Pakistani immigrant detained after terror attacks deported

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DATELINE: HUDSON, N.Y.

Immigration authorities have deported a Pakistani immigrant who was detained after snapping photos of a reservoir during the jittery weeks after the 2001 terror attacks.

Ansar Mahmood, 27, a former pizza deliveryman, called a supporter Thursday night to say he was at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City and getting ready to board a plane for Pakistan.

Mahmood raised suspicions when he was seen taking a photograph near a reservoir in upstate New York just weeks after Sept. 11, 2001. While no terror-related charges were filed against him, investigators discovered that he co-signed an apartment lease and registered a car for a Pakistani couple with expired visas.

Mahmood was convicted in January 2002 of harboring illegal immigrants and later ordered sent back to Pakistan. He was released from the Buffalo Federal Detention Center on Thursday.

Within hours, Susan Davies of the Ansar Mahmood Defense Committee said she received a phone call from Mahmood at the airport.