

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

- v. - :

S6 10 Cr. 162 (KMW)

SABIRHAN HASANOFF, :  
a/k/a "Tareq," :

Defendant. :

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**THE GOVERNMENT SENTENCING MEMORANDUM  
FOR SABIRHAN HASANOFF**

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email in December 2008 that he (El-Hanafi) was going to *jihad*. The Doctor responded that he wanted to take advantage of El-Hanafi and had long-term plans for El-Hanafi, Hasanoff, and the CW, concerning something in the future in America.

#### **5. Hasanoff's Surveillance of the New York Stock Exchange**

In addition to information on El-Hanafi's February 2008 trip, FBI interviews of Suffian and the Doctor revealed that, during El-Hanafi's February 2008 trip to Yemen, the Doctor gave El-Hanafi --- and through El-Hanafi, Hasanoff --- an assignment that related to possible plans for an attack on U.S. soil. Both Suffian and the Doctor reported that El-Hanafi was tasked to direct Hasanoff to conduct surveillance of the New York Stock Exchange, and that Hasanoff in fact conducted that surveillance and reported to Suffian and the Doctor what he (Hasanoff) had learned. Both detainees are remarkably consistent in their reporting about Hasanoff's surveillance, and their statements are corroborated by emails written by El-Hanafi and Hasanoff.

Specifically, the Doctor stated that he had contemplated an attack on the New York Stock Exchange, but that he had very little information about the site, including its location, size and security. Accordingly, the Doctor asked that Hasanoff perform surveillance of the New York Stock Exchange, which information the Doctor hoped would be beneficial for purposes of planning an attack in the United States. In the Doctor's eyes, Hasanoff, El-Hanafi, and the CW were ideal for these plans, and he believed that the three Americans would be better put to use for attacks on U.S. soil rather than traveling to fight in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, or another front. The Doctor also recalled that, around May or June of 2008, El-Hanafi advised him (through Suffian) that Hasanoff would be traveling from the UAE to the United States. The Doctor also reported that he received information concerning the New York Stock Exchange from Hasanoff following that trip.

Suffian's account of relevant events is very closely consistent with the Doctor's account. Suffian likewise reported that Hasanoff traveled to New York shortly after El-Hanafi's visit in February 2008, on instructions from the Doctor relayed through himself and El-Hanafi.<sup>12</sup>

Suffian and the Doctor's statements about Hasanoff's surveillance of the New York Stock Exchange are strongly corroborated not only by Hasanoff's travel to New York City, but also by communications, written over email, that El-Hanafi and Hasanoff had with Suffian in August 2008.<sup>13</sup> For instance, on August 4, 2008, Hasanoff wrote a message to Suffian in which he explained that he had not yet been able to conduct the surveillance because he had been sick, but planned to do so in the next two days. Specifically, Hasanoff wrote, "How are you brothers? I am visiting the place you asked about in two days -- I will email you once I have visited **there**. Let me know if you need anything more from me while I am here. I have been sick for some days so I couldn't go earlier." At the time Hasanoff wrote this email, he was in the United States, as he had landed at John F. Kennedy Airport in Queens, New York, on July 29, 2008. On August 7, 2008, Hasanoff, while still in the United States, wrote another message to Suffian in which he communicated that he had conducted the surveillance. Specifically, Hasanoff wrote, "I will find out your request. I have visited the tourist locations you asked me about and will report to you after two weeks in more detail."

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<sup>12</sup> Travel records show that Hasanoff flew from Dubai to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City on July 29, 2008, and that he flew back from John F. Kennedy Airport to Dubai on August 15, 2008.

<sup>13</sup> Both Hasanoff's and El-Hanafi's emails to Suffian were written over email accounts that incorporated the phrase "andcompany@yahoo.com" with different letter combinations before and after the word "and" that signified the participants in the communication. Suffian elaborated on how those email accounts were used. For example, Suffian explained to the FBI that communication between El-Hanafi and Suffian occurred over the kandscompany@yahoo.com account, with the "k" standing for Khaled, an alias El-Hanafi used, and the "s" for Salah, an alias Suffian used.

Hasanoff returned from the United States to Dubai on August 15, 2008. Three days later, El-Hanafi wrote an email message to Suffian confirming that Hasanoff had returned to the UAE and promising to provide Suffian with an update in the near future. Specifically, El-Hanafi wrote, "Tariq [Hasanoff] is back and al hamidoilallah.<sup>14</sup> I will give you information from him on his visit and update you in a few days."

As both the Doctor and Suffian reported to the FBI, Hasanoff **subsequently sent the** Doctor a report of his surveillance of the New York Stock Exchange. According to the Doctor, Hasanoff sent a one-page report to Suffian, via email, which Suffian printed out for the Doctor. **In the** report, Hasanoff relayed that the New York Stock Exchange was surrounded by approximately four streets that were blocked off from vehicular traffic and that someone would have to walk to the building. The Doctor revealed that, although the information provided by Hasanoff could be used by someone who wanted to do an operation, he was not satisfied with the report, and he accordingly disposed of it. (The report apparently lacked sufficient detail about New York Stock Exchange security matters to be as helpful as the Doctor had hoped.)

**6. Hasanoff's Desire to Receive Military-Style Training and to Fight Jihad Overseas**

Throughout their dealings with the Doctor and Suffian, Hasanoff, El-Hanafi, and the CW repeatedly articulated their strong and unwavering desire to travel overseas for the purposes of receiving military-style training and then fighting *jihad*. There can be no serious question about the sincerity of their desire to do so. Suffian, for example, told the FBI that the three Americans planned on selling their homes and belongings before traveling, clear evidence that they intended to fight, possibly dying in battle, and not returning to their families. Moreover, as noted above, the Doctor's failure to facilitate their travel for the purposes of foreign fighting caused a

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<sup>14</sup> The phrase, "al hamdillah," is an Arabic expression that translates to, "Praise to God."