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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 06/16/2009

On 6/9/2009, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) previously identified, was interviewed. After being advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided the following information:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was shown a VA DMV photo (attachment #11) and positively identified the person in the photo as (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) first learned of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) in 1984 when he (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) resided in Stillwater, Oklahoma. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a student at Oklahoma State University during this time and had learned from others that Hanooti was one of the founders of the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP). At that time, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) traveled around the United States and gave speeches about Palestine. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had been trained as an Imam in Kuwait. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was very well known among the Muslim community in the United States and was known as a spokesperson for the Palestinians.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was the Imam at a large mosque in New Jersey from 1982 - 1984. In the 1990's, Hanooti moved and was the Imam at the Dar Al-Hijra mosque in Falls Church, Virginia.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) would speak about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and championed the Islamic solution to the crisis. Hanooti would explain the Islamic solution meant jihad against the occupation (or Israel). By using force, the Palestinians would force Israel to give rights back to the Palestinian people. As a result, the Palestinian's would win the struggle, refuse to recognize Israel, and thus Israel would be defeated.

Hamas was created in December of 1987. Shortly thereafter, it was decided there needed to be an event or events to bring United States Muslims together in order to raise money, awareness and support for the Hamas members and their families that were fighting the Jihad against Israel. Hamas was a young organization at the time and they wanted to win the hearts and minds of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians were viewed as the ammunition against the enemy according to the leadership of Hamas. This was the Islamic solution to Israel that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) espoused.

Investigation on <u>6/9/2009</u>	(b)(7)(E)
File # <u>(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)</u>	Date dictated <u>Not Dictated</u>
by <u>(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)</u>	

(b)(7)(E)

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(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

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After the speech from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) organized and assigned the attendees into specialized "groups", which were established as follows: Political, Media, Fund-Raising and Education. Each group would receive taskings from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and thus from HAMAS, that fit their particular function. In particular, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were assigned to the Political group. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was assigned to the Media group, along with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). The Palestine Committee members in attendance at this meeting were as follows: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

was unsure if (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was at this conference or the breakout meeting.

After 1993, the IAP had its own conferences separate from MAYA when the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood (i.e. the Palestine Committee which controlled the IAP, the UASR and the HLF), split from the overall U.S. Muslim Brotherhood (i.e. the Egyptians/Kuwaitis/Iraqis/Sudanese who were now officially the Muslim American Society (MAS), the MSA and ISNA). The main clash was between (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), representing the Palestinians, and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), who was representing the rest of the Muslim Brotherhood and MAYA. IAP wanted its own day within the MAYA conference, but MAYA resisted because they didn't want the Palestinians to collect money for their cause at the detriment of the Muslim Brotherhood's other activities and organizations in the U.S. The Egyptians wanted the stage and did not want to share it with the Palestinians.

In 1993, the MAYA conference was held in Detroit, Michigan. Some of the speakers at the conference were as follows: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), the Hamas spokesman from Lebanon; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), a Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas leader in Algeria; and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), an Iraqi Muslim Brotherhood leader (via the Islamic party in Iraq) who was later arrested in Dubai but was released and now resides in Iraq.

In 1993, there was also a meeting of the Palestine Committee in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not attend this meeting but later learned about it. The Oslo Peace Accords were going to result in a very difficult time for Hamas because the Oslo Accords fully supported Arafat and the PLO. This issue was addressed at the meeting in Philadelphia and one decision that was

(b)(7)(E)

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made as a result of the meeting was how to address the resistance from Hamas. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had been arrested, so (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were ranking leaders within Hamas at that point, so their decisions were very important. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was unsure if (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) or (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were present at the meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1994, MAYA held a conference in Chicago. During this conference, the Palestinian Committee held another private break out session, but (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was not invited. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) attended these conferences but did not recall anything specific about them.

The annual MAYA conference in 1995 was held in Houston, Texas. The MAYA conference was held in Chicago, Illinois in 1996. In 1997, there were three regional MAYA conferences. One was in Los Angeles, California, one in Chicago, Illinois, and the last in Kansas City, Missouri. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not attend any of the regional conferences in 1997.

Between 1997 and 1998 the IAP festivals began to slow down and were not as frequent. However, starting in 1997, the IAP starting holding regional conferences instead of one annual conference. The Holy Land Foundation was very active with the IAP between 1995 and 1998. Between 1996 and 1997 the MAYA conferences became less active, and by 1998, MAYA was defunct because the Muslim Brotherhood had other organizations in place by then to replace MAYA's mission, to include MAS, ISNA and the MSA.

In December of 1998, an IAP regional conference was held in Chicago, Illinois due to the heavy ethnic Palestinian population in Chicago which was a strong donor base for Hamas support. During this time period the IAP published a magazine under the name of Al-Zatonia. At this time, Al-Zatonia started criticizing CAIR for drifting away from the Palestinian cause for which they were designed to support. This began a rift between CAIR and the IAP. During this conference, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was elected the president of the IAP, and replaced the outgoing president, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who had been leading CAIR since its inception in 1994.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could not recall if (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) spoke at the IAP conferences in 1996, 1997 and 1998. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could not recall if Hanooti spoke at the same HLF conferences as well as the UASR during this time.