

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



FBI Headquarters  
935 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20535

CD number: CD#2  
Track number: Part 2  
CD Label: [REDACTED]  
Date of recording: June 11, 2009  
Start Time: 08:30 PM  
End time: 09:30 PM  
Source language: Somali  
Target language: English  
Linguists: FA and DQ

VERBATIM TRANSLATION

Participants\*

FBI Special Agent Mark L. Wagoner  
Cooperating Witness  
Ahmed Dhakane  
[REDACTED]  
Unidentified Males  
Unidentified Female

SAMW  
CW  
AD  
AF  
MA  
UM1-UM11  
UF1

\*Please note that all speakers were identified to the best of our ability, but we are unable to verify their accuracy.

File number: CD2\_part 2

Task number [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

### Abbreviations

Inaudible  
Unintelligible  
Phonetic  
Overlapping voices  
Simultaneous conversation  
English  
Arabic

[IA]  
[UI]  
[PH]  
[OV]  
[SC]  
*Italics*  
Underline

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Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

AD: Yes.

CW: So, you can leave here?

UM2: Yes.

[Background noises]

AD: [UI]

CW: No.

AD: Let me give you this. It is my online contact information, 24 hours.

CW: You know, I have a half brother back home. You know, it is over for me as far as going to foreign country. I have seen it but my brother he wants to come here [America]. I want him to go directly to the cities instead of asking for asylum at the airport and then ask for asylum from there.

AD: Uh-um.

CW: He will not listen to me to stay home.

AD: Uh-um.

CW: I need your help to arrange all of this for him.

AD: It is easy. We will contact through e-mail. This is my @gmail.com [UI]  
@yahoo.com, they are the same.

CW: This one is Abdifatah...

AD: Yes. It is my complete name, Abdifatah Mohamed. Then I will give you my phone number and everything.

CW: Okay. It is done.

AD: A-Abdiqalif@live.com. Okay my brother. I will send you things there. Keep in touch man. We should say a prayer for each other also.

CW: Yes.

AD: You opened my eyes to a lot of things.

CW: I did nothing for you.

[Background noises]

CW: It is Abdiasis Haaji Isse's.

[Background noises]

CW: I like this too.

AD: You are very clever, man.

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Task number: [REDACTED]

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CW: Read everything and anything.

AD: I know man.

CW: Don't be a narrow-minded.

AD: Try everything.

CW: Read everything and anything.

[Background noises]

CW: My brother, I have little bit of money for him, you know.

AD: Yeah.

CW: I want him to come this way, you know, so he has a backup if I need someone. I don't have anybody here for him.

AD: Yeah, if you need one.

[Background noises]

CW: I don't want him to enter the country the same way Somalis enter this country [America]. He can come with his IDs. I will make sure that he is all set.

AD: You know what I need from you.

CW: But, when you were in Brazil, you should have warned the Somalis of this difficult path.

AD: I was making money off the Somalis, you know. One day I made \$75,000!

CW: What did you do with all that money?

AD: [UI]

CW: You were prosperous.

AD: Never say I have something. You know that brother.

CW: Yes.

AD: While I was there, I had a hotel where people stayed. I kept them sometimes for a month just like the jails.

AD: I used to charge 25 dollars each night.

CW: Including food and everything.

AD: Food was not included.

CW: They pay for the food out of their own pocket.

AD: Out of their own pocket?

CW: You are clever.

File number: CD2 part 2

Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

AD: Don't declare, "I have something." I kept it in a low profile.

CW: But you saved something from this right?

AD: I am doing well. I am doing well.

CW: Okay.

[Background noises]

CW: Housing.

AD: I didn't spend anything on housing. The church was paying my housing. I was only paying the electricity.

CW: \$25 at night and transportation money.

AD: [UI]. I made a minimum of \$3,000 per person not including hotel money.

CW: Yeah.

AD: About \$1,000 in hotel money.

CW: And the food cost even more.

AD: Each person would spend a minimum of \$9,000 for the trip.

CW: Yeah.

AD: And whoever who couldn't afford this was on his own.

CW: No favor or brotherhood, ah. It is all about business, yeah.

AD: You understand me.

[Background noises]

AD: On top of that, I was getting money from other things Nigerians—papers needed from the churches, and so on.

CW: So, it was not only for Somalis but others too, whoever had money?

AD: What are you talking about?

CW: You are very civilized man.

AD: [UI] I told you before, I am not a laborer. I use my brain.

CW: Hum.

AD: If you suggest any program to me I will bring you information about it.

[Background noises]

AD: [UI]. You are very quick. You have been here before me.

CW: Yeah.

AD: You know what is going on around here.

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Task number: [REDACTED]

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CW: [UI] you get there, you will find all the guys are there. You would understand things.

AD: Wherever I go, I don't like people who are closed in and secretive. I am not like that and I am not the kind of person who boasts and brags either. I think you have seen me.

[Background noises]

UM7: [UI]

CW: I pray here.

AD: [UI]

CW: Yeah.

AD: I am Christian and I am hungry, it doesn't go together.

[Background noises]

CW: You made a lot of money. I swear to God, from these ignorant people with the money.

AD: My hotel was never empty.

[Background noises]

AD: It would not work for me for the long run. I have children but someone like you, I could make money in Brazil.

CW: How would I bring my brother?

AD: Easy: You get him a Brazilian visa.

CW: How much money would I allocate for him?

AD: Nothing.

CW: Don't I need to pay a smuggler like you?

AD: Don't go to a smuggler, you are crazy man. Get him his ticket. If you go to a smuggler, you would create problems for yourself.

CW: Oh.

AD: I would not recommend you go to a smuggler.

CW: Yeah.

AD: Get him a Brazilian visa.

CW: Yeah.

AD: [UI] he would be transit to Mexico.

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Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

CW: That is great!

AD: [UI]... You get missionary clearance that would cover health insurance. They called it TC, traveler health insurance.

CW: Um-hum.

AD: You understand me brother.

CW: Yes.

AD: Your expenses, communication [phone bill], and your accommodation.

CW: Yes, expenses.

AD: And the only thing you have to pay for is the food and you know food is part of the expenses.

CW: Yeah. So, I pay everything at once.

AD: It depends on where you bring people from. For instance, this guy called Hareed, I brought him from Ethiopia.

CW: Yeah.

AD: I took a couple of young people from Ethiopia [UI]. When I do I spend \$2,500 for the visas?

UM7: [UI]

CW: Salamu Alaykum [Islamic greeting]. We will talk before I leave.

UM7: Will pray for you.

CW: God willing.

[Background noises]

AD: If I try to explain this to you, you cannot understand it. You need practical experience of it. Talking will not do anything, my dear brother.

CW: Yeah.

AD: Contact me everywhere you are.

CW: This kid [brother] is driving me crazy about this. I just need to bring him here for once... [UI].

AD: I brought my wife from Kenya. Did you know that?

CW: Swear to God! This thing is amazing when you understand how to do it.

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Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

AD: I was a rich man. I could wear the latest suits. I had international long distance. I could call anyplace. Even Somalia which is the most expensive place to call, I could talk for two or three hours.

CW: So, when I am ready to get this going, should I contact you directly or you have others who are ready on your behalf?

AD: Me. I can...

CW: Yeah.

AD: You have to use your mind. If he speaks English he doesn't need anybody. You understand me my brother?

CW: Yeah.

AD: You contact me. [U] I will get everything ready. The stuff will be sent to the address you give me. I will send through DHL and will give you the tracking number.

CW: Yeah.

AD: I would need single picture of him [the brother] and a copy of his passport. I don't need anything else from you...

CW: So, you're saying you will do everything else?

AD: And an address.

CW: So, I can send you things.

[Background noises]

CW: If you learn how to do this: It is easy!

AD: I can also direct you to a friend of mine who is in Nairobi who is a white Ugandan. He has a hospital and a church in there. He has a surgical hospital near Meerow.

CW: Yeah.

AD: You understand me my dear brother.

CW: Yes.

AD: I don't know if you heard about it before or not it is near Meerow.

CW: No. I haven't heard about it before. Write down his contact information for me so I can visit him when I get to Nairobi. Can I visit him? I will tell him "Dhakane said 'Hi,'" or should I say William?



File number: CD2\_part 2

Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

AD: [UI]...he doesn't know greetings and the stuff you are talking about. He understands straight questions.

CW: Yeah.

AD: I will send him an e-mail and you will meet him. You know if people would understand this...

UF1: [UI]

AD: *Maybe, I will pray for you.*

[Background noises]

AD: When I am dealing with people about business matters, I am direct and straightforward.

CW: Yeah.

AD: You understand what I am saying. Contact the man. Send him an e-mail. He will give you his telephone number and will tell you when to call him.

CW: You give me his contact information.

AD: Yes. You understand me.

CW: Yes.

AD: You call him and talk to him. No need for too much talking; give him what he needs from you in order for him to do this for you.

CW: Yeah.

AD: Will get it in the mail. You gather the letter from the Nairobi church and the other papers from the other church all together. Take all the documents to them and ask for the visa. They will give you a six month visa.

CW: A Mexican visa.

AD: Six months for Brazil and 90 days for Mexico.

CW: Yeah.

AD: And three or five days for Spain or France.

CW: I can get all of these in Kenya!

AD: You get all these in Kenya. I am connected through Spain too.

CW: Yeah.

AD: Spain...[UI]. There were a lot of people who paid me to do this but I left without doing anything for them. The program was too much for me.

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Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

CW: Yeah.

AD: There were five young people of the Habar Gidir tribe. Their money was sent to me from England. I collected 7,500 for each and their passports and I left them.

[Background noises]

CW: Yeah.

AD: I have not contacted anybody about that yet.

CW: Yeah.

AD: I am planning to contact them when I leave here. It is hard to convince human beings on things.

CW: That is your plan.

AD: It is hard to convince human beings.

CW: You are right. Man there is a lot of money in this.

AD: There is a lot of money in this, but I don't want—[UI]. You understand me right?

CW: Yeah.

AD: You know if one keeps doing this they would get used to it and there is a lot of danger in it.

CW: You would have conflicts with people.

AD: It is dirty job.

[Background noises]

AD: You will not make him go through Brazil.

CW: Mexico.

AD: Once he gets to Mexico, he would destroy his passport.

CW: Would keep his ID.

AD: If he wants, he could ask asylum in Europe also. He has five days there.

CW: Yeah.

AD: Or three days to do that.

CW: Yeah.

AD: He can go inside [leave the airport to the city].

CW: Um-hum.

AD: He can stay there; even though there isn't much to do in Europe.

CW: So, he doesn't need someone or a team to contact!

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Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

AD: You mean in Europe? The guy if they contact him, if I make him contact someone he could get into trouble with the church. I don't want that for you.

CW: Yeah.

AD: Get him pocket money. If you want I can ask him to go and help him get out of the airport but if he gets him out... [UI].

[Background noises]

AD: I smuggled people mostly from Ethiopia and Nairobi.

CW: Ethiopia and Nairobi. Yeah.

CW: Is the guy Ogaden who just left there.

AD: What did you say?

CW: Is the one you were telling me about Ogaden tribe?

AD: I can introduce you to many Ogadens. I brought them from Kenya some of them from Garisa.

CW: If I have the e-mail. I am all set. I will contact you for any question I would have.

[Background noises]

CW: I will the passport ready, send you the picture right?

AD: [UI]... You send me a copy of the passport.

CW: Did you smuggle this guy too? The one you were telling me the other day?

AD: You mean Hareed?

CW: No. The one you said we were old friends with and he drives a taxi in Chicago.

AD: Yes, I brought him here.

CW: Swear to God!

AD: Yes. You cannot imagine all the people I brought here. Most of my tribe I brought here.

CW: They don't pay back the favor do they!

AD: I don't need a favor from them.

CW: What sub-clan of Ogaden is he?

AD: This guy?

CW: Yeah. The one in Chicago.

AD: Most of them are Abdalla [clan]. When I introduce them to you, you will know them. They will tell you who they are. You may recognize them since you are the same tribe and from Kenya.

CW: I am talking about the guy in Chicago.

AD: You mean the one in Chicago?

CW: Yes. The one you said has been to Afghanistan.

AD: The cab driver?

CW: The one you said you used to be religious scholars together him and Fadli.

AD: Man that guy came here by green card.

CW: Really.

AD: That guy came here by lottery.

CW: His name is Abdirahman right?

AD: Yes. His name is Abdirahman.

CW: His tribe is not Abdalla. Is he?

AD: He may be Mohamed Subeer [tribe].

CW: Mohamed Subeer has many subdivisions.

AD: I am not sure man. There are just so many of them.

[Background noises]

AD: I will hook you up with people in America.

CW: Uh-um.

AD: This guy called Mohamed Yare. He is also a smuggler. [UI].

[Background noises]

AD: I send the passports and everything to these people.

CW: You get to know all sorts of people by doing this. You become famous.

AD: I get to know Hawiye, Isaq, and Darad [tribal names]. I get to know everybody.

CW: I swear to God.

AD: Some Isaq [tribe] girls I took their money in Djibouti but I didn't do what they asked me to do yet. I didn't have enough time to do all that. I left there quickly. It was all too sudden.

CW: When you leave. You would take care of your business.

[Background noises]

File number: CD2 part 2

Task number: [REDACTED]

Date: 6-11-2009

CW: We will keep in touch.

AD: We will connect when we get there.

[Background noises]

CW: Have you contacted the religious guy you were telling me about? The Marehan [tribal name] guy?

[Background noises]

CW: The guy of the Nuur subclan? Abdullahi Abu Fadli.

AD: Abdullahi Abu Fadli!

CW: Yes.

AD: He is Ahmed subclan, not Nuur subclan.

CW: He is Ahmed subclan!

AD: He is Ahmed of Dalal [subclan of Marehan tribe].

CW: Oh, yeah. You guys are the same clan.

AD: He is the head of Al-Amal [money wiring business].

CW: I know him.

AD: Yeah.

[Background noises]

CW: He talks a lot.

AD: I don't associate with people who are not grounded. I am business man.

CW: You're not a normal person if you know that guy.

AD: I know all sorts of people.

CW: But you used to know him then not now, when you were a religious man  
[Laughs].

AD: These things are behind us now in the past, my brother.

[Background noises]

AD: May God lead us to the right path.

CW: Amen.

[Background noises]

CW: Is the rumor true that you used to be a member of Al-Itihad before you left the religion [became Christian]?

AD: [UI]...

AD: Yeah.

CW: He said that there was Dhakane [UI].

AD: [UI]

CW: Yeah.

AD: Why did I get married—[UI]—and people I used know who were Christians said, “Dhakane, we need you,” when I realized the situation was dire and I could die. I told her: “I will sell the house, the religious group will send me to Dubai, then I will go to Hajj [pilgrimage] and come back.”

CW: [UI]

AD: I went through a lot with this.

CW: It is an experience.

AD: I am not regretting though.

CW: [UI]. Experience is good.

AD: But a man who comes to America without a family and stuff like that can make money.

CW: By smuggling people?

AD: Not smuggling.

CW: Normal work?

AD: If I can find someone to partner with me I can create a big Internet business—

CW: Yeah.

AD: —and storage facility. I would import goods from China.

CW: [UI]

AD: I would bring illegal goods and become a millionaire. But if one has a wife, children, and a future that wouldn't work. I wouldn't let my wife be outside while I am out all the time, that's not going to work!

CW: Someone with no money doesn't have a future. There is no future without money.

AD: When ladies leave the house and only when my wife left the house she asked me why she was there all the time by herself like a prisoner because I was always out.

[Background noises]

AD: She said, “I would rather have my baby in America instead of here.” She came here while she was still pregnant.

- CW: Really.
- AD: ...but, you know, as time goes on, every day you learn something new.
- CW: Back then when there was a lot of finger pointing when the religious group were defeated. Where you were then?
- UM8: Hey, we should get out of here.
- CW: Salamu Alaykum [Islamic greeting].
- UM8: I was just on the phone: My three younger brothers, one of them finished medical school, he works; the other two are in university studying. She told me I am the only one left out.
- CW: May God bless them even more. They will take care of themselves.
- UM8: I could have studied too.
- AD: No problem. You will leave here soon.
- CW: You will get what is yours.
- [Background noises]
- AD: What drove me out of them is was [UI].
- CW: I heard the story that when the Al-Itihad had a conflict within them some of them became takfir [apostates].
- AD: After the defeat and the breakdown happened everyone went their separate ways.
- CW: They fight for money.
- AD: I went with the big guy. He was my uncle too. Sheikh Muhamed Ma'alin.
- CW: The old man said he'd curse you if you were not leave them [Al-Itihad].
- AD: No. Not that one. That one is in Sweden.
- CW: Was he asking you to join the war or to leave it?
- AD: He was asking me to leave it.
- CW: Yeah.
- AD: You understand me brother. I was stubborn. That is the case when you are young.
- CW: Yeah.
- AD: We fled from Gedo [state in Somalia] to Mogadishu. We walked all the way. When we get to Mogadishu I had [UI] called Dhakane. I am not sure if you heard about it or not.
- CW: Is that the one Mohamed Osman was telling me about?