



# THE INVESTIGATIVE PROJECT ON TERRORISM

## HISHAM AL-TALIB



*Hisham al-Talib visited the White House at least once. He met with Joshua DuBois, Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships on March 30, 2012.*

Hisham al-Talib is a founding member<sup>1</sup> and the current vice president of finance<sup>2</sup> of the Herndon, VA-based, International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), an organization the FBI believes was part of a terrorist financing network.

In an October 2003 application to the U.S. District Court for permission to search offices including those of IIIT, an FBI agent wrote that, based on information provided by an FBI source, he had concluded that, “IIIT transferred money to WISE precisely because WISE was a front receiving money for PIJ.”<sup>3</sup> The application identified WISE as the World Islamic Studies Enterprise.<sup>4</sup>

Al-Talib has held several positions in various Islamic organizations including, in the 1970s, the first, full-time director of the Leadership Training Department of the Muslim Students Association of the United States and Canada (MSA). He has conducted many training camps and seminars on Islam in America and abroad. Al-Talib was a founding

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<sup>1</sup> <http://iiit.org/iiitftp/PDF's/speakersbios-bookblurbs.pdf#page=3>

<sup>2</sup> <http://iiit.org/NewsEvents/News/tabid/62/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/260/2012-Summer-Students-Program-Begins.aspx> (Accessed October 18, 2012)

<sup>3</sup> In the Matter of Searches Involving 555 Grove Street, Herndon, Virginia and Related Locations, “(Proposed Redacted) Affidavit in Support of Application for Search Warrant (October 2003), E.D. Va. (“Kane Affidavit”), paragraph 127, page 56;

[http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/891.pdf#page=56](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/891.pdf#page=56)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/891.pdf#page=4](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/891.pdf#page=4) at paragraph 23.

member and Director of the SAAR Foundation (1983–1995), as well as, in 1981, founding member of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT).<sup>5</sup>

A U.S. Government investigation found that the SAAR Foundation is part of a network, known as the Safa Group, of up to 100 non-profit and for-profit organizations, inter-related through corporate officers and holding companies, which facilitate terrorist funding.<sup>6</sup> A large number of these organizations share the same address in Herndon, Virginia. In an application for a search warrant, U.S. Custom Service Agent David Kane referenced evidence of the SAAR network's radical activity dating back to the 1980s.<sup>7</sup> In that application, federal authorities said they had found, in previous searches, "records relevant to material support for terrorists" had been "generated or maintained" by the Safa Group,<sup>8</sup> though no charges have ever been filed in this case.

Al-Talib also authored a "Training Guide for Islamic Workers."<sup>9</sup> The "About the Author" section of the guide states that Al-Talib served as the first fulltime director of the Training Department of the Muslim Students Association (MSA).<sup>10</sup> According to the 2008 issue of the MSA publication, *MSA Link*, the training guide has become "a mainstay of every MSA library."<sup>11</sup>

The Muslim Students Association (MSA) is the most visible and influential Islamic student organization in North America. Through conferences and events, publications, websites and other activities, MSA disseminates and promotes militant Islamic ideologies.<sup>12</sup>

In November 1992, al-Talib's IIIT wrote a letter<sup>13</sup> to Sami al-Arian expressing its support for and acknowledging funding of WISE, a Tampa, FL think-tank that housed four members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's (PIJ) governing board, including al-Arian.<sup>14</sup> The PIJ is a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization.<sup>15</sup> The IIIT letter named the IIIT officials who shared this view, including al-Talib.

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<sup>5</sup> Hisham al-Talib biography from IIIT website <http://iiit.org/iiitftp/PDF's/speakersbios-bookblurbs.pdf#page=3> (Accessed October 18, 2012)

<sup>6</sup> Kane Affidavit; [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/891.pdf#page=40](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/891.pdf#page=40)

<sup>7</sup> Kane Affidavit; [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/891.pdf#page=51](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/891.pdf#page=51)

<sup>8</sup> Kane Affidavit; [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/891.pdf#page=9](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/891.pdf#page=9)

<sup>9</sup> Hisham al-Talib, "Training Guide for Islamic Workers," <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/707.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Hisham al-Talib, "Training Guide for Islamic Workers," <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/707.pdf#page=2>

<sup>11</sup> *MSA Link*, Spring-Summer 2008, p. 5

<sup>12</sup> See generally IPT Profile on the Muslim Students Association, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/84.pdf#page=22> ("IPT Profile on the MSA"). Examples of speakers at MSA conferences who represent organizations that promote militant ideology include Kamran A. Bokhari, the official spokesman for al-Muhajiroun in North America, a now defunct organization, known for its praise of terrorism and anti-American rhetoric.

<sup>13</sup> Letter from IIIT to Sami al-Arian, November 6, 1992, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/redirect/Exhibit325.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> *U.S. v. Al Arian, et al.*, MDL 03-CR-77, "GX 325: IIIT Letter to Sami Al-Arian"

At the American Muslim Council's annual conference in 2000, al-Talib talked about spreading the Islamic faith throughout America: "Just as we begin to Islamize America, we don't only want to Islamize American Muslims. We want to see Muslims here not only by the names of Muhammad, and Ali, but we want to see Muslims with the name of David, John, Peter, and so on."<sup>16</sup>

Abdurahman Alamoudi<sup>17</sup>, the former head of American Muslim Council, was sentenced to 23 years in prison for illegal financial dealings with Libya.<sup>18</sup> Alamoudi also confessed to taking part in a Libyan plot to assassinate the then Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

<sup>16</sup> Remarks at American Muslim Council Conference, "Muslim Vision for a Better America," June 21, 2000, Arlington, VA.

<sup>17</sup> For court documents filed in the Alamoudi prosecution, see <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/147>

<sup>18</sup> "Abdurahman Alamoudi Sentenced to Jail in Terrorism Financing Case," Department of Justice Press Release, October 15, 2004, [http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case\\_docs/168.pdf](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/168.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.