



Prepared Remarks Concerning United States v. Oussama Kassir

by

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Eight years ago, Oussama Kassir arrived in the United States, flew into Kennedy Airport and took a bus to the West Coast, where he intended to establish a terrorist training camp on behalf of al Qaeda. Today, Kassir returns to this country in the custody of the FBI to face terrorism charges in a United States Court.

Kassir, who was extradited from the Czech Republic early this morning, is charged with providing material support to a terrorist organization and other crimes related to his trip to Bly, Oregon in 1999 to establish a terrorist training camp, and to his operation of a number of terrorist websites.

With respect to his activities in Bly, Oregon, as alleged in the indictment, in November 1999, Kassir and co-defendant Haroon Aswat were sent by co-defendant Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, a/k/a Abu Hamza, to the United States to establish a terrorist training camp. Both Aswat and Mustafa are awaiting extradition on similar charges in the same indictment.

Kassir and Aswat arrived at JFK in late November and traveled across the country to Oregon, where they quickly went to work establishing the jihad training camp. Kassir's actions in



Oregon included establishing a security perimeter, giving instructions on how to slit an individual's throat, and distributing a CD-ROM with instructions on how to make poisons and bombs.

While there, Kassir claimed to have received his own jihad training in Afghanistan and he avowed support for Usama bin Laden and al Qaeda. Kassir also discussed hijacking trucks and killing the drivers to raise money to support the camp. After two months in Oregon, Kassir and Aswat left the U.S.

After leaving, Kassir established and operated a number of terrorist websites where he posted information about building bombs, making poisons and using various firearms. Visitors to those websites could click on terrorist manuals such as "The Mujahideen Explosives Handbook," and "The Mujahideen Poisons Handbook." Images of firearms and bombs, accumulated for the websites, were stored on Kassir's personal computers.

Kassir is 41 years old, born in Lebanon and holding Swedish citizenship. He faces life in prison if convicted on these charges.

I would like to commend the work of the FBI's JTTF, the NYPD, and the U.S. Embassy in Prague. And I want to thank the officials in the Czech Republic, including the Czech ministry of justice, the police of the Czech Republic and the prison service in that country for the outstanding cooperative effort in bringing Kassir to justice.