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# Counterterrorism Investigations and Operations (CTIOPS) Course

# A TERRORISM CONSPIRACY IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

## A CASE STUDY OF FBI-CLEVELAND'S INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF MOHAMMAD AMAWI AND HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS

June 21, 2011

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SA [redacted] SA [redacted]

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# OVERVIEW

- Initiated as Intelligence Investigation
- Evolved into a Criminal Matter
- Concurrently involved:

(S) [redacted]

- CHS reporting

(S) - [redacted] Consensual Recordings

(S) - Joint Operations with the [redacted]

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- Rendition with the assistance of [redacted]

- Trial Preparation & Successful Prosecution

# "THE TRAINER"

- Formerly in the U.S. Military Special Forces.
- "Converted" to Islam in 2001.
- Sought out by defendants to carry forward plans of waging Jihad.
- Relied upon as a trusted co-conspirator.

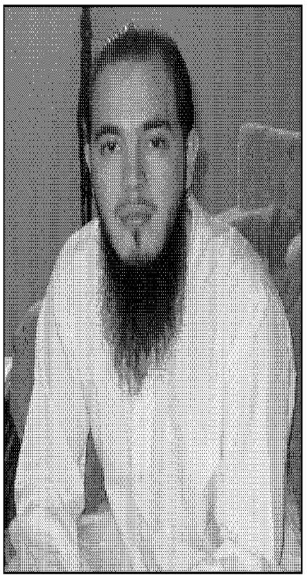
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# A TRANSFORMATION



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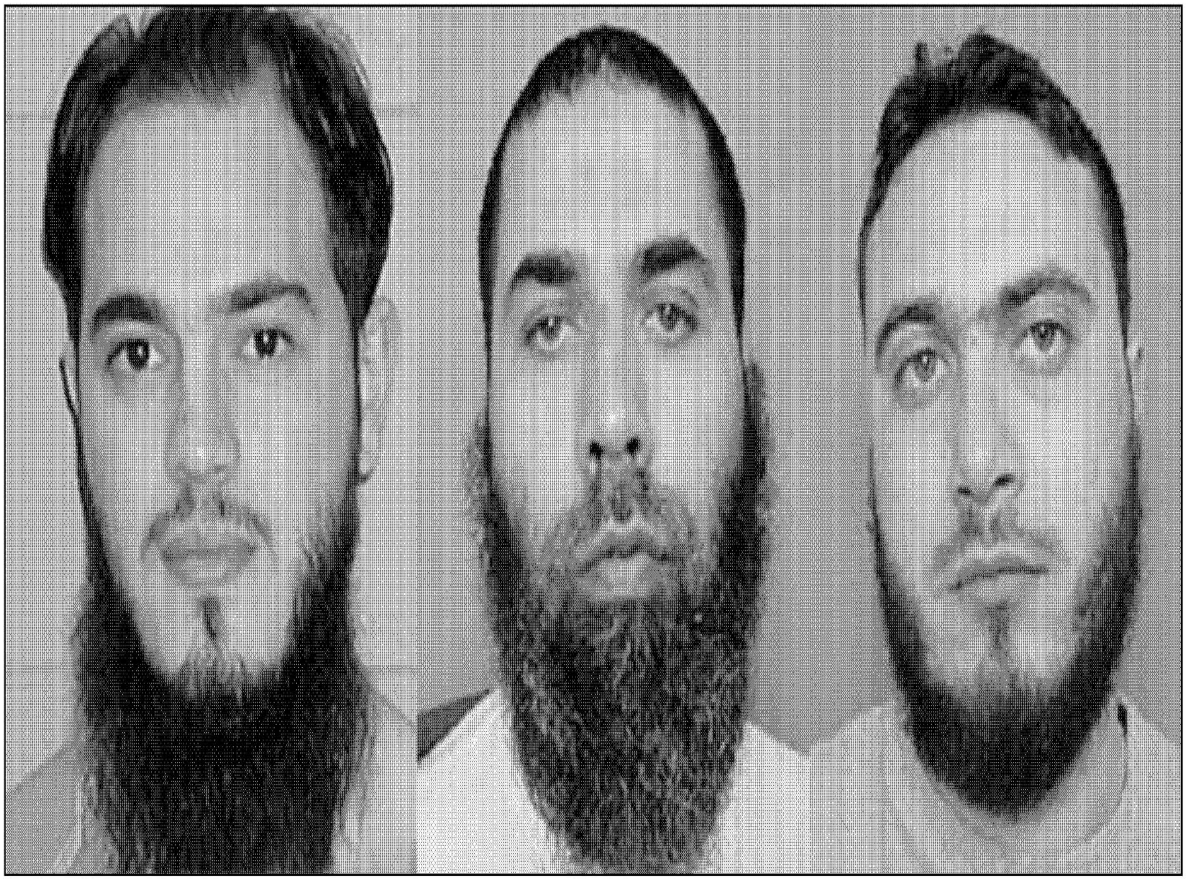
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# A CELL EMERGES





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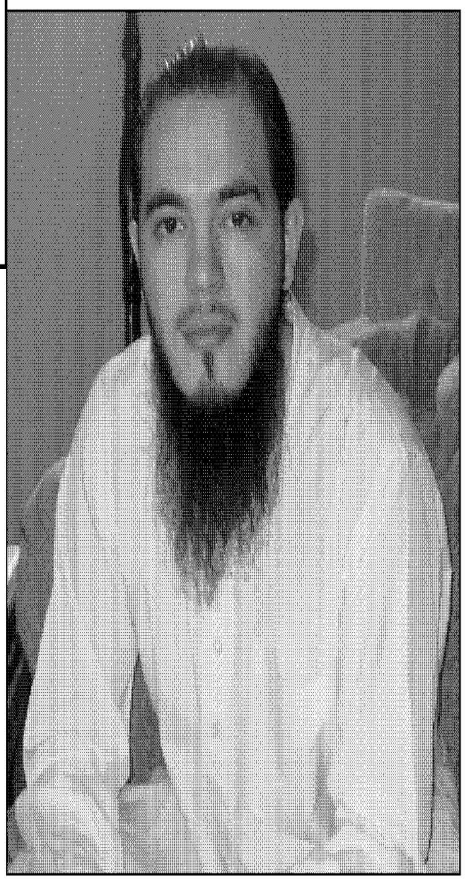
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# INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

- PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE:

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- HUMAN SOURCES
- COOPERATION OF
- COOPERATION OF
- NSL & Grand Jury Subpoenas

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# CONSENSUAL RECORDINGS

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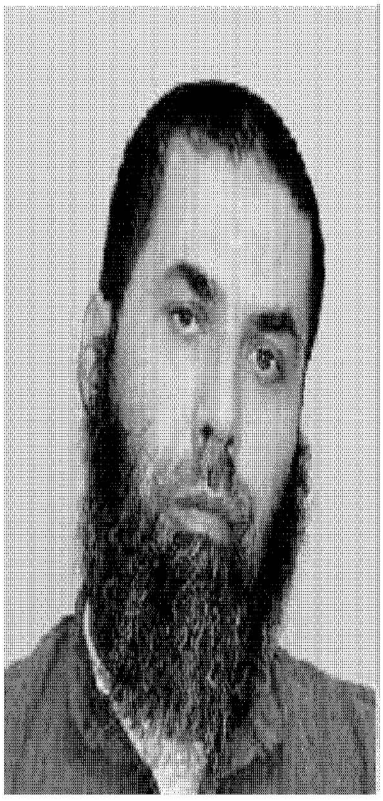
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# CONSENSUAL RECORDINGS

Marwan El-Hindi 10/08/2004

[redacted]



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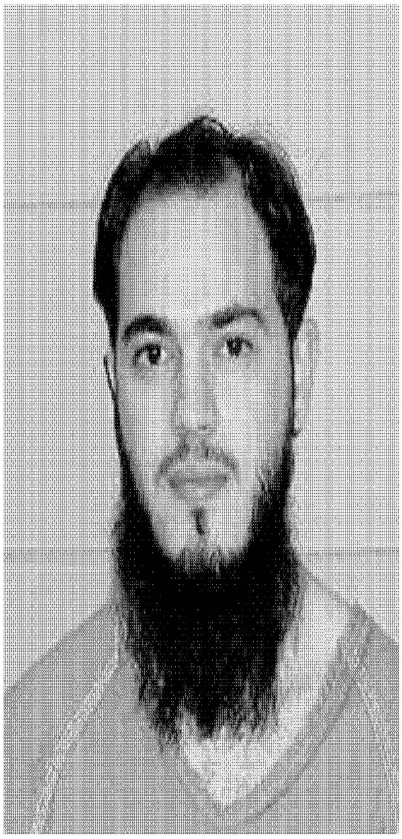
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# CONSENSUAL RECORDINGS

Mohammed Amawi 12/13/2004



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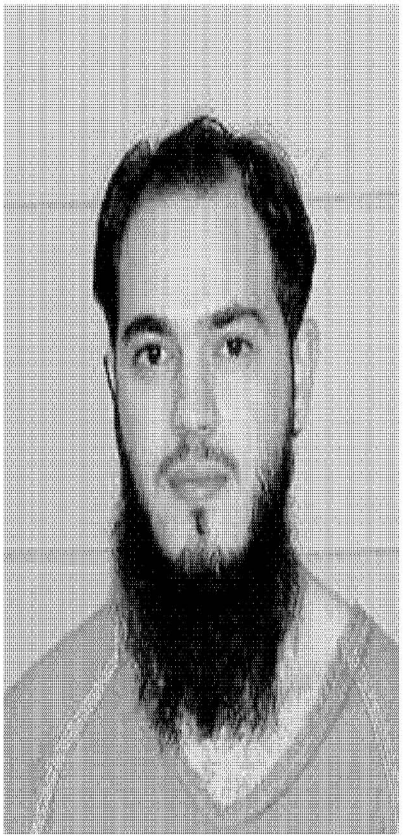
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# CONSENSUAL RECORDINGS

Mohammed Amawi 12/13/2004



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## Counterterrorism Division

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# CONSENSUAL RECORDINGS

April 13, 2005

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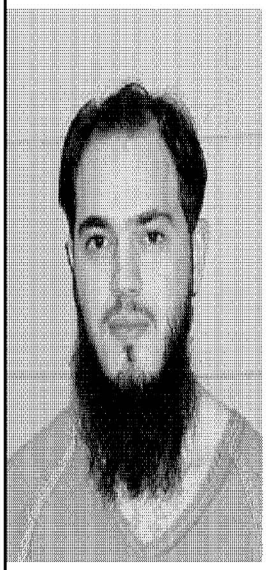
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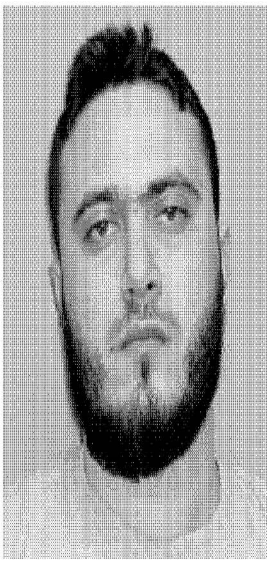
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# CONSENSUAL RECORDINGS





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# CONSENSUAL RECORDINGS

April 20, 2005

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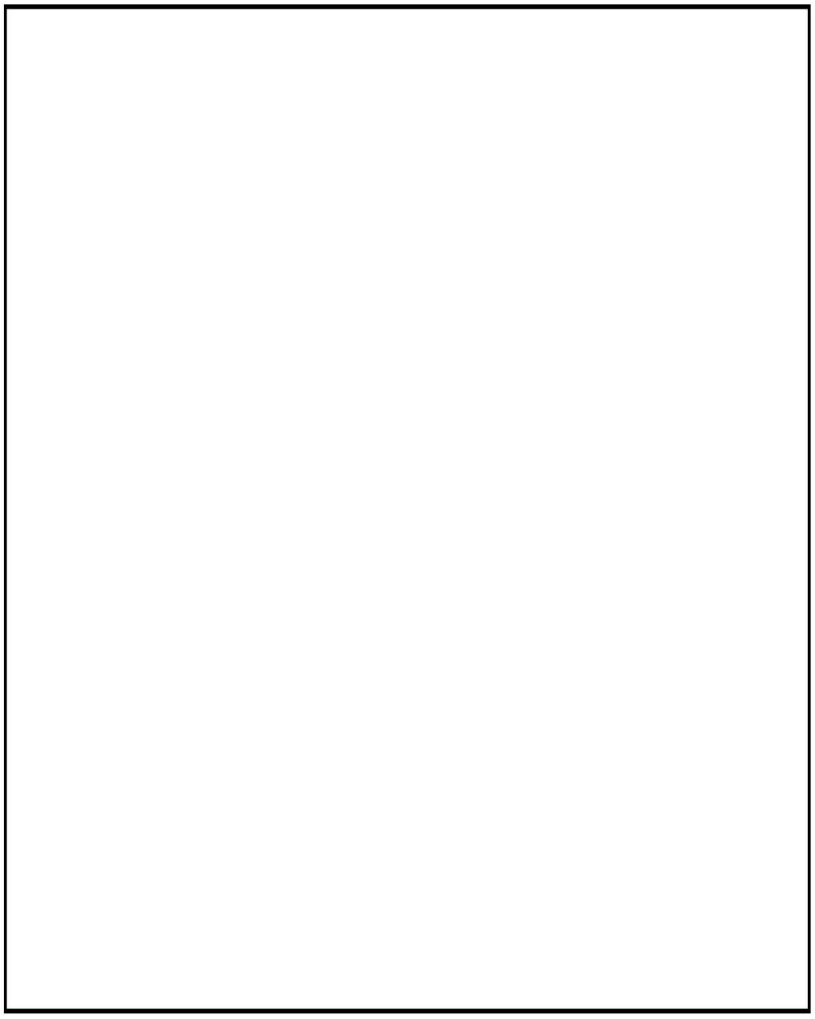
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# VIRTUAL JIHAD



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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## Counterterrorism Division

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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## Counterterrorism Division

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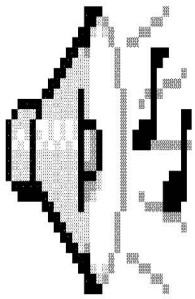
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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## Counterterrorism Division

# CHS Reporting – April 7, 2005



April 6, 2005

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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## Counterterrorism Division

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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## Counterterrorism Division

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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

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## Counterterrorism Division

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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## Counterterrorism Division

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## Counterterrorism Division

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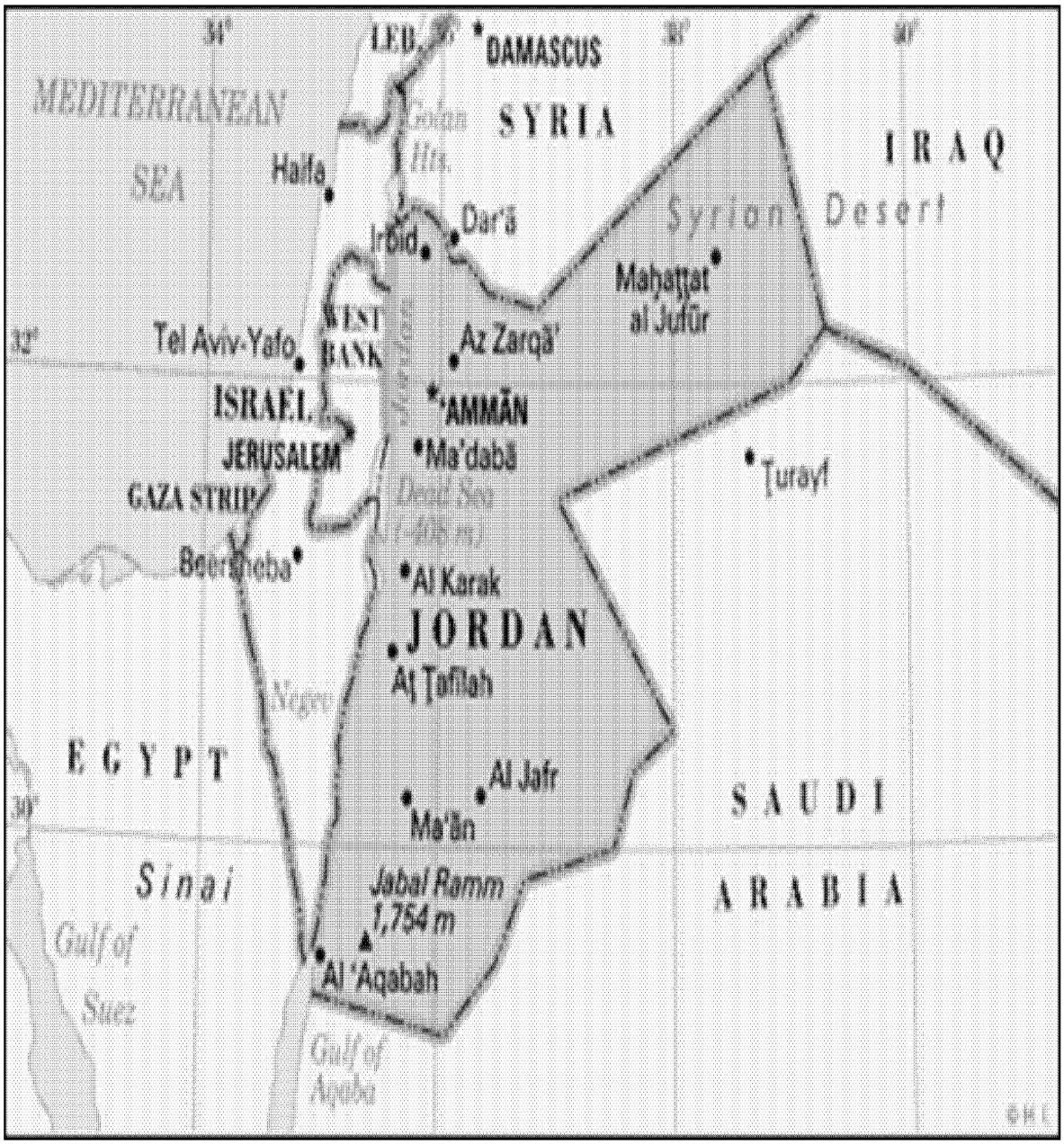
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# DECISION TIME

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## CTIOPS

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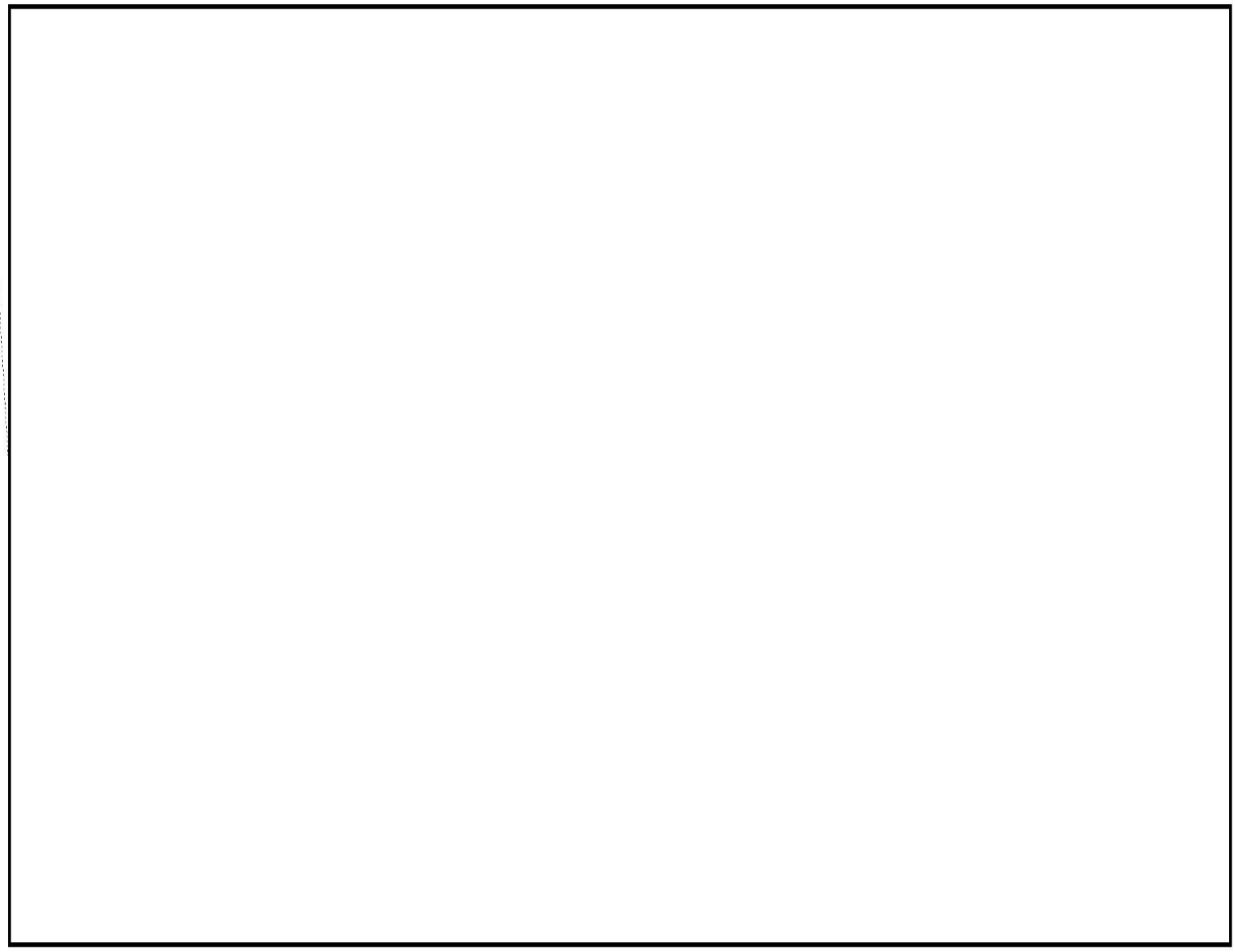


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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## CTIOPS

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# AMAWI'S RENDITION

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# AMAWI'S RENDITION

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# AMAWI'S RENDITION

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FEBRUARY 19TH 2006

# AMAWI IS ARRESTED IN JORDAN

- [redacted]

[redacted]

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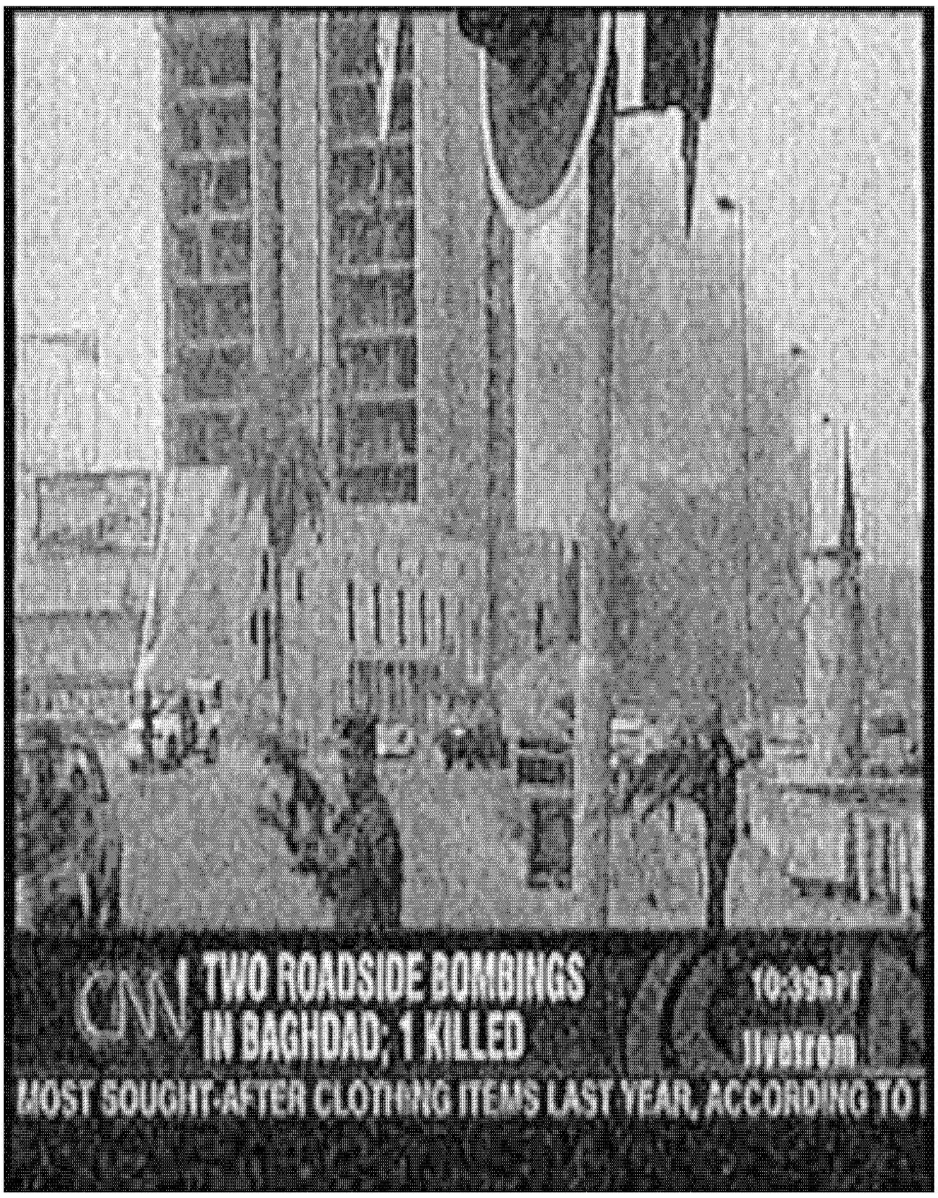
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# AMAWI ARREST




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# OFFENSES

Conspired to murder persons outside the U.S.

Distributed information on constructing a suicide bomb vests.

Conspired to provide computers to violent Islamic radicals in Syria.

Attempts to obtain the chemical ASTROLITE for a "brother" in Syria.

Threatens the life of the President of the United States.

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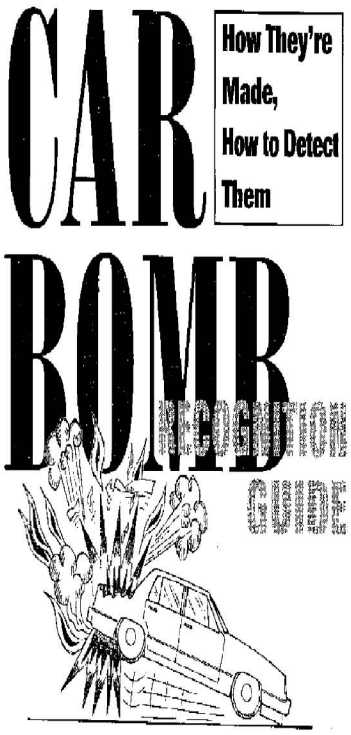
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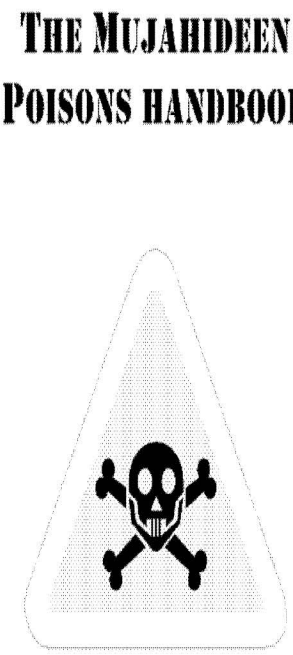
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"World class" library of Jihadist materials.

[redacted]

# CART EXAMINATION




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[redacted]

~~SECRET~~//NOFORN [redacted] b1 b7E

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# CART Exam of Seized Computers

[redacted]

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(S) ~~SECRET~~//NOFORN, [redacted]

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# TRIAL PREP

- Transcripts/Translations

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- Searches of seized computers

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• [redacted]

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# TRIAL COMPLEXITIES

- Suppression hearings
  - On-board interview
- Expert witnesses
  - Jihadist Use of the Internet
  - Language Services
  - CART Examiner
  - Explosives Expert

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# TRIAL COMPLEXITIES

- CIPA ISSUES

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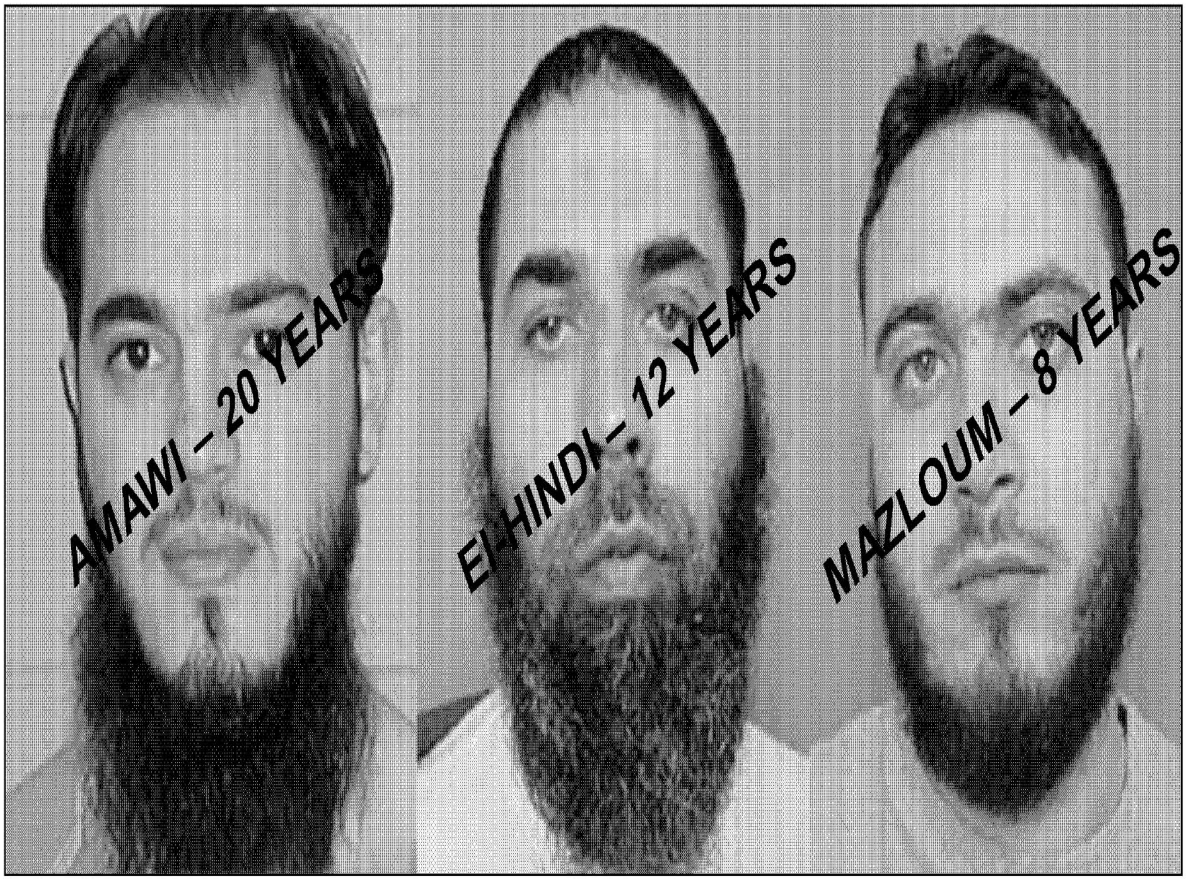
(S) – Participation of [redacted]

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(S) – Participation of [redacted]

– [redacted]

# SENTENCES



# SENTENCES

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# OVERCOMING OBSTACLES



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# Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

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[redacted] **USED BY SUBJECT**

[redacted]

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# LESSONS LEARNED

[redacted]

- Ongoing [redacted] b7E
- Use of [redacted]

[redacted]

- Case organization - [redacted]

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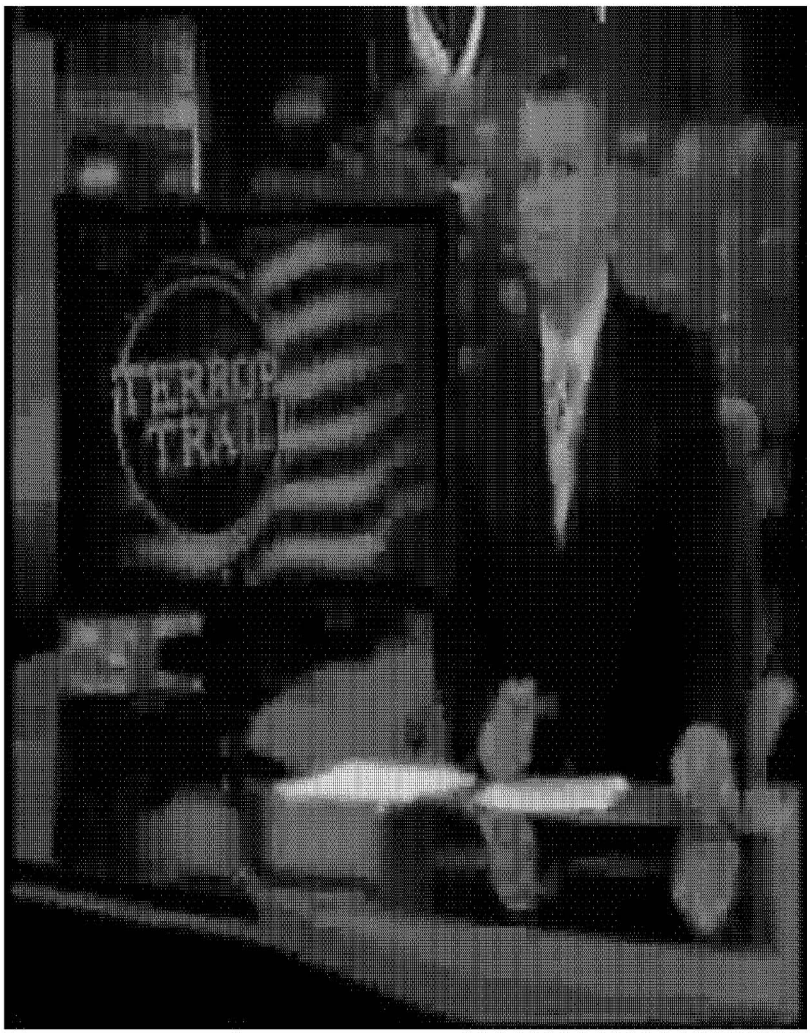
# CASE TIMELINE

| | |
|---|---|
| September 2001 | CHS begins working with FBI Toledo |
| August 2002 | El-Hindi comes to the attention of the FBI Toledo |
| July 2004 | Amawi investigation opened |
| February 2006 | Amawi et al arrested |
| February 2007 | Ahmeds arrested |
| January 2008 | Amawi et al trial begins |
| June 2008 | Amawi et al convicted |
| January 2009 | Ahmeds plea |
| October 2009 | Amawi et al sentenced |
| July 2010 | Ahmeds sentenced |
| February 2026 | Amawi investigation re-opens??? |

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# THE MEDIA GETS IT RIGHT (FOR ONCE)



"Often difficult decisions need to be made on the basis of intelligence which is fragmentary and difficult to interpret...some is gold, some dross and all of it requires validation, analysis and assessment.

**When it is gold it shines and illuminates, saves lives, protects nations and informs policy."**

- Dame **Eliza Manningham-Buller**, *Former* Director General, MI5

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# Counterterrorism Investigations and Operations (CTIOPS) Course

# Best Wishes for a Productive Career.

SSRA [redacted] Cleveland/Toledo RA, [redacted]

SA [redacted] Cleveland/Toledo RA, [redacted]

SA [redacted] WFO, [redacted]

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