



LaFrances Dudley O'Neal and Donald M. Ramsey Indicted in an Alleged Mortgage Fraud Scheme

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 9:19 AM December 11, 2011

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on December 9, 2011 released the following:

“Two Indicted in Mortgage Fraud Scheme
D.C. Housing Authority was Among
Targets of the Scam

WASHINGTON— LaFrances Dudley O'Neal, 47, of Clinton, Maryland, and Donald M. Ramsey, 44, of Alexandria, Virginia, have been indicted on charges that they took part in a mortgage fraud that cost lenders more than \$700,000.

The indictments, unsealed today, were announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., Daniel S. Cortez, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Kenneth R. Taylor, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office.

O'Neal and Ramsey were indicted on December 7, 2011 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on charges of bank fraud, mail fraud, and conspiracy to commit bank/mail fraud. The indictment also includes a forfeiture count seeking all proceeds from the defendants' crimes. In addition, O'Neal was charged with one count of fraud under District of Columbia law. If convicted, under the federal sentencing guidelines, O'Neal and Ramsey face potential sentences of 37 to 46 months in prison. Both have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

According to the indictment, O'Neal, Ramsey and others identified homes in the Washington, D.C. area, as well as straw buyers to obtain mortgages through false loan applications, forged documents, and fraudulent settlements. According to the indictment, Ramsey acted as a mortgage broker. He and others are accused of providing false documentation to the

lenders, such as false verifications of deposit, forged Uniform Residential Loan Applications, and false rental agreements, causing the lenders to believe that the straw buyers had the means and the willingness to pay the mortgages.

The indictment alleges that every one of the mortgages fell into default and the lenders were forced to foreclose, with an aggregate loss to the lenders in excess of \$700,000.

The indictment further alleges that settlement companies paid both O'Neal and Ramsey money from the fraudulently obtained loan proceeds, at times using fraudulent “invoices” which falsely stated that renovation work had recently been completed or consulting services had been provided and that money was due at settlement. As a result of these false invoices and inaccurate settlement statements, settlement agents turned over more than \$437,000 of fraudulent loan proceeds to O'Neal and Ramsey.

With respect to the fraud count under D.C. law, the indictment charges that O'Neal arranged for four of the houses, which were obtained through the mortgage fraud scheme, to be placed in the District of Columbia Housing Authority's Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance Housing Choice Voucher program. Using, at times, forged management agreements, O'Neal received money from the D.C. Housing Authority through Section 8 payments through her management company. She also received emergency rental payments or security deposits from charities or governmental agencies on behalf of the needy tenants.

However, she failed to maintain the Section 8 houses in decent, safe, and sanitary conditions, in spite of payments by the D.C. Housing Authority and the tenants. And, despite promising the straw buyers that she would pay the mortgages and even though she received Section 8 money from the D.C. Housing Authority and their client tenants, O'Neal failed to pay the mortgages on all four properties

and the lenders foreclosed on them.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the FBI's Washington Field Office, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the District of Columbia Department of Insurance Securities and Banking. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Virginia Cheatham, with assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section, paralegal specialist Sarah Reis, forensic accountant Crystal Boodoo, and legal assistant Krishawn Graham.”

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Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

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US indictment accuses Canadian man of conspiring with suicide bombers in Iraq

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 9:32 AM December 11, 2011

The Washington Post on December 9, 2011 released the following:

“By Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man in custody in Canada was indicted on Friday on U.S. charges that he helped coordinate Tunisian jihadists believed responsible for separate suicide attacks in Iraq in 2009 that killed five American soldiers outside a U.S. base and seven people at an Iraqi police complex.

Faruq Khalil Muhammad ‘Isa, a 38-year-old Canadian citizen and Iraqi national, was arrested in January on a U.S. warrant after an investigation by authorities in New York, Canada and Tunisia.

Muhammad ‘Isa is being held in Edmonton, Alberta, where he’s fighting extradition to federal court in Brooklyn to face charges of conspiring to kill Americans and providing material support to terrorists.

Muhammad ‘Isa never left Canada as part of the alleged conspiracy, and his attorney said Friday that the United States has no jurisdiction.

“All the evidence was gathered here,” said the Edmonton lawyer, Bob Aloneissi, said in a phone interview. “There’s just no tie. ... This should be done for a legal reason and not a political reason.”

An extradition request made public Friday offered fresh details on wiretap evidence and an interview of Muhammad ‘Isa that U.S. authorities claim link him to the terror network. Authorities say the group used a suicide bomber to detonate an explosives-laden truck outside the gate of the U.S. base in Mosul, Iraq, on April 10, 2009, killing the five soldiers, and it also staged a suicide bombing on the Iraqi police station on March 31, 2009.

The evidence shows that “the goal of the attacks was to compel the United States government to remove its armed forces

from Iraq,” the extradition request says.

A U.S. Department of Justice investigator interviewed Muhammad ‘Isa on Jan. 19 with an FBI agent and a Royal Canadian Mounted Police corporal present, the request says. The interview “was conducted in compliance with United States law,” with Muhammad ‘Isa signing a waiver before voluntarily answering questions, it says.

During the interview, Muhammad ‘Isa admitted he corresponded by email from Canada with two of the terrorists while they were in Syria, and knew that they were on a mission to kill Americans, the paperwork says. The documents allege he corresponded with “facilitators” who were trying to get the attackers into Iraq, and wired one of them \$700.

On wiretaps, Muhammad ‘Isa was overheard last year discussing with someone in Iraq how he used code words when discussing the Iraq operation, the papers say.

“For example, when I want to name the brothers, I say the farmers — because they plant metal and harvest metal and flesh,” the papers quote him as saying. He also explained that he used the term “married” to mean “in the afterlife.”

U.S. authorities alleged that the day after the attack that killed the five soldiers, Muhammad ‘Isa asked in an electronic communication, “Did you hear about the huge incident yesterday? Is it known?” He also identified the bomber as “one of the Tunisian brothers,” to which a facilitator responded, “Praise God.”

Muhammad ‘Isa told investigators in the interview that by “huge incident” he meant an explosion, the papers say.

The papers add: “When asked if he believed that it was a religious duty for Muslims to travel to Iraq and fight Americans, (Muhammad ‘Isa) stated that he believed it was the duty for every Muslim who lived in Iraq to fight American ‘invaders.’”

The indictment comes at a time when Congress, over Obama administration objections, is pushing policies to ramp up the military’s role in the handling of captured terrorism suspects. A House-passed bill would require military tribunals to try suspected terrorists. A Senate-passed bill would mandate military custody for those captured, even in the United States, and linked to al-Qaida or its affiliates.

Members of the House and Senate are negotiating a final version of the bill that could include those provisions. They hope to complete their work by early next week.

If convicted in a civilian court, Muhammad ‘Isa faces life in prison.”

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