

CASE STUDY

FAISAL SHAHZAD



Case Study: Faisal Shahzad

On May 1, 2010, Faisal Shahzad parked an SUV containing an improvised explosive device in Times Square. Although the device failed to detonate as intended, Shahzad did succeed in delivering his payload to the crowded location and was nearly airborne on a flight out of the country before he was arrested. He has admitted connections to the Pakistani Taliban and has been unrepentant about his intention to kill large numbers of Americans. Shahzad pled guilty to 10 charges, including attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, and has been sentenced to life in prison.

Shahzad was born in Pakistan in 1979 into a relatively privileged family. He entered the United States on a student visa in 1999, earning a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering, and an MBA. A Connecticut financial marketing company employed him, but he resigned in mid-2009. Shahzad gained US citizenship in April 2009.

While building his life in the United States, Shahzad reportedly returned to Pakistan and gained the trust of members of the Pakistani Taliban, including its leader, Hakimullah Mehsud. Authorities believe he trained with the terrorist organization and learned the craft of bombmaking. He followed the teachings of former al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula operational leader Anwar al-Aulaqi justifying civilian attacks against American targets. US military action in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan deepened his hatred of America. He believed the worldwide Muslim community was under attack from the West.

In 2009, Shahzad's behavior suggested an acceleration of his operational planning. He moved his wife and children to Pakistan. He asked his father for permission to fight in Afghanistan; his father refused. Shahzad's friends recalled that he experienced a conservative religious shift and began to criticize the use of alcohol. By the time of the Times Square attack, Shahzad had suffered a foreclosure of his primary residence, was unemployed, and was bankrupt.

http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/s/faisal_shahzad/index.html?scp=1-spot&sq=faisal%20shahzad&st=cse
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/05/04/national/main6459360.shtml>

HOME PAGE TODAY'S PAPER VIDEO MOST POPULAR TIMES TOPICS

The New York Times

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Times Topics

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION

Faisal Shahzad



Reuters

Updated: Oct. 5, 2010

Faisal Shahzad is a naturalized American citizen from Pakistan who tried to detonate a crude car bomb in Times Square on the night of May 1, 2010.

The bomb fizzled and passers-by quickly alerted the police, who disarmed the device. Just over 48 hours later, Mr. Shahzad was

arrested aboard an Emirates Airways flight to Dubai that had just pulled away from a gate at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Mr. Shahzad was indicted on June 17 by a federal grand jury in Manhattan. He was charged with 10 counts, including attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. On June 21, he pleaded guilty on all counts. He provided new details about his training with the Pakistani Taliban, saying he had five days of instruction in explosives and translated a bomb-making manual from Urdu to English. On Oct. 5, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Remaining defiant, and smirking as the sentence was read, he told the court: "Brace yourselves, because the war with Muslims has just begun."

FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

A court filing by federal prosecutors in New York on September 29, 2010, revealed new details about Mr. Shahzad's communication with his backers immediately following his failed bombing attempt. He contacted the Pakistani Taliban via computer, telling one of his handlers what he had done.

Mr. Shahzad later told the authorities that he believed that the attack on May 1 would kill at least 40 people, having monitored his target for three months through live video feeds on the Internet, to determine which areas drew the largest crowds and when they would be busiest, the prosecutors said. Mr. Shahzad's goal was to "maximize the deadly effect of his bomb," the United States attorney in Manhattan, [Preet Bharara](#), told a judge in a court filing.

Mr. Bharara's office also revealed that Mr. Shahzad told the authorities after his arrest on May 3 that he planned to detonate a second bomb in New York City two weeks later, and was prepared to conduct more attacks until he was captured or killed.

The original indictment says that Tehrik-i-Taliban, the umbrella organization for the Pakistani Taliban, helped Mr. Shahzad, a United States citizen. In December 2009, Mr. Shahzad received explosives training in Waziristan, Pakistan, from trainers affiliated with Tehrik-i-Taliban, according to the indictment.

In a video on May 2, the group claimed responsibility for the [attempted bombing](#).

The indictment says Mr. Shahzad received about \$5,000 in cash in Massachusetts on Feb. 25 from an unidentified co-conspirator who Mr. Shahzad "understood worked for Tehrik-i-Taliban." It said the same co-conspirator directed a second payment to Mr. Shahzad, of \$7,000 on April 10; Mr. Shahzad then bought a weapon, material to make the car bomb and a used S.U.V.

A Privileged Upbringing in Pakistan

According to federal law enforcement officials, Mr. Shahzad entered the United States on an F-1 student visa in January 1999. At that time, one official said, the authorities ran a criminal background check but found nothing suspicious.

In nearly a dozen years in this country, Mr. Shahzad had gone to school, held steady jobs, bought and sold real estate, and kept his [immigration](#) status in good order, giving no sign to those he interacted with that he had connections to terrorists in Pakistan.

Multimedia



Government's Controlled Detonation Test

Prosecutors released a video of a controlled detonation by the Joint Terrorism Task Force of a bomb built to be what Faisal Shahzad intended.



Taliban Video of Faisal Shahzad

The government made public a video produced by the Taliban in which Faisal Shahzad appears.



Yet Mr. Shahzad apparently went back and forth to Pakistan 13 times in seven years, returning most recently in February after what he said was five months visiting his family, prosecutors said. A Pakistani intelligence official said the suspect had traveled with three passports, two from Pakistan and one from the United States; he last secured a Pakistani passport in 2000, describing his nationality as "Kashmiri."

Mr. Shahzad was born and in Pakistan in 1979, with a privileged upbringing in a moderate family that lived in at least three places — Karachi, Rawalpindi and Mohib Banda. Officials in Pakistan said his birthplace was in Nowshera, an area in northern Pakistan known for its Afghan refugee camps.

His father is Bahar ul-Haq, a retired high-ranking air force pilot in Pakistan. Mr. Haq, now in his 70s, is believed to be hiding in the city of Dera Ghazi Khan in western Pakistan, where the family has wheat fields. The whereabouts of Mr. Shahzad's wife, also believed to be in Pakistan, is unknown. Dawn, a Pakistani daily, reported that her father had been arrested in Karachi, but Pakistani authorities would not confirm that.

Mr. Shahzad, the youngest of four, was born into a new generation in the years after a military autocrat, Zia ul-Haq, began to inject a rigid version of Islam into Pakistan's education system. At the same time, hard-line mosques were given money and land, elevating a narrow, often sectarian world view that cast a pall over young Pakistanis.

SAME SCRIPT

Losing the Media War in Pakistan

The Pakistani media boom is propelling anti-American conspiracy theories, with the Times Square bomb as the latest example. The United States is doing virtually nothing to counter the trend.



Security Tour of Times Square

A former Secret Service agent gives a tour of Times Square in the aftermath of the failed car bombing.

A New Country and an Arranged Marriage

Based on documents discarded outside his house in Shelton, Conn., where he lived until early 2010, and found by The Times, the suspect appears to have attended a university program in Pakistan that was affiliated with the University of Bridgeport starting in 1997. A résumé said he was studying for a bachelor of science degree with "specialization in finance." He said he spoke Urdu, English and Pashto and liked to work on computers, play sports and "talk to people from different backgrounds."

He also attended a program in Karachi affiliated with the now-defunct Southeastern University in Washington. A transcript for the spring of 1998 showed that he earned D's in English composition and microeconomics, B's in Introduction to Accounting and Introduction to Humanities, and a C in statistics. In 2000, he enrolled at the University of Bridgeport, where he received a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering, followed in 2005 by a master's in business administration.

In January 2002, the authorities said, Mr. Shahzad got an H1-B visa for skilled workers. Records show that Elizabeth Arden, the cosmetics giant, applied for a visa for Mr. Shahzad; he worked there as a temporary clerk in the accounting department in 2001, through an employment agency called Accountants Inc., according to a timecard found in his trash.

In an arranged marriage in 2004, Mr. Shahzad wed Huma Mian, a



A Visit to Faisal Shahzad's Village

Adam B. Ellick visits the family village in Pakistan of the Times Square bomb suspect, where relatives discuss his upbringing and dismiss claims of his involvement in the bombing attempt as an American plot to justify the Afghan war.

FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

Pakistani-American who had just graduated from the [University of Colorado](#) at Boulder with a business degree, according to Bronson Hilliard, a university spokesman. Her parents lived in the Denver suburb of Aurora. The Mians moved out in 2008, leaving a post office box overseas as a forwarding address.

Mr. Shahzad, who was granted a green card in January 2006, became a naturalized citizen in Bridgeport on April 17, 2009. The couple moved into a house in Shelton, Conn., for about three years. They had two young children, a girl and a boy, said a neighbor, Brenda Thurman.

The Shahzads tried to cash in on the real estate boom, listing it for sale for \$329,000 in 2006. It did not sell, said Frank DelVecchio, an agent who picked up the listing in 2008. The price then was \$299,000. Later it was marked down to \$285,000, and finally, \$284,500.

People who knew them, both in Connecticut and in [Pakistan](#), said Mr. Shahzad had changed since 2009 and perhaps before, becoming more reserved and more religious as he faced what someone who knows the family well called "their financial troubles."

People who knew them, both in Connecticut and in [Pakistan](#), said Mr. Shahzad had changed since 2009 and perhaps before, becoming more reserved and more religious as he faced what someone who knows the family well called "their financial troubles."

One Pakistani friend said, Mr. Shahzad even asked his father in 2009 for permission to fight in Afghanistan. Mr. Haq adamantly refused, saying that he disapproved of the mission and reminding his son that Islam does not permit a man to abandon his wife or children.

In September 2009, Mr. Shahzad was sent a letter notifying him that he was being sued over a \$218,400 loan from a mortgage arm of Chase bank. The mortgage covered the single-family home in Shelton with an assessed value of \$242,690.

Mr. Shahzad had taken a job in 2006 as a junior financial analyst at Affinion Group in Norwalk, a financial marketing services company. Michael Bush, the company's director of public relations, said Mr. Shahzad resigned in mid-2009; government officials said he was unemployed and bankrupt by the time of his arrest.

The Attempted Bombing

The incident began at 6:28 pm on May 1, when the dark green Nissan Pathfinder was recorded by a video surveillance camera driving west on 45th Street.

[More Multimedia »](#)

Multimedia



Taliban Video of Faisal Shahzad

The government made public a video produced by the Taliban in which Faisal Shahzad appears.

Taliban Video of Faisal Shahzad

The government made public a video produced by the Taliban in which Faisal Shahzad appears.



Government's Controlled Detonation Test

Prosecutors released a video of a controlled detonation by the Joint Terrorism Task Force of a bomb built to be what Faisal Shahzad intended.

[More Multimedia »](#)

Moments later, two street vendors on the sidewalk saw smoke coming out of vents near the back seat of the S.U.V., now parked awkwardly at the curb with its engine running and its hazard lights on. They heard the sound of firecrackers going off inside the car, and called out to a mounted police officer, who smelled gunpowder when he approached the vehicle and called for assistance. The police began evacuating Times Square, starting with businesses along Seventh Avenue, including a Foot Locker store and a McDonald's.

Police officers from the emergency service unit and firefighters flooded the area. The firefighters, who were responding to a report of a car fire, cleared the area and readied their hoses, but then decided to leave the S.U.V. for the bomb squad. The police also learned that the Pathfinder had the wrong license plates on it.

Members of the Police Department's bomb squad donned protective gear, broke the Pathfinder's back windows and used a "robotic device" to "observe" it, said Deputy Commissioner Paul J. Browne, the police department's chief spokesman. Inside the car were propane tanks, gasoline cans, M88 fireworks — the apparent source of the "pops" — and two clocks with batteries and a gun locker filled with fertilizer. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg described the device by saying it "looked amateurish."

Most of the ingredients of the explosive device could have been bought at a home-supply store. The canisters of propane were similar to those used for barbecue grills. The firecrackers were the kind sold legally in some states, including Pennsylvania.

The device was found in the back of the S.U.V., Mr. Kelly said, with the gasoline cans closest to the back seat and the gun locker behind them. The fertilizer was in clear plastic bags bearing the logo of a store that the police declined to identify. The wires from battery-powered fluorescent clocks ran into the gun locker, where a metal pressure-cooker pot contained a thicket of wires and more M88s, Mr. Kelly said.

Investigators believed that the fuses on the firecrackers had been lighted, but they did not explode, officials said. The burning fuses apparently ignited a portion of the Pathfinder's interior, causing a small fire that filled the inside with smoke, one law enforcement official said.

Another official said that pops heard by a firefighter as he approached the vehicle might have been made by the fireworks failing to fully detonate.

A phone-record link underscored the combination of investigative skill, increased government integration and sheer luck that helped authorities track down the suspect. Once investigators had Mr. Shahzad's identity, they were able to put his name on a no-fly list that ultimately led to his being pulled off a plane about to leave the country.

Investigators discovered the suspect's name because of a phone number he provided returning to the United States from Pakistan in February, a law enforcement official said on May 5. The phone number Mr. Shahzad gave then was entered in a Customs and Border Protection agency database and came up May 3 when investigators checked the record of calls made to or from the prepaid cellular telephone used by the purchaser — at that point unidentified — of the vehicle used in the failed bombing, an official said. The VIN on the Pathfinder and the email address Mr. Shahzad gave to Ms. Colas were also linchpins.

On May 3, federal agents spoke to Mr. Shahzad's landlord in Bridgeport, according to court papers. Soon after interviewing him, they first "got eyes on" Mr. Shahzad, according to law enforcement officials. He was in another car, one registered in his name, returning to his apartment from the grocery store.

Exactly how long investigators had him under surveillance is unclear. Mr. Shahzad emerged from his apartment, got back in his car and headed south to New York City. Somewhere along the route, the investigators lost track of Mr. Shahzad, who paid cash for a ticket on a jet bound for Dubai from J.F.K. Airport.

But as the airplane pulled away from the gate — 53 hours after the car bomb was found — investigators caught up with Mr. Shahzad. The suspect was taken from his seat and arrested.

Faisal Shahzad Kept Low Profile in U.S.



30 year old Pakistani American named Faisal Shahzad was arrested just before midnight on Monday by members of the US Customs and Border Patrol and cooperation with the Joint Terrorism Task Force at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, wanted in the botched (www.orkut.com)

(CBS/AP) Updated 7:23 p.m. ET

Faisal Shahzad gave the impression of a quiet family man, raising two small children with his wife in Shelton, Conn. and telling neighbors he worked on Wall Street.

Now the Pakistani-American is accused of trying to detonate a homemade car bomb in New York City's bustling Times Square. Authorities have [brought terrorism and mass destruction charges against him](#), saying he has [confessed to receiving explosives training in Pakistan](#).

Shahzad was expected to appear in court Tuesday. CBS News reports that officials intend to arraign Shahzad Wednesday morning in Manhattan Federal Court before a U.S. magistrate. Shahzad has been talking to investigators, officials said.

Shahzad, 30, was [on board a Dubai-bound flight](#) at Kennedy Airport when law enforcement [took him into custody](#) late Monday, officials said. One official said he claimed to have acted alone.

FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

Despite becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen on April 17, 2009, Shahzad spent much of the past year outside of the country, mostly in Pakistan where his wife, Huma Mian, is currently living. Details of his activities abroad remain unclear, but a picture of his life in America began to emerge Tuesday.

[Special Section: Terrorism in the U.S.](#)

[Read criminal complaint against Faisal Shahzad](#)

Shahzad had been living here on the second floor of a house in Bridgeport, Conn. for a couple of months though he's been coming in and out of the U.S. for at least 11 years.

He kept a low profile in his working-class Bridgeport neighborhood where people often come and go, reports **CBS News correspondent Jim Axelrod**. Shown a picture of Shahzad, a neighborhood woman told Axelrod, "I never saw him before." She turned out to be Shahzad's next-door neighbor.

Before Bridgeport, Shahzad, along with his wife and children, a boy and a girl, lived for about three years in a two-story Colonial-style three-bedroom home in Shelton, Conn.

Shahzad bought the home for \$273,000 and lost it to foreclosure last year. Frank DeVecchio, a broker trying to sell it for Shahzad, said Shahzad told him to let the bank take the house. He says Shahzad said he owed too much on it and planned to return to Pakistan.

Shahzad was granted a student visa in December of 1998. He graduated from the University of Bridgeport with a

computer science degree in 2000 and an MBA in 2005. He worked as a junior financial analyst for a marketing firm in Norwalk, Conn. until 2009.

"I assumed they went back to Pakistan because he had talked to me previously about going back there," said Audrey Sokol, a neighbor in Shelton. "He had parents there."

CBS News has confirmed that Shahzad worked until 2009 as a junior financial analyst at the Norwalk, Conn., office of a business named [Affinion Group](#). An employee at the company wouldn't confirm whether Shahzad chose to leave the company or was terminated.

A spokesperson for Affinion told CBS News that Shahzad worked for the company from 2006 to June 2009. The spokesperson refused to provide any other information other than that the company was working with investigators.

[CBS National Security Analyst Juan Zarate on Pakistan Links](#)

[Terrorism, WMD Charges for Faisal Shahzad](#)

[Man Arrested for Times Square Bomb Attempt](#)

[Gun Found in Bomb Suspect's Car, Sources Say](#)

[Faisal Shahzad Tried to Return to Pakistan](#)

[Times Square Link Could Force Pakistan's Hand](#)

[Bomb Plot: The Limits of Video Surveillance](#)

[NYC Bomb Investigation Focus](#)

[Bomb Suspect: How Was He Caught?](#)

FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

In Shelton, Conn., one of Shahzad's former neighbors told The Washington Post that Shahzad [said he worked on Wall Street](#). The neighbor, a teenage girl who only identified herself to the newspaper as the daughter of Brenda Thurman, said Shahzad would leave for work in a suit around 6 a.m. to return around 3:30 p.m.

The girl also told the newspaper that Shahzad enjoyed yardwork.

"He loved to work in his yard," the girl said. "His grass was always neat. He was always outside with his daughters."

The girl also said Shahzad moved away from Shelton in 2009, two months before his wife moved out of the house.

Neighbors offered diverging descriptions of Shahzad but agreed that he kept to himself. One, Brenda Thurman, said Shahzad had told her husband he worked on Wall Street, while another neighbor, Sokol, said she thought he worked in nearby Norwalk.

"He was a little bit strange," she said. "He didn't like to come out during the day."

Sokol, a teacher who lives next door to Shahzad's old house, said that he would wave and say hello and that he seemed normal to her.

Shahzad was currently living with a roommate in a mixed-race, working-class neighborhood of multi-family homes in Bridgeport, Conn. Authorities removed filled plastic bags from that house overnight and a bomb squad came and went without entering as local police and FBI agents gathered in the cordoned-off street.

He became a citizen in Hartford, Conn., and passed all the criminal and national security background checks required for citizenship, officials said.

FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

The officials familiar with the inquiry say investigators plan to go through his citizenship application line by line to see if he lied about anything.

The [University of Bridgeport](#) in Connecticut released a statement Tuesday saying Shahzad earned two degrees from the school in the last decade.

Shahzad received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer applications and information systems in 2000, according to the statement. In 2005, Shahzad earned a Master in Business Administration degree.

The university has told the federal government about Shahzad's attendance at the school, according to the statement.

"The university abhors acts of violence and terrorism," Michael Spitzer, the university's provost, said in the statement. "We work to combat racial and ethnic prejudices and animosity, and believe that education in an international context is the key to understanding the values and beliefs of people from other cultures."

On June 2, 2009, Shahzad departed the U.S. for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. In July, he reportedly traveled to Pakistan and is believed to have visited Peshawar, a city known as a gateway to the militant-occupied tribal regions of the country, according to MSNBC.

Investigators hadn't established an immediate connection to the Pakistani Taliban - which had claimed responsibility for the botched bombing in three videos - or any foreign terrorist groups, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"He's claimed to have acted alone, but these are things that have to be investigated," the official.

Shahzad last entered the U.S. on Feb. 3, 2010 after a five-month visit to Pakistan. According to authorities he purchased the 1993 Nissan Pathfinder used in the attempted bombing three weeks ago for \$1,300. He responded to a Craigslist ad and paid for the vehicle in cash.

After media reports late Monday that authorities were looking for a Pakistani-American man, Shahzad fled to Kennedy airport, boarding a flight for Dubai before law enforcement called the plane back to the terminal and the arrest was made.

FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

According federal law enforcement official, materials related to the homemade car bomb were found in Shahzad's apartment, including the boxes that contained the alarm clocks. His car at the airport contained a 9mm handgun with extra clips of ammunition.

More than a dozen people with American citizenship or residency, like Shahzad, have been accused in the past two years of supporting or carrying out terrorism attempts on U.S. soil, cases that illustrate the threat of violent extremism from within the U.S.

Among them are Army Maj. Nidal Hasan, a U.S.-born Army psychiatrist of Palestinian descent, charged with fatally shooting 13 people last year at Fort Hood, Texas; Najibullah Zazi, a Denver-area airport shuttle driver who pleaded guilty in February in a plot to bomb New York subways; and a Pennsylvania woman who authorities say became radicalized online as "Jihad Jane" and plotted to kill a Swedish artist whose work offended Muslims.

[Recommend](#)

[Sign Up](#) to see what your friends recommend.

Faisal Shahzad Tried to Return to Pakistan

By

CBSNews



FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

(CBS) *Updated at 11:11 a.m. ET.*

Faisal Shahzad, the American citizen [arrested late Monday night](#) as the only suspect in the attempted car bombing of Times Square, apparently got spooked by media reports and was trying to flee the country, sources told **CBS News**.

Shahzad's flight to Dubai had already pushed back from the gate at New York's JFK International Airport and was forced to return, a law enforcement source told **CBS News correspondent Bob Orr**. Shahzad (who, investigators believe, was traveling alone) was also booked on a connecting flight to Pakistan.

Federal law enforcement officials told **CBS News** that [a 9 mm handgun with extra clips was found in his car at the airport](#).

Database information indicates shortly after Shahzad became a naturalized American citizen in April 2009, he traveled to the United Arab Emirates, **CBS News** has also learned.

Shahzad previously departed the United States on June 2, 2009 aboard Emirates Flight 204 for Dubai, and last entered the U.S. on Feb. 3, 2010 aboard Emirates Flight 201.

His travels raise questions about possible ties to international terrorists, said Orr, but officials still have not established any firm links to al Qaeda or any other terror group.

The law enforcement official told Orr that Shahzad has known connections in Pakistan, but the nature of those connections - whether they are family, friends or individuals associated with any of the Asian nation's terrorist groups - remains unclear.

The New York Times reports his age as 30 years old.

At least two videos have surfaced showing leaders of the Pakistani Taliban claiming responsibility for the attempted bombing. Those claims were initially dismissed, but a Pakistani government official tells **CBS News' Farhan Bokhari** that U.S. intelligence officials have been in contact with their Pakistani counterparts as part of the ongoing investigation.

Sources tell **Bokhari** that if Shahzad does have solid links to terror groups in Pakistan's most populous province, as his name seems to suggest, that will present the American-allied government with [some difficult choices](#) as to whether they can afford a new front in their fight against extremists.

According to Orr's source, the FBI and New York police "were onto this guy early." The break in the case

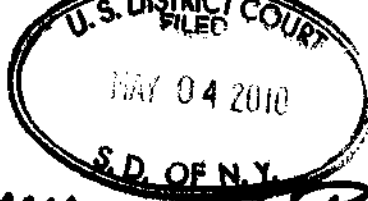


FAISAL SHAHZAD ARTICLES

apparently came from communications surrounding the sale of the SUV.

The source tells **CBS News** Shahzad was thought to have been at his apartment in Connecticut Monday night when details began leaking in the media that the FBI was looking for a Pakistani American. This apparently unnerved him and prompted him to try and run, although it is still unclear when he purchased his ticket to Pakistan via Dubai.

Police were still searching Shahzad's apartment in Connecticut early Tuesday morning.



☐ ORIGINAL

Approved:

BLM'G John P. Cronan Randall W. Jackson
BRENDAN R. MCGUIRE/JOHN P. CRONAN/RANDALL W. JACKSON
Assistant United States Attorneys

Before: HONORABLE KEVIN NATHANIEL FOX
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York

10 MAG 928

----- x
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : COMPLAINT
-v.- : Violations of
FAISAL SHAHZAD, : 18 U.S.C. §§ 2332a, 2332b,
: 924(c)(1)(A), 844
: COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
Defendant. : NEW YORK
:
----- x

DOC # _____

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

ANDREW P. PACHTMAN, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and charges as follows:

Count One

1. From at least in or about December 2009, up to and including on or about May 3, 2010, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, having traveled in interstate and foreign commerce in furtherance of the offense, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly, and without lawful authority, did attempt to use a weapon of mass destruction, namely, a destructive device as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 921, against persons and property within the United States, to wit, on or about May 1, 2010, SHAHZAD traveled from Connecticut to New York and attempted to detonate improvised explosive and incendiary devices inside a sports utility vehicle located in the vicinity of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332a, (a)(2)(C),
(c)(2)(A).)

Count Two

2. From at least in or about December 2009, up to and including on or about May 3, 2010, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, in an offense obstructing, delaying, and affecting interstate commerce and which would have so obstructed, delayed, and affected interstate and foreign commerce if the offense had been consummated, and involving conduct transcending national boundaries, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly, did attempt to kill and maim persons within the United States, and did create a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to others by attempting to destroy and damage structures, conveyances and other real and personal property within the United States, in violation of the laws of the United States, including Title 18, United States Code, Sections 844(d) and (i), 924(c)(1)(A) and (B)(ii), and 2332a(a)(2)(C) and (c)(2)(A), to wit, SHAHZAD, after receiving bomb-making training in Waziristan, Pakistan, traveled to the United States, transported a sports utility vehicle to the vicinity of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, New York, and attempted to detonate explosive and incendiary devices located inside the sports utility vehicle.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332b(a)(1)(B),
(b)(1)(B).)

Count Three

3. From at least in or about December 2009, up to and including on or about May 3, 2010, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, to wit, the offense charged in Count Two of this Complaint, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly did use and carry a destructive device, to wit, improvised explosive and incendiary devices placed in a sports utility vehicle in the vicinity of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A) and (B)(ii).)

Count Four

4. From at least in or about December 2009, up to and including on or about May 3, 2010, in an offense occurring in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly did transport and

receive, and attempt to transport and receive, an explosive with the knowledge and intent that it would be used to kill, injure, and intimidate an individual and to damage and destroy a building, vehicle, and other real and personal property, to wit, SHAHZAD transported a sports utility vehicle containing explosive and incendiary devices to the vicinity of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, New York, with the intent to kill, injure and intimidate individuals and to damage and destroy nearby buildings, vehicles and other property.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(d).)

Count Five

5. From at least in or about December 2009, up to and including on or about May 3, 2010, in an offense occurring in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, unlawfully, willfully, knowingly, and maliciously did attempt to damage and destroy, by means of fire and an explosive, a building, vehicle, and other real and personal property, to wit, SHAHZAD attempted to damage buildings, vehicles, and other real and personal property by detonating explosive and incendiary devices located inside of a sports utility vehicle parked in the vicinity of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(i).)

The bases for my knowledge and the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

6. I am a Special Agent with the FBI and a member of the FBI's New York-based Joint Terrorism Task Force ("JTTF"). The JTTF is responsible for investigating the attempted bombing of Times Square on or about May 1, 2010, by means of an abandoned sports utility vehicle filled with explosive and incendiary devices. During the course of my investigation, I have, among other things, spoken with law enforcement officials and other individuals, and I have reviewed documents relating to this investigation. Because this Complaint is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I have not included details of every aspect of this investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported in this Complaint, they are reported in sum and substance, except where otherwise indicated.

Overview Of The Investigation

7. In the course of this investigation, I have learned that, on Saturday evening, May 1, 2010, a Nissan Pathfinder (the "Pathfinder") was discovered, abandoned, on the street in Times Square. Inside the Pathfinder were multiple, filled propane tanks, gasoline canisters, and fertilizer – as well as fireworks, clocks, wiring, and other items. When emergency services workers arrived on the scene, the Pathfinder was visibly smoking. The items in the back of the Pathfinder were smoldering; it appeared that the occupant of the Pathfinder had attempted to initiate an explosion. Hours later, when law-enforcement officers entered the Pathfinder, a number of keys were recovered, including a key to an Isuzu automobile. This investigation has revealed that FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, bought the Pathfinder with cash on April 24, 2010; that he drove an Isuzu; and that one of the keys in the Pathfinder opens the door to SHAHZAD's Connecticut residence. In addition, and among other things, this investigation has revealed that SHAHZAD used a pre-paid cellular telephone – which has not been used since April 28 – both to call a fireworks store and to receive a series of calls from Pakistan following his purchase of the Pathfinder.

8. On May 3, 2010, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, was arrested at the John F. Kennedy International Airport (the "Airport"). After the arrest, SHAHZAD admitted that he had attempted to detonate a bomb in Times Square. He also admitted that he had recently received bomb-making training in Waziristan, Pakistan.

The Defendant

9. According to records maintained by United States Customs and Border Protection, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, a naturalized U.S. citizen, returned to the United States on February 3, 2010, via the Airport. SHAHZAD arrived on a one-way ticket from Pakistan. During an immigration inspection, SHAHZAD stated that he had been in Pakistan for the last five months visiting his parents. SHAHZAD also indicated that he intended to stay at a motel in Connecticut while he looked for a place to live and for a job. SHAHZAD further advised that his wife had remained behind in Pakistan.

The Discovery Of The Bomb

10. As part of this investigation, I have spoken to a member of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") who

responded to the vicinity of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue during the evening of May 1, 2010 ("Detective 1"). Based upon my conversation with Detective 1, as well as other law-enforcement agents with whom I have consulted, I have learned the following:

a. During the evening of May 1, 2010, a police officer on mounted patrol in the Times Square area ("Police Officer 1") was approached by an individual ("Witness 1") in the vicinity of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue. Witness 1 advised Police Officer 1 that there was an unoccupied car with its engine running nearby. Police Officer 1 then saw the Pathfinder parked near the southwest corner of 45th Street and Seventh Avenue, with nobody inside of it. Police Officer 1 also observed smoke emanating from the Pathfinder. Police Officer 1 radioed for assistance. Police Officer 1 and other NYPD officers on foot patrol then began to evacuate the area around the Pathfinder.

b. After Police Officer 1 radioed for assistance, components of the NYPD bomb squad, as well as the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY"), responded to the scene. The NYPD bomb squad and the FDNY then began working to identify the source of the smoke coming from inside the Pathfinder. After approximately eight hours of work, the NYPD bomb squad and the FDNY secured the Pathfinder such that it was safe to enter. According to various NYPD evidence reports as well as other law-enforcement reports and documents, law-enforcement personnel recovered the following items, among other others, from inside the Pathfinder:

- i. Several white plastic bags containing fertilizer;
- ii. Two red 5-gallon gasoline canisters each containing gasoline;
- iii. 152 M-88 fireworks;
- iv. Three full propane gas canisters;
- v. Two alarm clocks connected to wires;
- vi. Three residential keys; and
- vii. A key to an Isuzu vehicle.

The Investigation

11. As part of this investigation, I have spoken to another FBI agent who is a member of the FBI's Connecticut-based JTTF ("Agent 1"). Based upon my conversation with Agent 1, as well as conversations with other law-enforcement agents, based in New York and in Connecticut, I have learned the following:

a. The JTTF's examination of the engine of the Pathfinder revealed a Vehicle Identification Number ("VIN"). A VIN is a unique serial number used to identify individual motor vehicles. Based on the VIN for the Pathfinder, the JTTF identified the name and the address of the last registered owner of the Pathfinder (the "Owner"); this identification was made using records maintained by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV"). The DMV records also indicated that the Pathfinder was registered under a different license plate from the one found on it in New York City on May 1, 2010.

b. On or about May 2, 2010, based on information contained in the DMV records, members of the JTTF interviewed the Owner of the Pathfinder. During this interview, the Owner indicated that the Owner had given the Pathfinder to another person, and that this person (the "Seller") had recently sold the Pathfinder.

12. As part of this investigation, I have spoken to another FBI agent who is a member of the FBI's Connecticut-based JTTF ("Agent 2"). On or about May 2, 2010, Agent 2 and other JTTF agents interviewed the Seller about the recent sale of the Pathfinder. Based upon my conversation with Agent 2, as well as with other law-enforcement agents, I have learned the following:

a. Beginning in early April 2010, the Seller posted advertisements on several websites indicating that the Pathfinder was for sale. These advertisements contained certain basic information about the Pathfinder, and also included the Seller's telephone number.

b. In or about the middle of April 2010, the Seller received a telephone call from a man indicating that he had seen one of the advertisements for the Pathfinder and was interested in buying it (the "Buyer"). The Buyer did not leave a name but asked the Seller to call him back at a telephone number ("Telephone Number"). Thereafter, the Seller and the Buyer agreed to meet in a supermarket parking lot in Connecticut on the morning of April 24, 2010.

c. On the morning of April 24, 2010, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the Seller met the Buyer in the supermarket parking lot. The Buyer arrived at the parking lot in a black Isuzu Rodeo with tinted windows.

d. During this meeting, at which the Seller was accompanied by another person, the Seller advised the Buyer, among other things, that the Pathfinder had some mechanical problems. The Buyer inspected the interior seating and cargo area of the Pathfinder, but not the engine, and asked if he could take the Pathfinder for a test drive. The Seller told the Buyer that they could meet later that day for a test drive.

e. In the early afternoon of April 24, 2010, the Seller and the Buyer met again at the same Connecticut supermarket parking lot. The Buyer arrived again in the black Isuzu Rodeo. During this meeting, the Seller (along with a different person who accompanied the Seller) and the Buyer took the Pathfinder for a test drive. The Buyer and the Seller agreed on a price of \$1300 for the Pathfinder; the Buyer paid the Seller with 13 \$100 bills. The person accompanying the Seller then attempted to complete a bill of sale to memorialize the transaction. The Buyer advised the Seller and the other person that this was unnecessary, explaining that he had his own license plate; the Buyer showed the Seller a license plate. The Seller then gave the Buyer one key for the Pathfinder, and the Buyer drove out of the parking lot in the Pathfinder. At the time the Buyer bought the Pathfinder, the vehicle did not have tinted windows – as it did after being discovered in Times Square. The Buyer left the Isuzu Rodeo he had arrived in behind.

f. A few days after the sale of the Pathfinder, the Buyer called the Seller and asked about the timing of the last oil change for the Pathfinder.

13. As part of this investigation, I have spoken to another FBI agent who is a member of the FBI's Connecticut-based JTTF ("Agent 3"). On or about May 2, 2010, Agent 3 and other JTTF agents arranged for the Seller to provide a description of the Buyer to a Connecticut State Police sketch artist to generate a sketch of the Buyer. After the sketch was completed, the sketch was shown to the individual who was present for the second meeting with the Buyer on April 24, 2010, and that individual remarked that the sketch looked just like the Buyer.

14. As part of this investigation, I have spoken to another FBI agent who is a member of the FBI's Connecticut-based JTTF ("Agent 4"). On or about May 3, 2010, Agent 4 and other

JTTF agents showed the Seller a photo array of six photos, and asked whether the Seller recognized any of the individuals in the photo array. The Seller identified FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, as the Buyer to whom the Seller sold the Pathfinder.

15. As part of this investigation, I have reviewed Connecticut DMV records for "Faisal Shahzad," which indicate that he is the registered owner of a 1998 Isuzu Rodeo S/LS jeep. I have also spoken to Connecticut State Troopers who have access to a database that provides the color for vehicles registered in the state. According to that database, the exterior color of the Isuzu Rodeo registered to "Faisal Shahzad" is black, the same color as the Isuzu Rodeo driven by the Buyer.

16. As part of this investigation, I have reviewed telephone records from Verizon Wireless for the telephone number ("Telephone Number") that FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, used to contact the Seller. These records reveal, among other things, the following:

a. The Telephone Number was assigned to a prepaid cellular telephone that was activated on or about April 16, 2010; this prepaid phone ceased to be active on or about April 28, 2010.

b. The Telephone Number called the Seller's telephone a total of 12 times between April 22, 2010, and April 27, 2010. Five of those 12 calls were made on April 24, 2010, the day SHAHZAD bought the Pathfinder from the Seller.

c. According to records maintained by United States Customs and Border Protection, which I have reviewed, a certain number preceded by a zero ("Pakistani Number") is a Pakistani telephone number associated with SHAHZAD. According to the Verizon Wireless records, the Telephone Number received four calls from the Pakistani Number (but without the preceding zero) on the morning of April 24, 2010. Approximately one hour after receiving these four calls from the Pakistani Number, the Telephone Number called the Seller twice; later that day, as described above, SHAHZAD bought the Pathfinder from the Seller.

d. On April 25, 2010, at 9:43 a.m., the Telephone Number called a telephone number with a Pennsylvania area code. Based on my investigation, I have learned that the Pennsylvania number is currently used by a fireworks store in rural Pennsylvania; that store sells M-88 fireworks.

17. As part of this investigation, I have spoken to another FBI agent who is a member of the FBI's Connecticut-based JTTF ("Agent 5"). On or about May 3, 2010, Agent 5 and other JTTF agents interviewed the landlord of the building where FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, lives ("SHAHZAD Residence"). Based upon my conversation with Agent 5, as well as with other law-enforcement agents, I have learned the following:

a. According to the landlord, SHAHZAD has exclusive access to and control of a garage behind his residence.

b. On May 3, 2010, the landlord saw SHAHZAD enter the garage and when SHAHZAD entered, the landlord saw two bags of fertilizer in SHAHZAD's garage.

18. As part of this investigation, I have spoken to various law-enforcement agents who participated in a search of the SHAHZAD Residence, which was conducted on May 3, 2010. Based upon these conversations, I have learned the following:

a. Agents recovered from the garage associated with the SHAHZAD Residence, among other things, fireworks and fertilizer.

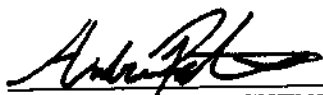
b. As noted above, see supra ¶ 10(b), various keys were recovered from inside the Pathfinder; agents used one of the keys to open the door to the SHAHZAD Residence.

The Arrest

19. On May 3, 2010, FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, was arrested at the Airport as he attempted to leave the United States by means of a commercial flight to Dubai. After his arrest, SHAHZAD stated that he had recently received bomb-making training in Waziristan, Pakistan. In addition, SHAHZAD admitted that he had brought the Pathfinder to Times Square – and attempted there to detonate it. SHAHZAD also noted that he had driven a particular car to the Airport on May 3, 2010, and stated that the car contained a gun.

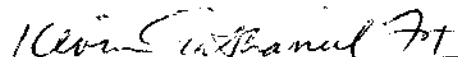
20. On May 4, 2010, law-enforcement agents at the Airport located the car that FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, had described. Agents recovered from inside of the car, among other things, a gun.

WHEREFORE, deponent respectfully requests that FAISAL SHAHZAD, the defendant, be imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.



ANDREW P. PACHTMAN
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me this
4th day of May, 2010



HONORABLE KEVIN NATHANIEL FOX
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK