



The Investigative Project on Terrorism

Iran-Hizballah Prosecutions in the U.S.

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Table of Contents

Weapons and Planning.....	3
Drug Running and Human Smuggling	8
Racketeering, Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing	10
Evading U.S. Sanctions	12
Tax Evasion	17
Espionage	18
Civil Lawsuits	19





Weapons and Planning

July 2019, Morristown, NJ

Alexei Saab of Morristown, New Jersey, was charged in a nine-count indictment for offenses related to his support for Hizballah and separate marriage-fraud offenses. The complaint alleged Saab was trained by Hizballah's external terrorist operations component in bomb-making, and conducted intelligence gathering in New York City and Washington, D.C., in support of Hizballah's attack-planning efforts. Saab joined Hizballah in 1996. His first Hizballah operation occurred in Lebanon, where he was tasked with observing and reporting on the movements of Israeli and Southern Lebanese Army soldiers in Yaroun, Lebanon. In approximately 1999, Saab attended his first Hizballah training. In 2000, Saab lawfully entered the United States using a Lebanese passport. In 2005, Saab applied for naturalized citizenship and falsely affirmed, under penalty of perjury, that he had never been "a member of or in any way associated with . . . a terrorist organization." In August 2008, he became a naturalized U.S. citizen. While living in the United States, Saab remained a Hizballah operative, continued to receive military training in Lebanon, and conducted numerous operations for the terrorist group. He surveilled dozens of locations in New York City – including the United Nations headquarters, the Statue of Liberty, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, the Empire State Building, and local airports, tunnels, and bridges – and provided detailed information on these locations, including photographs, to the Islamic Jihad Organization, which is responsible for the planning and coordination of intelligence, counterintelligence, and terrorist activities on behalf of Hizballah outside of Lebanon.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/980/us-v-saab>

August 2018, Costa Mesa, CA

Majid Ghorbani, an Iranian citizen and permanent resident of Costa Mesa, California and Mohammadi-Doostdar, a dual U.S.-Iranian citizen, are accused of acting on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran by conducting covert surveillance of Israeli and Jewish facilities in the United States, and collecting identifying information about American citizens and U.S. nationals who are members of the group Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), a revolutionary group that seeks to overthrow the Iranian regime. Both Majid Ghorbani and Mohammadi-Doostdar pleaded guilty to acting as illegal agents of the Government of Iran.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/849/us-v-ghorbani>





June 2018, Illinois

Iranian businessman Saeed Valadbaigi schemed with the owner of a European company to illegally export nuclear nonproliferation-controlled materials to Iran from Illinois. Valadbaigi plotted in 2011 to illegally export US-origin 7075 T6 aluminum tubing from Illinois to Iran by way of Belgium and Malaysia. The size and type of the aluminum was used in the missile and aerospace industry and was subject to U.S. regulations for nuclear nonproliferation purposes. The smuggling plan was part of an effort to evade U.S. laws and export-control regulations. Valadbaigi is considered a fugitive. A warrant for his arrest was issued in 2016 and remains outstanding.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/842/us-v-valadbaigi>

June 2017, Bronx, N.Y.

Ali Kourani of the Bronx, New York, and Samer El Debek of Dearborn, Michigan were arrested for terrorist activities on behalf of the Islamic Jihad Organization, a component of the foreign terrorist organization Hizballah. Recruited as Hizballah operatives, El Debek and Kourani received military-style training, including in the use of weapons like rocket-propelled grenade launchers and machine guns, for use in support of the group's terrorist mission. At the direction of his Hizballah handlers, El Debek traveled to Panama to locate the U.S. and Israeli embassies and to assess the vulnerabilities of the Panama Canal and ships in the Canal. Kourani conducted surveillance of potential targets in America, including military and law enforcement facilities in New York City. Kourani was convicted for covert terrorist activities on behalf of the Islamic Jihad Organization and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/803/us-v-kourani>

June 2017, Wisconsin

Resit Tavan, a Turkish businessman and owner of the Istanbul-based Turkish business Ramor Dis Ticaret Ltd. (also known as the "Ramor Group") was sentenced to 27 months in prison in connection with his conviction for conspiracy to violate U.S. sanctions by exporting specialized marine equipment from the United States to Iran between 2013 to 2015. Tavan pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to violate U.S. sanctions on Iran by using the Ramor Group to acquire a range of marine related equipment that had been manufactured in Wisconsin, including high-powered outboard engines, marine power generators and power boat propulsion equipment known as surface drives, on behalf of the Iran-based Qeshm Madkandalou Shipbuilding Cooperative (Madkandalou). Evidence introduced in court showed that Tavan cooperated with Iranian officers associated with Madkandalou to use some of this U.S. origin marine equipment to support the construction and development of a prototype high-speed missile attack boat for the Iranian military or naval forces.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/1014/us-v-tavan>





April 2016, New York

Ali Fayad, a Lebanese-born Ukrainian arms dealer and Hizballah operative, was indicted along with co-conspirators Faouzi Jaber and Khaled El Merebi on charges that included “conspiracy to kill officers and employees of the United States,” “conspiracy to acquire and transfer anti-aircraft missiles,” “conspiracy to provide material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization,” and “conspiracy to commit money laundering.” In April 2014, Fayad was arrested along with Jaber and El Merebi in a Prague hotel by undercover agents of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), who were posing as members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Fayad and his co-conspirators had met with the undercover DEA agents in Ghana and Warsaw as part of a two-year sting operation. The case is currently pending in court.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/1015/us-v-fayad-et-al>

February 2015, San Antonio, TX

Lebanese-born Wissam "Sam" Allouche, a San Antonio resident, was charged with not disclosing his prior affiliation with Hizballah in order to remain in the United States and to possibly gain access to sensitive information. Allouche was sentenced to five years in federal prison for knowingly lying to federal authorities on his U.S. citizenship petition about his relationship with the Amal militia. Evidence introduced at trial showed Allouche was a member of the Amal militia and had command authority over Hizballah.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/692/us-v-allouche>

March 2014, Dearborn, MI

Mohammad Hassan Hamdan was charged with providing material support to Hizballah. In March 2014, Hamdan attempted to fly to Lebanon, to get to Syria to fight alongside Hizballah forces in the country. Hamdan pleaded guilty to lying about traveling to fight for Hizballah. He was sentenced to 63 months for making false statements to federal agents in relation to a terrorist organization and ordered deported from the United States to Lebanon upon completion of his sentence.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/660/us-v-hamdan>



October 2011, New York, N.Y.

Manssor Arbabsiar and Gholam Shakuri were charged in a plot to murder the Saudi Ambassador to the United States with explosives. Law enforcement officials say the plot was directed by elements of the Iranian government. Arbabsiar is a naturalized U.S. citizen holding both Iranian and U.S. passports. Shakuri is an Iran-based member of Iran's Qods Force, a special operations unit of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) that is said to sponsor and promote terrorist activities abroad. Arbabsiar pleaded guilty to the charges in October 2012. In May 2013, Arbabsiar was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Gholam Shakuri remains at large.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/597/us-v-arbabsiar-et-al-iranian-plot-to-assassinate>

June 2011, Macon, GA

An indictment unsealed June 23, 2011 charged seven people and five corporate entities based in the United States, France, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) and Iran in a conspiracy to illegally export military components for fighter jets and attack helicopters from the United States to Iran. Four defendants based in the United States were charged as part of the conspiracy. They are The Parts Guys LLC, a company in Port Orange, Fla., that maintains a warehouse at the Middle Georgia Municipal Airport in Macon, as well as the president of The Parts Guys, Michael Edward Todd, who is a U.S. national. Galaxy Aviation Services, a company in St. Charles, Ill., and its president, Hamid Seifi, an Iranian-born U.S. national, have also been charged. Three defendants based in France have also been indicted. They are Aerotechnic, a company in Pinsaguel, France, and its president, Philippe Sanchez, a French national, as well as Luc Teuly, a French national and the sales manager of Aerotechnic. Each of these defendants remains a fugitive. Two defendants based in the U.A.E. have also been indicted in the case. They are Aletra General Trading, a company in Dubai, and Syed Amir Ahmed Najfi, an Iranian national and purchaser for Aletra. Najfi remains a fugitive. Three defendants based in Iran have also been charged in the case. They are Sabanic Company, a company in Tehran, and its president, Hassan Seifi, an Iranian national, as well as Reza Seifi, an Iranian national and the managing director of Sabanic Company. Each of these defendants remains at large. Todd and his company, The Parts Guys, pleaded guilty on May 9, 2011. Hamid Seifi and his company, Galaxy Aviation, pleaded guilty on Feb. 24, 2011. On June 23, 2011, Seifi was sentenced to 56 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release, while Galaxy Aviation, which is now defunct, received a \$400 special assessment. Todd was sentenced to 46 months in prison for providing U.S. military aircraft components to Iran.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/549/us-v-todd-et-al>





November 2009, Philadelphia, PA

A dual citizen of the United States and Slovakia was charged in a 2011 indictment along with three other defendants with conspiring to provide material support to Hizballah. According to the criminal complaint, Dani Nemr Tarraf worked to obtain items for the benefit of Hizballah, including Stinger missiles, Coly M-4 fully automatic carbines, Glock pistols, sniper-detection technology, night vision and thermal imaging equipment, lensatic compasses and two-way radios. Tarraf was originally charged along with the other defendants in a November 2009 complaint. He confessed to the charges and admitted that he was working with others to acquire massive quantities of weapons for Hizballah. He also admitted he was a member of Hizballah and that he had received military training from the organization.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/358/us-v-tarraf-et-al>

November 2009, Philadelphia, PA

Hassan Hodroj and Dib Hani Harb were indicted in November 2009 on charges of conspiring to provide material support to Hizballah. This allegedly involved obtaining 1,200 Colt M4 Carbines (machine guns). Harb and other defendants, including Moussa Ali Hamdan and Hasan Antar Karak, were also charged with conspiring to provide material support to Hizballah in the form of proceeds from the sale of fraudulent passports, counterfeit money and stolen (genuine) money. In addition, Hamdan and several other defendants were charged with several counts of transporting stolen goods, trafficking in counterfeit goods, and making false statements to government officials. A 2010 court filing stated the trial of the defendants has been delayed because they are fugitives.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/360/us-v-hodroj-et-al>

September 2007, Dearborn, MI

Houssein Zorkot, a medical student at Wayne State in Dearborn, Michigan, was charged with multiple felony charges, including carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent. A website created by Zorkot contained videos and other propaganda materials related to Hizballah.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/250/state-of-michigan-v-zorkot>

January 2007, El Paso, TX

Christopher Tappin, a retired British businessman, was accused of plotting to sell missile components to Iran. The indictment alleged that Tappin offered in 2006 to sell specialized batteries for Hawk missiles for \$25,000 to undercover American agents posing as Iranians.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/616/us-v-tappin>





November 2003, Detroit, MI

Mahmoud Youssef Kourani pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to Hizballah and was sentenced to 54 months in prison in June 2006. A trained Hizballah fighter, Kourani illegally crossed the Mexican border on his way to Dearborn, Michigan.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/146/us-v-kourani>

Drug Running and Human Smuggling

June 2017, Miami, FL

Ali Issa Chamas, a Paraguayan man of Lebanese descent, was charged by a Miami federal grand jury with distributing cocaine "knowing" that it "would be unlawfully imported into the United States." Chamas was extradited from Paraguay to Miami in June 2017. A December 2017 prosecution filing noted that Chamas confessed to agents that some of his family members were Hezbollah and that the Chamas Clan was powerful and allied with Hezbollah." Chamas also "admitted to taking part in a shipment of 31 kilograms of cocaine that was seized by law enforcement in April of 2016 at Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport in Lebanon, and that he and his associates paid \$10,000 per kilogram to facilitate entry of the cocaine into Lebanon via the airport, knowing that the money was going to Hezbollah." Chamas pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine knowing that it would be imported into the U.S. and was sentenced to 42 months in prison.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/808/us-v-chamas>

May 2017, New York

Hizballah associate Joseph Asmar, a citizen of Lebanon, pleaded guilty to laundering funds he believed to be drug money. Asmar was arrested in Paris in October 2015 on a provisional arrest warrant issued from the Eastern District of New York, and was extradited to the United States in December 2016. He was sentenced to 20 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/802/us-v-asmar>





November 2013, New York

Dino Bouterse, a citizen of Suriname who also headed the country's counter-terrorism unit, was charged with attempting to provide material support to Hizballah. Bouterse and a second defendant were earlier charged with conspiring to import cocaine into the United States, and Bouterse was also charged with carrying, and brandishing a rocket launcher during, and in relation to the cocaine importation conspiracy. Bouterse was arrested in Panama on August 29, 2013, and arrived in the United States on August 30, 2013. He pleaded guilty to attempting to support Hizballah, narcotics trafficking, and firearms offenses in August 2014 and was sentenced to over 16 years in custody

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/654/us-v-bouterse>

December 2011, Alexandria, VA

Ayman Joumaa, an accused Lebanese drug kingpin and Hizballah financier, was charged with coordinating multi-ton shipments of cocaine from Colombia via the Los Zetas Mexican drug cartel to the United States, and laundering hundreds of millions of dollars in these drug proceeds back to the Colombian suppliers.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/604/us-v-joumaa>

November 2011, New York

Siavosh Henareh, a citizen of Iran, was sentenced to 210 months in prison for conspiring to import hundreds of kilograms of heroin to the United States. Henareh was convicted in November 2012 after a two-week jury trial. Henareh was one of three defendants charged in connection with an international investigation of narcotics and weapons traffickers. His co-defendant, Cetin Aksu, pleaded guilty in August 2012 to conspiring to provide material support to Hizballah, conspiring to acquire anti-aircraft missiles, conspiring to import heroin into the United States, and making false declarations before a federal court. Henareh's other co-defendant, Bachar Wehbe, pleaded guilty in November 2011 to conspiring to provide material support to Hizballah, conspiring to acquire anti-aircraft missiles, and obstruction of justice.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/556/us-v-henareh-et-al>





August 2011, San Diego—Tijuana

Salim Boughader-Mucharrafille was indicted in November 2002 on multiple counts of human smuggling. Boughader-Mucharrafille pleaded guilty to two counts of human trafficking in March 2003 and served most of a year-long prison term. He was rearrested in Mexico immediately following his release, and sentenced in May 2006 to 14 years in prison for his role in the smuggling ring and on organized crime charges. According to press reports, Boughader-Mucharrafille admitted that one of the individuals he helped smuggle into the United States worked for al Manar, Hizballah's television station.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/569/us-v-boughader-mucharrafille>

Racketeering, Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing

June 2017, Miami, FL

Ali Issa Chamas, a Paraguayan man of Lebanese descent, was charged by a Miami federal grand jury with distributing cocaine "knowing" that it "would be unlawfully imported into the United States." Chamas was extradited from Paraguay to Miami in June 2017. A December 2017 prosecution filing noted that Chamas confessed to agents that some of his family members were Hezbollah and that the Chamas Clan was powerful and allied with Hezbollah.” Chamas also “admitted to taking part in a shipment of 31 kilograms of cocaine that was seized by law enforcement in April of 2016 at Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport in Lebanon, and that he and his associates paid \$10,000 per kilogram to facilitate entry of the cocaine into Lebanon via the airport, knowing that the money was going to Hezbollah.” Chamas pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine knowing that it would be imported into the U.S. and was sentenced to 42 months in prison.

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<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/802/us-v-asmar>





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<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/556/us-v-henareh-et-al>





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<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/569/us-v-boughader-mucharrafille>

Evading U.S. Sanctions

July 22, 2019, Pensacola, FL

Pensacola resident James P. Meharg, who was CEO and president of Turbine Resources International, LLC, was charged in a five-count indictment with conspiring with citizens of the United Kingdom and Iran to export a large turbine and parts from the United States to an Iranian recipient, in violation of the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations as well as federal criminal law.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/935/us-v-meharg>

July 16, 2019, New York

A three-count indictment unsealed July 16, 2019 charged Ali Reza Shokri, Behzad Pourghannad and Farzin Faridmanesh with exporting carbon fiber from the United States to Iran. Pourghannad, an Iranian national, was arrested on those charges on May 3, 2017 in Germany, and was extradited to the U.S. Between 2008 and July 2013, Pourghannad, Shokri and Faridmanesh lived and worked in Iran. During that period, they worked together to obtain carbon fiber from the U.S. and surreptitiously export it to Iran via third countries. In particular, Shokri worked to procure many tons of carbon fiber from the U.S.; Pourghannad agreed to serve as the financial guarantor for large carbon fiber transactions; and Faridmanesh agreed to serve as the trans-shipper. Carbon fiber has a wide variety of uses, including in missiles, aerospace engineering, and gas centrifuges that enrich uranium. Pourghannad pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and was sentenced to a prison term of 20 years. Shokri and Faridmanesh remain at large.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/919/us-v-pourghannad>





June 2019, Washington, D.C.

A 34-count indictment returned on April 22, 2015 (unsealed on June 4, 2019), charges Iranian citizen and former resident of Turkey Peyman Amiri Larijani and a Turkish based company, Kral Havacilik IC VE DIS Ticaret Sirketi (Kral Aviation), with conspiracy to acquire U.S.-made aircraft parts and goods to supply to entities in Iran, to conceal from United States companies and the U.S. government that the U.S.-origin goods were destined for Iranian aviation business end users, to make financial profit for defendants and other conspirators, and to evade the regulations, prohibitions, and licensing requirements of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations (ITSR), and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR).

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/892/us-v-larijani>

March 2018, New York

Ali Sadr Hashemi Nejad ("Sadr") was arrested for his alleged involvement in a scheme to evade U.S. economic sanctions against Iran, to defraud the United States, and to commit money laundering and bank fraud. Sadr was charged with participating in a scheme in which more than \$115 million in payments for a Venezuelan housing complex were illegally funneled through the U.S. financial system for the benefit of Iranian individuals and entities.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/836/us-v-nejad-sadr>

March 2017, Washington, D.C.

Lebanese businessmen Kassim Tajideen was arrested and charged with evading U.S. sanctions imposed on him because of his financial support of Hizballah. He pleaded guilty to money laundering conspiracy in furtherance of violations of U.S. sanctions. According to the statement of facts signed by Tajideen in conjunction with his plea, Tajideen conspired with at least five other people to conduct over \$50 million in transactions with U.S. businesses that violated the sanctions. On Aug. 8, 2019, Tajideen was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to forfeit \$50 million for involvement in money laundering scheme involving the evasion of U.S. sanctions.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/788/us-v-tajideen>

March 2017, Washington, D.C.

Ghobad Ghasempour, a Canadian national, was sentenced to 42 months in prison for conspiracy to unlawfully export U.S. goods to Iran.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/850/us-v-ghasempour>





February 2017, Miami, FL

Ali Caby, a permanent U.S. resident living in Bulgaria, along with Miami residents Arash Caby and Marjan Caby, were indicted for allegedly exporting dual-use goods, that is, articles that have both civilian and military application. The dual-use goods were exported to Syrian Arab Airlines, the Syrian government's airline, which is an entity designated and blocked by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control for transporting weapons and ammunition to Syria in conjunction with Hizballah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Also charged in the indictment were Adib Zeno, Rizk Ali, Ammar Al Mounajed, Zhelyaz Andreev, Mihaela Nenova, Lyubka Hristova, Iskren Georgiev, Ivan Sergiev, and Syrian Arab Airlines, a/k/a "Syrian Air."

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/785/us-v-caby-et-al>

November 2016, New York

Mehmet Hakan Atilla was charged with conspiring with others, including Reza Zarrab, a/k/a "Riza Sarraf," to use the U.S. financial system to conduct transactions on behalf of the Iranian government and other Iranian entities, which were barred by United States sanctions, and to defraud U.S. financial institutions by concealing the true nature of these transactions. Atilla was sentenced to 32 months for conspiring to violate U.S. sanctions against Iran and other offenses. On Sept. 18, 2018, an immigration judge in New York granted a motion for Atilla's removal from the United States. He was ordered removed from the United States to Turkey. On July 23, 2019, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers removed Atilla.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/791/us-v-atilla>

September 2016, Columbus, OH

Behrooz Behroozian, of Columbus, was sentenced to 20 months in prison for illegally exporting goods to Iran. Behroozian was born in Iran in 1955 and entered the United States in 1976. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1987. According to the sentencing memorandum, Behroozian used an intermediary company, Sumar Industrial Equipment, to attempt to cover-up that he was illegally supplying industrial equipment to Iran in violation of the Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). Behroozian exported manifolds, valves and connectors used for industrial pipelines in the gas and oil refinement industry to Iran via Sumar and profited \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/990/us-v-behroozian>



December 2015, Minnesota

Iranian national Negar Ghodskani and other defendants were charged in a conspiracy to illegally export controlled technology from the United States to Iran. From 2008 until late 2011, Ghodskani was a Tehran-based employee of Fanavar Moj Khavar (Fana Moj), a company located in Tehran, Iran. In 2009, Ghodskani, along with co-defendant Alireza Jalali and others, established Green Wave Telecommunication, Sdn Bhn, (Green Wave), a company located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that operated as a front for Fana Moj. As part of the conspiracy, Ghodskani falsely represented herself as an employee of Green Wave to U.S. companies in order to acquire export-controlled technology from the United States. On Aug. 9, 2019, Ghodskani pleaded guilty for her participation in a conspiracy to illegally export controlled technology from the United States to Iran. She was sentenced to 27 months in prison for her participation in a conspiracy to facilitate the illegal export of controlled technology from the United States to Iran.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/956/us-v-ghodskani-et-al>

October 2014, New York

Ali Reza Parsa, a Canadian-Iranian dual citizen and resident of Canada, was sentenced to three years in prison for his participation in a conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations (ITSR).

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/752/us-v-parsa>

March 2014, Reston, VA

Vahid Hosseini was sentenced to 30 months in prison, followed by two years of supervised release, for exporting various high-tech unlicensed goods to Iran, in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and for laundering money wired to him from multiple overseas accounts. Hosseini agreed to forfeit \$50,000 as part of his guilty plea.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/670/us-v-hosseini>

November 2013, Staten Island, N.Y.

A federal jury convicted Arash Ghahreman of Staten Island, N.Y., of violations of U.S. export and money laundering laws, arising from his involvement in a scheme to purchase marine navigation equipment and military electronic equipment for illegal export and end-use in Iran. The evidence presented at trial showed that Ghahreman, a naturalized U.S. citizen and former





Iranian national, acted as an agent of an illegal Iranian procurement network which used a front company in Dubai to acquire U.S. goods and technologies for illegal transshipment to and end-use in Iran. Ghahreman's co-defendants were officials with the front company in Dubai called TIG Marine Engineering Services, also a defendant in the case. Koorush Taherkhani, an Iranian national and resident, was the managing director and founder of that front company. Ergun Yildiz, a German national and resident of UAE, was hired by Taherkhani to be the "face" of the front company.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/707/us-v-ghahreman-et-al>

August 2013, Parkville, MD

Ali Saboonchi, a resident of Parkville, MD, was convicted of conspiracy to export American manufactured industrial products and services to Iran.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/676/us-v-saboonchi>

August 2011, Newark, NJ

Ulrich Davis of The Netherlands was charged in a complaint of violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the Iranian Transactions Regulations. Davis allegedly conspired with others to export prohibited goods, including aircraft parts, peroxide, and other materials to Iran for use by its military.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/570/us-v-davis>

February 2011, Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury designated a multimillion-dollar procurement network that provided support to Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO), which oversees all of Iran's missile industries. Led by Milad Jafari, an Iranian national, the network used a series of companies in Iran and Turkey to procure metal products, including steel and aluminum alloys for AIO's subordinates. Between 2007 and late 2008, the network facilitated transactions valued at more than \$7 million for companies subordinate to AIO. Jafari was separately indicted for illegally exporting and attempting to export specialized metals from the United States through companies in Turkey to several entities in Iran, including some entities that have been sanctioned for involvement in ballistic missile activities.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/510/us-v-jafari>



June 2010, Greenbelt, MD

A federal grand jury indicted Nader Modanlo and five other individuals in Greenbelt, MD, on charges of conspiring to illegally provide satellite hardware and technology to Iran, in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and money laundering.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/473/us-v-modanlo-et-al>

June 2009, Miami, FL

Hassan Keshari, an Iranian-born naturalized U.S. citizen, was sentenced to 17 months in prison for conspiring to violate a U.S. embargo by providing Iran with military aircraft parts. His co-defendant Traian Bujduveanu was sentenced to 35 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/285/us-v-keshari>

January 2009, New York

In January 2009, Mahmoud Reza Banki, a management consultant for a major New York consulting firm, was charged with violating the Iran Trade Embargo and with operating an unlicensed money transfer business between the United States and Iran. According to the indictment, Banki, provided money transmitting services to residents of Iran by operating a "hawala," which is a type of informal value-transfer system in which money does not physically cross international boundaries through the banking system.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/466/us-v-banki>

Tax Evasion

July 2007, Detroit, MI

Detroit-area based Talal Khalil Chahine and his wife Elfat el Aouar were each charged with four counts of tax evasion. In subsequent indictments Chahine was also charged with extortion and citizenship fraud. The U.S. Attorney's Office filed documents stating that Talal Chahine has high-level connections to Hizballah.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/115/us-v-chahine-et-al>





Espionage

February 2019, Washington, D.C.

Monica Elfriede Witt, a former U.S. service member and counterintelligence agent, was charged with conspiracy to deliver and delivering national defense information to representatives of the Iranian government. Witt, who defected to Iran in 2013, is alleged to have assisted Iranian intelligence services in targeting her former fellow agents in the U.S. Intelligence Community (USIC). Witt is also alleged to have disclosed the code name and classified mission of a U.S. Department of Defense Special Access Program. An arrest warrant has been issued for Witt, who remains at large. Four Iranian cyber hackers are also charged with various computer crimes targeting members of the U.S. intelligence community who were Witt's former colleagues. The indictment was unsealed Feb. 13, 2019.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/885/us-v-witt>

December 2007, Detroit, MI

Samar Khalil Spinelli, a captain in the United States Marine Corps, conspired with former FBI agent and CIA employee Nada Nadim Prouty to commit citizenship fraud. Prouty pleaded guilty to charges of fraudulently obtaining U.S. citizenship, which she later used to gain employment at the FBI and CIA; and accessing a federal computer system to unlawfully query information about the terrorist organization Hizballah.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/254/us-v-prouty>

January 2014, Manchester, CT

Mozaffar Khazae, also known as "Arash Khazaie," formerly of Manchester, Connecticut, was arrested on a federal criminal complaint after he attempted to ship to Iran proprietary material relating to the U.S. Air Force's F35 Joint Strike Fighter program and military jet engines that he had stolen from defense contractors where he had been employed.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/658/us-v-khazae>



Civil Lawsuits

September 2018, Washington, D.C.

A federal judge in Washington D.C. ordered the Islamic Republic of Iran to pay \$104.7 million to victims of a June 1996 truck bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia that killed 19 U.S. military personnel.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/855/akins-et-al-v-islamic-republic-of-iran-et-al>

January 2017, Washington, D.C.

A U.S. District Court in Washington ordered the governments of Iran and Syria to pay nearly \$200 million to the family of an Israeli infant killed by a Hamas terrorist in a 2014 attack in Jerusalem. The Israeli NGO Shurat HaDin represented the family of dual Israeli-American citizen Chaya Zissel Braun, the three-month-old baby who was killed when Palestinian terrorist Abdel Rahman Shaludi rammed his vehicle into a crowd of people at the Ammunition Hill light-rail station in the capital. Israeli officials identified the perpetrator as a convicted terrorist who had previously served a prison sentence and had ties to Hamas.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/779/braun-v-iran>

August 2015, New York, N.Y.

Twenty American victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorist attacks in Israel sued to block Iran from gaining access to as much as \$150 billion in frozen assets as part of the agreement over Iran's nuclear weapons program. The sanctions relief strips victims of "their last remaining opportunity to pressure Iran to satisfy their judgments."

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/728/leibovitch-v-state-department-et-al>

December 2011, New York

A civil complaint filed by the U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York alleges a large scale, international scheme in which Lebanese financial institutions, including a bank and two exchange houses linked to Hizballah, used the U.S. financial system to launder narcotics trafficking and other criminal proceeds through West Africa and back into Lebanon. The lawsuit seeks more than \$480 million dollars from entities including Lebanese financial institutions that facilitated the Hizballah-linked money laundering scheme.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/605/us-v-lebanese-canadian-bank-sal-et-al>; and
<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/604/us-v-joumaa>



November 2010, Washington, D.C.

Mansour Moghtaderi Zadeh, an Iranian national, pleaded guilty to taking part in a conspiracy involving the purchase and shipment of various products, including aviation parts and supplies, from the U.S. to Iran without a license. Zadeh acknowledged that beginning in October 2005, Iranian companies requested that Zadeh through his company, Barsan Aero Chemicals, Ltd., procure products, including a fiber optic video transmitter and receiver, and aviation course indicators, which required a license from the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), to be exported to Iran. Members of the conspiracy arranged for the items to be sent from the U.S. to Iran, and Zadeh received a commission.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/770/us-v-zadeh>

November 2009, New York

The Manhattan U.S. Attorney filed an amended civil complaint seeking forfeiture of the Alavi Foundation's interest in a 36-story office tower located at 650 Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan (the "Building"). The Building is owned by 650 Fifth Avenue Company, a partnership between the Alavi Foundation and Assa Corporation. The original complaint, filed in December 2008 and amended November 2009, sought forfeiture of Assa Corporation's interest in the Building. The amended Complaint alleged that the Alavi Foundation provided numerous services to the Iranian Government and transferring funds from 650 Fifth Avenue Company to Bank Melli, a bank wholly owned and controlled by the Government of Iran.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/356/us-v-assa-corporation-et-al>

March 2008, Washington, D.C.

Lawsuit filed by Americans wounded in an attack by Hamas terrorists at the Ben Yehuda mall in Jerusalem in 1997. The plaintiffs won damages totaling \$423.5 million by showing that the bomb maker in the attack, Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, had been trained by Iranian agents.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/328/rubin-et-al-v-iran-et-al>

August 2007, Washington, D.C.

Aviation Services Company, a Dutch aviation services company based in the Netherlands, its director and sales manager pleaded guilty to federal charges related to a conspiracy to illegally export aircraft components and other items from the United States to entities in Iran via the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, and Cyprus.

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/349/us-v-aviation-services-international-et-al>