nation, by exerting international pressure on the Mujahideen to share the rule with the Communist regime [emphasis added].

In its newsletter, GRF discussed "Zakat," the obligation of Muslims to donate 2.5% of their total wealth to God. GRF suggests that it, GRF, should be Muslims' "messenger of goodness" to whom the donation is made. In discussing the manner in which the exact should be spent by GRF, the newsletter states:

. . . for God's cause (the Jihad), they [the Zakat funds] are disbursed for equipping the



raiders, for the purchase of ammunition and food, and for their (the Mujahideen's) transportation so that they can raise God the Almighty's word. . . it is likely that the most important of disbursement of Zakat in our times is on the Jihad for God's cause, because it represents protecting the [Islamic] Nation and its dignity, and defending the honors of Muslims and their holy sites. . . We invite you oh brother/sister in God, to pay your obligatory Zakat, and to make the Global Relief Foundation your messenger of goodness, and we will, God willing, disburse it as specified in Bosnia, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Lebanon [emphasis added].

According to the Global News, the Global Relief Foundation also sold Jihadist material and, in particular, the works of Abdallah Azzam, the founder of Mekhtab Al-Khidemat. He, according to the Global News:

left us a heritage the likes of which are few in our times. His theology is a sea, his words are jewels, and his thoughts are a light for those who are holding the smoldering embers. He lived the Jihad experiences of the 20th century in Afghanistan and Palestine, and

produced a new theory for saving the [Islamic] Nation from disgrace, shame, weakness, and submission to others. His theory proved a deep understanding of reality, and an extensive religious knowledge. . .

Thereafter followed a list of Azzam's books and audio-taped lectures available from GRF. As set forth above, Azzam's Mekhtab Al-Khidemat has been designated a terrorist organization by Executive Order dated September 24, 2001.

31. On November 26, 1997, the FBI recovered photographs and negatives, which were later developed by the FBI, from a trash dumpster located outside of the GRF office in Bridgeview, Illinois. Many of these photographs depicted a shipment of new sophisticated wireless communications equipment with an estimated value of approximately \$120,000. Included in this shipment were approximately 200 hand held radio transceivers, several HAM radio base sets, at least one repeater, and numerous long range radio antennas plus associated batteries, power packs and frequency crystals. In my estimation, the equipment shown in these photographs comprised a completely integrated, sophisticated communications system capable of covering a large geographical area. Also among the equipment shown in the photographs was a box of new Bushnell brand binoculars, ropes, saddles and tools.

32. The primary type of handheld radio shown in the photographs

was the Yaesu FT-23R transceiver, of which there were approximately 200. This model radio was specifically noted in detailed handwritten notes and sketches which were in the possession of Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, an Al Qaeda subject under investigation in connection with the August 7, 1998 terrorist bombings of United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. This model of radio was also used in the Gamaat Al Islamiya terrorist group assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosnia Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 25, 1995.

33. The equipment was photographed in shipping boxes as well as in an unpacked state, where the items were stacked alongside a table filled with Arabic literature of an inflammatory nature, including pamphlets authored by Abdallah Azzam. One photograph showed a sandbagged bunker with a radio antenna mounted outside. Another photograph appeared to show an interior shot of a bunker with a living area, fire pit and a 120 millimeter mortar box.

34. Also found among the photographs was a photo of two deceased men with the caption "Hizbul Mujahideen," a known terrorist organization operating in the Kashmir region between India and Pakistan. On the reverse side of the photo was Arabic handwriting stating that the photograph was of "two martyrs killed by the Indian government."

35. GRF, of which Mr. Haddad has been Chairman of the Board since 1993, is the subject of an investigation for possibly having violated IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. Sections 1701-06, relating to financial sanctions imposed against persons that support designated terrorists. On or about December 14, 2001, the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"), issued an order that "[all financial assets and all records of . . . [GRF] wherever located are blocked pending investigation pursuant to Section 106 of the U.S.A. Patriot Act of 2001."<sup>12</sup> On or about January 28, 2002, GRF filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, challenging the blocking of assets.<sup>13</sup> The government responded to the lawsuit by filing a Motion to Dismiss or For Summary Judgment and In Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction, a supporting Memorandum, and a supporting Statement of Material Facts, on or about March 25, 2002.

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<sup>12</sup> By letter dated December 14, 2001, OFAC notified GRF of the blocking: "The United States Government has reason to believe that Global Relief Foundation Inc. ("GRFI") may be engaged in activities that violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. Sections 1701-06 ("IEEPA"). You are hereby notified that pursuant to the authorities granted by IEEPA, the U.S. Department of the Treasury is blocking all funds and accounts and business records in which GRFI has any interest, pending further investigation and resolution of this matter."

<sup>13</sup> GRF to date has not been designated as meeting the criteria of a terrorist organization or an organization that supports designated terrorists set forth in Executive Order 13224 issued by President George W. Bush on September 24, 2001.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true  
and correct.

4/9/02

Date

Brent E. Potter

Brent E. Potter

Special Agent, FBI