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News Release

August 26, 2004

TERRORIST TRAINING CAMP PARTICIPANT REMOVED TO PAKISTAN

DENVER - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that a Denver man who admitted attending a training camp run by a terrorist organization is back in his native country of Pakistan after being removed from the United States.

ICE officials say the removal of Sajjad Nasser, 29, was completed early this morning with his arrival in Pakistan on board an ICE charter flight. Nasser, who had been in U.S. government custody since March 2003, was convicted in Denver in December 2003 of possessing counterfeit immigration documents. He was sentenced to time served.

ICE fought for the legal permanent resident's removal from the United States arguing that his participation in a training camp sponsored by Jaish-e-Mohammed (the Army of Mohammed) amounted to providing material support to a designated terrorist organization. The Pakistan-based group gained international notoriety for its alleged role in the execution of journalist Daniel Pearl.

"ICE proved this individual knew full well when he attended the Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp what the organization represented," said Don O'Hare, Assistant Chief Counsel for ICE in Denver. "ICE is committed to using all of the tools and legal authorities at its disposal to prevent terrorists and prospective terrorists from using our country as a refuge."

Nasser's case is among the first in which ICE lodged immigration charges against an individual based on Section 411 of the PATRIOT Act. This provision substantially expands the legal definition of what constitutes a terrorist organization and engaging in terrorist activity.

In June, after months of hearings, Denver Immigration Judge Donn Livingston issued a final decision in the removal proceeding against Nasser. The Judge ruled that participating in a training camp is a form of providing "material support" for a terrorist organization.

In December 2003, Nasser pleaded guilty in federal court to possessing a false document, specifically a counterfeit Alien Registration Card, commonly known as a "green card." As part of his plea, Nasser agreed not to appeal Judge Livingston's decision.

Nasser is one of several individuals with terrorist ties who have been removed by ICE from the United States in recent months. Other significant cases include:

Material Witness in 9/11 Probe Deported - On May 27, 2004, 26-year-old Mohdar Abdullah, a Yemeni national held as a material witness in connection with the 9/11 terrorist attacks, arrived in Yemen after being deported by ICE officials. Abdullah was arrested shortly after 9/11 and was found to have helped two of the 9/11 hijackers obtain Social Security cards, driver's licenses, and information on flight schools. Abdullah was later convicted of immigration fraud and, after serving his sentence, was ordered removed from the country.

Saudi with Ties to 9/11 Hijackers Arrested, Departs the Country - On May 27, 2004, ICE agents in San Diego arrested 34-year-old Hasan Sadiq Faseh Alddin, a Saudi national and U.S. legal permanent resident, on immigration charges resulting from two prior convictions for domestic violence. The arrest stemmed from a Joint Terrorism Task Force probe. In September 2001, Alddin roomed with a close friend of two of the 9/11 hijackers, Nawaf Alhamzi and Khalid al-Midhar. Alddin's roommate departed the country the day before the 9/11 attacks. ICE placed Alddin in deportation proceedings. He has since departed the country.

Suspected Terrorist Removed to Syria - On January 23, 2004, ICE officials removed 36-year-old Nabil Al-Marabh to Syria after an independent federal immigration judge ruled that Al-Marabh posed a threat to U.S. national security and was associated with a known Jordanian terrorist. An Immigration Judge found that Al-Marabh was specifically linked to Raed Hijazi, a Jordanian who has been designated as a terrorist by the U.S. government in connection with a bombing plot in Jordan. Al-Marabh had also trained and fought with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan, the judge ruled.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure and transportation security laws. ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.

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