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## **MORE FEDERAL CONVICTIONS FOR ELASHI BROTHERS AND INFOCOM CORPORATION AT SECOND TRIAL**

### ***ELASHI BROTHERS FOUND GUILTY OF DOING BUSINESS WITH TERRORIST***

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that three brothers who operated a family-run, Richardson, Texas, company that sold computers and Internet services mostly to customers in the Middle East, were convicted late yesterday in Dallas, Texas. Following an almost three-week long trial before the Honorable Sam A. Lindsay, United States District Judge, and after one full day of deliberation, the jury found Bayan Elashi, Ghassan Elashi, Basman Elashi, and Infocom Corporation each guilty of conspiracy to deal in the property of a Specially Designated Terrorist and conspiracy to commit money laundering. In addition, Bayan Elashi and Ghassan Elashi were each convicted on 10 counts of dealing in the property of a Specially Designated Terrorist and nine counts of money laundering. Basman Elashi was also convicted on one count of dealing in the property of a Specially Designated Terrorist.

United States Attorney Roper said, "This conviction is a result of a tremendous effort by federal law enforcement to stop the flow of money that fuels international terrorism." Roper continued, "The message of this verdict is clear — financing of terrorist organizations will not be tolerated by United States citizens. We in the United States stand tall against terrorism."

In July 2004, during Part I of this two-part trial, Bayan Elashi, Ghassan Elashi, Basman Elashi and Infocom Corporation, along with brothers Hazim Elashi and Ihsan Elashyi, were also convicted on charges they conspired to violate the Export Administration Regulations and the Libyan Sanctions Regulations. Specifically, each of the five brothers was also found guilty of conspiracy to file false Shipper's Export Declaration forms. All of the brothers were convicted of false statements and all of the

defendants except Ihsan Elashi were also convicted on money laundering charges. At that trial, the jury found that from 1997 to 2000, the defendants made illegal computer shipments to Libya and Syria, in violation of U.S. laws that restrict or prohibit the export of technology, goods or software to countries listed as state sponsors of terrorism as designated by the Secretary of State in order to protect the national security of the United States.

At Infocom, Bayan Elashi was the chief executive officer; Ghassan Elashi was the vice-president of marketing; and Basman Elashi was the logistics and credit manager. Their brother Hazim Elashi was the manager of personal computer systems and their brother Ihsan Elashyi was a systems consultant and sales representative.

During this second trial, the jury found that Bayan Elashi, Ghassan Elashi, Basman Elashi and Infocom Corporation conspired together and sent money to co-defendant Mousa Abu Marzook, an investor in Infocom and a self-admitted leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, a/k/a Hamas. In 1995, the Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, designated Hamas as a Specially Designated Terrorist Organization, making it illegal for any United States person or entity to conduct any business with Hamas or its representative. Nadia Marzook, also a defendant in that case, is Mousa Abu Marzook's wife and is the Elashi brothers' cousin.

Each of the counts in the superseding indictment carries a maximum statutory penalty of between five and 10 years imprisonment and fines between \$50,000 and \$500,000. Bayan, Basman, and Hazim Elashi have also been in federal custody on immigration violations since their arrest in December 2002. Ihsan Elashyi is currently serving a four-year federal prison sentence after pleading guilty in late 2002 to related charges. Judge Lindsay ordered that Ghassan Elashi was free to remain on a personal recognizance bond. Sentencing is set for August 1, 2005.

United States Attorney Roper praised the collaborative investigative efforts of the North Texas Joint Terrorism Task Force, specifically the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation; United States Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Export Control; and the United States Secret Service. U.S. Attorney Roper also thanked the U.S. Marshals Service and the Federal Protective Service for their excellent work in providing security throughout both trials.

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant United States Attorney James T. Jacks, Assistant United States Attorney Nathan Garrett, and Trial Attorney Barry Jonas of the Department of Justice Counterterrorism Section.

