



Feds drop terrorism charges against Miami cab driver accused of aiding Taliban

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

Submitted at 12:30 PM June 14, 2012

The Miami Herald on June 13, 2012 released the following:
“Federal prosecutors have dropped charges against a member of a South Florida family accused of supporting the Pakistani Taliban, a designated terrorist group.

BY JAY WEAVER
JWEAVER@MIAMIHERALD.COM

A one-time Miami cab driver who was detained for nearly a year on charges alleging that he provided aid to Pakistani Taliban terrorists won't face trial, after federal prosecutors dropped the case against him, according to a dismissal order filed Wednesday.

The U.S. attorney's office provided no reason for dismissing charges against Irfan Khan, 39, a U.S. citizen who is married with two children. The one-paragraph dismissal order was signed Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Robert Scola.

“We are unable to comment on the internal deliberations that led to our decision,” said Alicia Valle, special counsel to U.S. Attorney Wifredo Ferrer. “However, the charges against his co-defendants remain in place and trial is pending for those defendants in U.S. custody.”

Khan was arrested in May 2011 in Los Angeles, where he was working part-time in a software computer job. He was indicted on charges of conspiring with his father and brother, imams who led two mosques in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and three others to provide financial support to the Pakistani Taliban, a designated terrorist organization.

Khan had been detained in the Federal Detention Center in downtown Miami until April, when he was granted a bond by a federal magistrate judge.

Allen Stanford Sentenced to 110 Years in Prison for Orchestrating \$7 Billion Investment Fraud Scheme

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:54 PM June 14, 2012

R. Allen Stanford, the former board of directors chairman of Stanford International Bank (SIB), was sentenced

“Irfan is obviously pleased that the government has recognized what we've long known — that he did not send any money to Pakistan to aid the Taliban,” said his attorney, Miami acting federal public defender Michael Caruso. “His happiness is tempered by his father and brother's continued imprisonment, but he looks forward to rebuilding his life with his wife and two young children.”

Last year, Irfan Khan; his father, Hafiz Khan, 77, the former leader of a Miami mosque; his brother, Izhar Khan, 25, the one-time head of a Margate mosque; and three others were charged with conspiring to collect and send at least \$50,000 from South Florida to the Taliban between 2008 and 2010. The other defendants — all believed to be living in Pakistan — are Irfan Khan's sister, Amina Khan; her son, Alam Zeb; and Ali Rehman.

Irfan Khan, in particular, was accused of making four wire transfers — for \$990, \$980, \$980, and \$500 — to Pakistan, including one to his sister.

The FBI used a confidential informant, bank transfer records and more than 1,000 wiretapped phone calls to build the case, which made national headlines.

The Taliban has been accused of attacking both U.S. and Pakistani interests. It has been linked to al-Qaida, and is suspected of playing a role in the failed May 2010 attempt to bomb New York's Times Square.

Last August, U.S. District Judge Adalberto Jordan ordered that Hafiz Khan, the elderly Muslim cleric, and both of his sons remain in custody until trial. Jordan said evidence against the two younger Khans was less compelling than that against their father. But the judge decided the case was still strong enough to warrant detention, citing their danger to the community and risk of flight.

In April, however, Magistrate Judge Patrick White released Irfan Khan from

detention to home confinement on a combined bond package totaling about \$700,000. White granted the bond after prosecutors agreed to the terms proposed by Khan's lawyers in exchange for their dropping his appeal.

His father and brother are still locked up and prohibited from having contact with each other in the federal detention center. Their trial, a complex case built on wiretaps authorized under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, is set for early November.”

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today in Houston to a total of 110 years in prison for orchestrating a 20-year investment fraud scheme in which he misappropriated \$7 billion from SIB to finance his personal businesses.



Man Offers Guilty Plea, Upending Terror Case

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

Submitted at 1:59 PM June 14, 2012

The New York Times on June 13, 2012 released the following:

“By BENJAMIN WEISER

A terrorism case in Manhattan that raised key questions about government interrogation tactics ended abruptly on Wednesday after the defendant pleaded guilty to conspiring to support a Somali terrorist group.

The defendant, an Eritrean man named Mohamed Ibrahim Ahmed, admitted in Federal District Court that he trained in a camp run by the Somali group, Al Shabab, in 2009. The case had been seen as a potential test of the Obama administration’s strategy of interrogating terrorism suspects for both intelligence and law enforcement purposes.

Indeed, the plea came as the judge, P. Kevin Castel, was poised to rule on a motion by Mr. Ahmed’s lawyers seeking suppression of statements he had made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation while he was in custody in Nigeria; his lawyers argued that the statements had not been voluntary and, thus, were inadmissible. “I have in my hand a 60-page draft of the decision on the motion to suppress,” Judge Castel, holding up a thick document, said in court before accepting Mr. Ahmed’s plea. The judge did not reveal how he would have ruled on the motion, but said that the ruling itself would “now be suppressed.”

Mr. Ahmed, 38, who had lived in Sweden, was scheduled for trial on July 9. He had been accused of providing material support to a terrorist group, receiving training and bomb-making instruction in Shabab military camps in Somalia in 2009 and using a firearm in a crime of violence. The firearm count

Acting Associate Attorney General Tony West Speaks at the White House World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 1:43 PM June 14, 2012

"So as we continue to bring our law enforcement tools to bear to investigate, prosecute and punish elder abuse perpetrators, we at the Department also know that the most effective elder abuse case is the one we prevent," said Acting Associate Attorney General West.

Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole Speaks at the White House World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 1:40 PM June 14, 2012

"For me, and for today’s Department of

alone carried a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years and a maximum sentence of life in prison. As a result of Mr. Ahmed’s plea — to two conspiracy counts — he faces a maximum sentence of 10 years when he is sentenced on Nov. 2, the judge said in court.

Mr. Ahmed’s lawyer, Sabrina Shroff, said after the proceeding, “I’m sure Mr. Ahmed would have liked to have challenged the actions of the United States.” But, she added, given the difference between a maximum 10-year sentence and what could have resulted from a guilty verdict, it would have been a “humongous risk” to go to trial.

Preet Bharara, the United States attorney in Manhattan, said Mr. Ahmed had “traveled a long way from his home in Sweden to Somalia, where he took up the cause of Al Shabab, a deadly terrorist organization and sworn enemy of the United States and its people.”

Mr. Ahmed told the judge that in Somalia, he contributed 2,000 euros to Al Shabab and trained in one of its military camps, knowing that the United States considered it a terrorist organization.

Mr. Ahmed was taken into custody by Nigeria in 2009 under suspicion of being an agent for Al Qaeda. He was later interrogated by separate groups of American officials, known colloquially as “dirty” and “clean” teams.

The first team questioned him for intelligence purposes, without advising him of his rights, prosecutors have said. About a week later, a second team, of F.B.I. agents, read him his rights, which he waived, and he began to make incriminating statements, the government says. An issue before the judge had been how separate the American officials kept the two interrogations.

A prosecutor, Benjamin Naftalis, told **North Carolina Resident Found Guilty of Terrorism Violations**

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 3:15 PM June 14, 2012

Today in federal court in the Eastern District of North Carolina, a jury found Anes Subasic, 35, guilty of conspiring to provide material support to terrorists and conspiring to murder, kidnap, maim and injure persons abroad.

Judge Castel that had the case gone to trial, the evidence would have included Mr. Ahmed’s statements and testimony from cooperating witnesses. Prosecutors have said a former Shabab military commander has been cooperating; although he has not been identified, his description resembles that of Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, a Somali captured by the United States military last year and questioned aboard a naval vessel for about two months.”

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Check Cashers in Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Los Angeles Charged for Alleged Violations of Anti-Money Laundering Laws

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 4:37 PM June 14, 2012

Seven individuals and four check cashing businesses were charged today in the Eastern District of New York and the Central District of California for their alleged roles in separate schemes to violate the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA).

Cole.

Justice, protecting older Americans is a top priority that we advance on multiple fronts," said Deputy Attorney General



Briton Accused of Hacking Fox, PBS Websites

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

Submitted at 10:31 AM June 14, 2012

ABC News on June 14, 2012 released the following:

“By SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press

A 20-year-old Briton suspected of links to the hacking group Lulz Security is accused of cracking into websites for a Fox reality TV show, a venerable news show and other sites to deface them or steal personal information, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

A federal grand jury indicted Ryan Cleary on conspiracy and hacking charges for allegedly hacking sites for the talent competition “The X-Factor,” the site for “PBS NewsHour,” Sony Pictures and others.

The indictment filed Tuesday alleges Cleary and his co-conspirators would identify security vulnerabilities in companies’ computer systems and use them to gain unauthorized access and, often, cause mayhem.

In a separate and similar case filed against Cleary in the United Kingdom in 2011, he faces allegations that he and others hacked a law enforcement agency, the Serious Organized Crime Agency, and various British music sites — all while he was still a teenager.

Cleary was taken into custody in March and remains in custody in the United Kingdom, said Laura Eimiller, FBI spokeswoman.

In one instance, the U.S. indictment alleges, Cleary conspired to steal the confidential information of people who
Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Sentenced to 41 Months in Prison for Bribery Related to Contracting in Support of Iraq War

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:41 PM June 14, 2012

Derrick L. Shoemaker, 50, of Moreno Valley, Calif., was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Dolly M. Gee in the Central District of California.

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Stanford’s attorneys had asked for a sentence of about three years, or the same amount of time the 62-year-old has been in federal custody.”

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registered to get information on auditions for the Fox talent competition “The X-Factor.”

That hack was the first to be claimed by LulzSec, an offshoot of the larger hacking group Anonymous, in tweets about its international hacking spree that began in May 2011.

Later that month, LulzSec claimed to have hacked the website of the Public Broadcasting Service, where a phony news story was posted claiming the dead rapper Tupac Shakur was alive and living in New Zealand.

The post caused a stir on the site for “PBS NewsHour,” an award-winning broadcast news show, and came after the network aired a documentary on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange that was deemed critical. PBS’ ombudsman at the time defended the program’s treatment of Assange as “tough but proper.”

The indictment also alleges LulzSec and Cleary hacked into the computer systems of Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. in June 2011 to steal confidential information of users who had registered on the company’s website.

Cleary faces a maximum of 25 years if convicted on all charges.

Calls and emails to Fox, Sony and “The NewsHour” seeking comment and confirmation were not immediately returned Wednesday.

An after-hours call to Cleary’s legal representative in London was not returned. It was not immediately clear who would represent him in the United States.

LulzSec also has claimed responsibility

Allen Stanford sentenced to 110 years in prison

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

Submitted at 12:44 PM June 14, 2012

Reuters on June 14, 2012 released the following:

“By Anna Driver and Eileen O’Grady (Reuters) – Allen Stanford, the former Texas billionaire convicted of an \$7 billion Ponzi scheme, was sentenced to 110 years in prison by a U.S. federal judge on Thursday.

Stanford, who was convicted of 13 felony counts of fraud and conspiracy and obstruction by a Houston jury in March, used fraudulent certificates of deposit issued by his offshore bank in Antigua to bilk thousands of investors out of their savings.

In sentencing Stanford, U.S. District Judge David Hittner, who presided over

for hacking incidents not listed in Cleary’s indictment, including hacking the CIA’s public-facing website and the Atlanta chapter of an FBI partner organization called InfraGard.”

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his six-week trial earlier this year, called Stanford’s actions one of the most “egregious criminal frauds.”

The 110-year sentence compared with 150 years handed down to Bernard Madoff, who pleaded guilty in March 2009 to running a Ponzi scheme.

Speaking before his sentencing on Thursday, Stanford denied defrauding anyone and blamed the U.S. government for ruining his business by seizing his assets. “They destroyed it and turned it to nothing,” he said. “Stanford was a real brick-and-mortar global financial empire.”

Prosecutors had asked for a 230-year sentence, arguing in court papers that Stanford’s crime was “one of the most egregious frauds in history.”

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