

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 #1) 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 resided in (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a student at (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 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 _____	

(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of

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

, On 6/9/2009

, Page 2

The IAP "festivals" championed the cause of Hamas exclusively after the 1st Intifada as the Islamic solution in Palestine as opposed to the secular and corrupt option of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) or the option of doing nothing. The Muslim Brotherhood, specifically its Palestinian wing Hamas, championed the Islamic solution, meaning jihad, as the only solution to the Palestinian/Israeli issue.

In November of 1988, the first of many Palestinian IAP "festivals" was held in New Jersey. (b)(6),(b)(7) was an Imam at one of the large mosques in New Jersey at the time. This festival was designed to provide the needed support for Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank. The message from the speeches and songs at this festival was all about Hamas. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) met (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for the first time at this festival.

The festival in New Jersey included dinner, music and a guest speaker. The guest speaker was (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) that was based in Jordan. The IAF was the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood. The IAF was pro-Hamas but in the end they were the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood. A band performed after dinner was served. One of the band members was (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). All of the music played by the band was pro-Hamas. Later in the evening, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) an Imam at a large mosque in New Jersey, collected money from the people that attended. The money collected was on behalf of the Occupied Land Fund (the original name of the Holy Land Foundation). It was unknown how much money was collected. (b)(6),(b)(7) did not speak at the festival but sat in the front row during the event. Shorbagi understood that as the ranking Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood Imam in the U.S., (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was essentially the spiritual leader of Hamas in the U.S. as a result.

After the festival concluded, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) invited (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and 50 to 60 other people to his private residence for a post festival party. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were among the people that went to Hanooti's house after the festival. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had a lengthy discussion on the idea of using music as a tool in Islam. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) thought that the use of instruments was permissible in Islam. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) disagreed, stating that Islam forbade the use of instruments and that Allah only permitted man to use his own voice, which was given to him by Allah. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) believed instruments were permissible because it wasn't the instruments that were important, but rather the words used in the music that was important.

(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of

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

. On 6/9/2009

. Page 3

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) shared with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) at the dinner, that he authorized "Islamic" marriages at both his mosques or at his private residence. These marriages were certified in accordance with Islamic law, but were not authorized by U.S. or state law. Specifically, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) would certify the marriage of a Muslim man whom (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) knew was already legally married in the U.S. or elsewhere to another Muslim woman. (b)(6),(b)(7) told (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) that in the name of Islam, he, as an Imam, was allowed to marry multiple women to one man because that was permissible according to Sharia law. (b)(6),(b)(7) knew that this was the practice of polygamy, which was forbidden in the U.S.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was president of the IAP from 1983-1985. It is unknown who replaced Hanooti as president in 1986 but (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) became the president in 1987. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) first learned of the existence of the Palestine Committee in 1991. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was one of the founders of the Palestine Committee of the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States. The Palestine Committee was created by the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood around 1985 before Hamas was created. At one point, the leader of the Palestine Committee in the 1980s was (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7) would soon thereafter become a Hamas leader in the U.S. and is still a Hamas leader now, but he resides in the Middle East.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was living in Colorado during the mid-1980s as a student, but later moved to Louisiana where he took over as leader of the Palestine Committee. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was unsure when (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) took this position. In 1987, after the 1st Intifada, everything in the U.S. focused on the Palestinian cause. This is when the Palestine Committee was fully enabled and became the champion for Hamas. The Committee focused on information, education and fund raising. This was important because Hamas was fighting against both the PLO and the Israelis in Palestine.

Members of the Palestine Committee worked strategically to enable Hamas as the leader of the Palestine people. The Palestine Committee was created to support the Islamic cause in Palestine. However, other Islamist groups existed, such as Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah. However, they were Shia and were supported by Iran. Rather, the Palestine Committee only supported Hamas, which was Sunni and supported by the Muslim Brotherhood, as the Islamic solution in Palestine because Hamas was doing all of the work and was suffering all the casualties as a result. This is why they all worked for Hamas. Hamas was the only recognized Islamic establishment they could support.

(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of

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

, On 6/9/2009

, Page 4

The Muslim Student Association (MSA), Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and the IAP were all part of the Muslim Brotherhood establishment in the U.S. in the late 1980s, and all were relatively public in the Muslim community as such. The Palestine Committee was the secret component of the Muslim Brotherhood that was specifically designed to support Hamas.

During this time, between 1985 and 1988, the IAP held the "Day of Palestine" component within the MUSLIM ARAB YOUTH ASSOCIATION (MAYA) conferences. This "Day of Palestine" would sometimes have meetings/events at area universities and would be carried under the MSA. They would also be held at area Islamic centers with the blessing from the Islamic center leadership. The IAP would put up pictures, posters, and play recorded videos and speeches in order to bring attention to the occupation in Palestine. Sometimes there would be dinners at these locations with a speech, after which donations would be collected. The locations of these events would depend on how active the Palestinian community was in certain areas of the country.

Between October and November of 1988, the IAP held its first independent conferences all around the United States. This was the first time the IAP held its own conference in lieu of having the "Day of Palestine" session within the annual MAYA conference held in December. All of the leaders of the Palestine Committee would attend both conferences (the IAP and MAYA), because most of its leaders were involved with both organizations: MAYA as the Muslim Brotherhood, and IAP (via the Palestine Committee) as Hamas. For example, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were all leaders within both MAYA and the Palestine Committee at this time.

In December of 1989, MAYA held its annual convention in Kansas City, Missouri. (Note: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was shown a video of an IAP conference which (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) positively identified the video as the 1989 conference in Kansas City and confirmed that he was present at the conference) By this point, Hanooti was considered a public figure and a heavyweight advisor. Hanooti was able to organize an IAP conference for one day following the MAYA conference in Kansas City. It was a way to bootstrap off of the MAYA conference and carry the momentum since many Muslims were in town for the MAYA conference. These conferences provided a platform for guest speakers to come in from outside of the U.S. All of the speeches were in support of Hamas. The guest speakers in attendance at this convention were as follows: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a Muslim Brotherhood

(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) , On 6/9/2009 , Page 5

leader in Lebanon; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a Hamas leader in Jordan who runs a think tank in Amman; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) an Imam for the Muslim Brotherhood in Kuwait; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a Muslim Brotherhood leader from Jordan; and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the head of the Islamic University in Gaza who was appointed as the head of Hamas in Yemen. This was an important conference because (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had been assassinated earlier in the year.

Some of the key individuals from the Palestine Committee that were present during this convention were as follows: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

In December of 1990, the MAYA conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not attend this conference but later learned that the guest speakers were (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) from the IAF in Jordan as well as (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) from the Muslim Brotherhood in Kuwait. The majority of this conference was about Kuwait because Saddam Hussein had just invaded the country. There were approximately 600,000 Palestinians living in Kuwait at the time and Saddam's attack was very bad for Hamas. Specifically, Kuwait was a place that allowed the Muslim Brotherhood, to include Hamas' leadership, a platform to intellectually argue (via think tanks and publications) their position against Israel as well as receive financial support from the Kuwaiti government and elsewhere outside of the territories. Since Saddam's forces had invaded the country, as much as 98% of the Palestinians living in Kuwait left the country and went to Jordan. Saddam did not support Islamists, and thus some of the Hamas leaders that used to live in Kuwait prior to Saddam's invasion were displaced. Some of those leaders were as follows: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
(b)(6),(b)

In December of 1991, the MAYA conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could not remember the names of the featured speakers. This was the first time that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) held a private meeting with the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood members of the Palestine Committee outside of the main MAYA conference. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) stated in the private meeting that Hamas will be a major player in the Middle East. Hamas had been around for four years and the Israelis had arrested many of the group's leaders. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) stated that by conducting jihad, meaning military attacks against Israelis, Hamas will strengthen. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) argued that Hamas needed political momentum as well as "action on the

(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) , On 6/9/2009 , Page 6

ground", which meant military actions. He argued this would result in Hamas becoming a major player in the Middle East. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reported the Iranians had offered Hamas a television station to use and to base its headquarters in Tehran, but Hamas turned the offer down. Hamas turned it down because Iran was Shia and Hamas was Sunni and more importantly Hamas did not want to feel like they were controlled by the Iranians. The only solution was Hamas and not the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and/or the Iranians. To the best of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)'s recollection, the individuals present in this meeting were as follows: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

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

In 1992, the MAYA conference was held again in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The primary topic of discussion at the conference was the recent deportation of over 400 Hamas members by Israel. Approximately 95% of these Hamas members were Hamas leaders. Nabil Sadoun was the president over the MAYA conference at this time. Sadoun provided the Jumaa (Friday) prayer and led the discussion about the deportations. Later that evening, the leaders of the conference played a video of the deportees that included (b)(6),(b)(7) who was a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Lebanon. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sent overseas to record the video and provided blankets to the deportees and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on behalf of the Holy Land Foundation. It was a very emotional video that had an impact on those in attendance. After the video, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) asked for and collected donations from those in attendance on behalf of the Holy Land Foundation. The money collected was for the family members of the Hamas leaders. One of the guest speakers at the conference was (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who, at the time, was a leader within the IAF in Jordan. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is a very well known leader among the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) spoke about the Muslim Brotherhood's struggle against Israel in the 1940's and 1950's.

During the MAYA conference in 1992, the Palestine Committee again held a meeting and organized itself in breakout sessions. During this meeting, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a Hamas leader based in Amman, Jordan at the time, spoke to the members of the Palestine Committee along with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (b)(6),(b)(7) gave the group updates on HAMAS' activities in the territories and stressed to the group that Hamas needed further support from the U.S. Palestine Committee.

(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) , On 6/9/2009 , Page 7

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)

Continuation of FD-302 of

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

On 6/9/2009

Page 8

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.

(b)(2),(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of

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

On 6/9/2009

Page 9

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was unsure if (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) spoke at the IAP conference entitled, "50 years of Disaster" in Patterson, New Jersey. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could not recall if (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) co-chaired a conference with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) in New Jersey to rally U.S. Muslims to join the Jihad in Afghanistan in the late 1980s.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) fully supported the HLF and the IAP as well as allowed, blessed, encouraged and supported all of the leaders within these organizations to raise awareness and money in support of Hamas. There was never a question that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) fully understood the activities of these organizations and that money raised would go directly to Hamas and Hamas affiliates. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was involved with this from the early 1980's through the late 1990's. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) allowed and supported these organizations to come into the very mosque in which he led to conduct this activity and encouraged the Muslim community to financially support Hamas because it was the only Islamic solution to the Palestinian cause.

The first time (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could recall meeting (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was in 1993 at the MAYA conference in Detroit, Michigan. (b)(6) was standing next to an IAP booth. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) heard from others that (b)(6),(b)(7) worked for the IAP starting in 1991. The IAP's only purpose was to support Hamas through media work. (b)(6),(b)(7)'s job within the IAP was to work for and support Hamas and nothing else. (b)(6),(b)(7) was higher within the leadership than (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) so their personal interactions were limited.

During the next year's MAYA conference that was held in Chicago in 1994, the Palestine Committee organized breakout groups to discuss the support for Hamas. (b)(6),(b)(7) was present and assigned to the political group with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7) was brought to work in Washington, D.C. from Dallas, Texas by the IAP in order to educate and inform U.S. political leaders about the Palestinian cause. His job was to influence the leaders of the U.S. government in favor of the Palestinian cause. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) head of the IAP in Dallas, Texas, told (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) that (b)(6),(b)(7) went to Washington, D.C. for the IAP in order to represent Hamas. Shortly thereafter, (b)(6),(b)(7) had another plan for (b)(6),(b)(7) which was to be in charge of the Council on American and Islamic Relations (CAIR). It was known in the community that CAIR was under or influenced by the IAP because its (CAIR) leadership had come from the IAP.

Later in 1994 or 1995, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) moved to Atlanta and invited (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to visit his mosque and speak to the community on how

(b)(7)(E)

Continuation of FD-302 of

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

. On 6/9/2009

. Page 10

to deal with an FBI agent. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) never made the trip. Overall, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has had limited contact with Awad.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was shown a VA DMV photo (attachment #2), and positively identified the person in the photo as (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(2) appointed (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to the #3 position at the IAP in the 1990s and Abu Sharkh was a board member of IAP as a result. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was very close with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) official position was with the IAP but he simultaneously worked equally as hard with the HLF raising money. Both organizations were one in the same, meaning they worked together in unison for the same cause, to support Hamas. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was an organizer for the IAP conventions and was responsible for helping to bring in guest speakers for the programs.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) worked at Light Star Travel with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was in charge of the Hajj program within Light Star. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were in charge of the Dar El-Eiman office that is headquartered in Saudi Arabia. Both individuals started out as Light Star, but later merged Light Star into Dar El-Eiman.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could not recall if (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) ever worked for MAS. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not know (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to go by the name (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), nor did (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) know anyone by the name (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was shown a VA DMV photo (attachment #3), and positively identified the person in the photo as (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is a prominent Palestinian medical doctor. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) only recalled meeting (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) one time, in 1999, during a HLF "mini conference" held in Dallas, Texas. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) gave a speech in support of his library project in Hebron (West Bank). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a board member of the HLF at the time.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was shown a VA DMV photo (attachment #4) of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not recognize the individual in the photo.