

# Explosive Evidence Of Saudi-9/11 Link

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*Here are excerpts from a Sept. 16 EIR article entitled, “More Explosive Evidence of Saudi Support for 9/11 Hijackers.”*

Sept. 19—Calling it “the most important thing about 9/11 to surface in the last seven or eight years,” former Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, who chaired the Congressional Joint Inquiry into the 9/11 terrorist attacks, is calling on President Obama to investigate new disclosures linking Saudi nationals living in Sarasota, Fla., to the 9/11 hijackers.

“It’s very important for the White House to take control of this situation,” Graham told the *St. Petersburg Times* on Sept. 10. “The key umbrella question is: What was the full extent of Saudi involvement prior to 9/11 and why did the U.S. administration cover this up?”...

## **Sarasota House Linked to Hijackers**

The disclosures to which Graham is referring, were published in the *Miami Herald* on Sept. 7, revealing that two weeks before the 9/11 hijackings, a wealthy Saudi family which had been in contact with 9/11 hijackers Mohamed Atta and others, abruptly fled from their luxury home near Sarasota.

The house was owned by Saudi financier Esam Ghazzawi, and occupied by his daughter Anoud, her husband Abdulazzi al-Hijjii, and their young children. According to the story written by author Anthony Summers and local reporter Dan Christensen, law enforcement agents found records of telephone calls with a number of the hijackers, including Atta; security records of the gated community also showed visits by vehicles owned by Atta and by another hijacker, Zaid Jarrah.

Atta, Jarrah, and Marwan al-Shehhi were all living within 10 miles of Ghazzawi’s house, and were taking flying lessons in nearby Venice. Analysis of phone records from Ghazzawi’s house showed contact with 11 other terrorism suspects, including Walid al-Shehhi, who was with Atta on the first plane to hit the World

Trade Center on Sept. 11.

Neighbors said that Ghazzawi's family bragged of his ties to the Saudi royal family. This appears to be no idle boast: During the 1990s, British court documents pertaining to the investigations of BCCI (Bank of Credit and Commerce International) revealed that Ghazzawi held funds for Saudi Prince Fahd bin Salman, a nephew of the late King Fahd. Fahd's father, Prince Salman bin Abdel Azziz, governor of Riyadh Province, was also the co-director of the Saudi intelligence service, along with Prince Turki bin Faisal. Turki abruptly resigned (or was sacked) 10 days before the 9/11 attacks—around the same time that the Ghazzawi family abruptly fled Florida—and Turki left Washington on Sept. 4, 2001.

### Saudi Support Network

In a Sept. 15 interview on "Democracy Now," Graham described the Saudi "support network" for the 9/11 terrorists that the Congressional Inquiry uncov-

ered in San Diego, Calif., adding that, "We've just learned about another pod of this network in Sarasota."

"What we know to date is that there was a wealthy Saudi family living in a gated community near Sarasota, which had numerous contacts with Atta, the leader of the hijackers, and two others who were doing their pilot training near Sarasota. We also know that this family left the United States under what appear to be very urgent circumstances on Aug. 30, 2001, just before 9/11."

Graham stressed that the FBI did not tell the Congressional Inquiry about the Saudi contacts in either San Diego or Sarasota. Graham also cited the suppression of the final 28-page section of the Joint Inquiry's report, which was entirely blanked out and kept secret from the public, on the orders of former President George W. Bush, and which is still being withheld by the Obama Administration.

The Sarasota revelations parallel earlier information about a Saudi government employee who had lived in

## 9/11-Linked Saudi National Now Oil Exec in London

Feb. 19—In an update on the explosive story that former U.S. Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) last year called "the most important thing about 9/11 to surface in the last seven or eight years," it was reported by the London *Telegraph* Feb. 18 that Saudi national Abdulaziz al-Hijji, who fled abruptly from his home in Sarasota, Fla., just weeks before the 9/11 attacks, has been residing comfortably in London since 2003, working for the British branch of the Saudi Aramco oil company.

Last September, it was reported that hijackers Mohamed Atta and Marwan al-Shehhi had visited al-Hijji's residence in a gated community several times before the 9/11 attacks, as had another al-Qaeda operative, Adnan Shukrijumah, who is on the FBI's most wanted list with a \$5 million bounty offered for his capture.

Simultaneously, a story in the *Broward [Fla.] Bulldog* reports that al-Hijji considered Osama bin Laden a "hero," according to an informant interviewed by the

FBI and Florida law enforcement officials in 2004. The informant, Wissam Taysir Hammoud, is now serving 21 years in Federal prison after pleading guilty in 2005 to weapons violations and attempting to kill a Federal agent and a witness in an earlier case against him. Hammoud reaffirmed his previous statements about al-Hijji to the FBI in recent interviews.

The *Bulldog* has obtained Florida Department of Law Enforcement reports, which provide new details on the story. Hammoud told officials that he and al-Hijji worked out together at Shapes Fitness in Sarasota and played soccer at the local Islamic Society. He said that al-Hijji was "very well schooled in Islam" and that "Osama bin Laden was a hero of al-Hijji." He added that al-Hijji showed him a "website containing information about bin Laden," and spoke of "going to Afghanistan and becoming a freedom fighter."

According to Hammoud, al-Hijji also talked of "taking flight training in nearby Venice [Fla.]," where a number of hijackers trained. He said he believed "al-Hijji had known some of the terrorists from the September 11, 2001 attacks," who were students at an airport there. Hammoud's wife and sister-in-law confirmed during recent interviews that they too knew the al-Hijjis, and are familiar with elements of Hammoud's account.



Miami Herald

*Recent revelations in the Miami Herald linking a wealthy Saudi family with the 9/11 hijackers were characterized by former Sen. Bob Graham as “the most important thing about 9/11 to surface in the last seven or eight years.” Here is the paper’s online edition, showing 9/11 terrorist leader Mohammed Atta.*

California for years, Graham said. As *EIR* has reported since 2007, that man, Omar al-Bayoumi, had paid for a San Diego apartment for two of the hijackers, funneled money to them, and then left the United States in July 2011. Graham thinks Bayoumi and the Sarasota husband and wife, as well as her wealthy father, could have helped form a shadow support system for the hijackers.

“These 19 people did not play out this plot as lone wolves,” Graham said. “The chances that 19 people, most of whom had never been in the U.S., who did not speak English, and most of whom did not know each other, could have completed training, practiced and executed such a complicated plot, defies common sense.

“My assumption had been that they had some support system that was already in place in the United States, which facilitated their activities. We learned a lot about such a facilitation in San Diego. Now we’re beginning to learn about Sarasota. The question in my mind is, what happened in places like Arlington, Va.; Paterson, New Jersey; Phoenix, Arizona; Delray Beach, Fla., where we know hijackers lived for a considerable period of time? Were there similar facilitators in those communities?”

Graham believes that the intelligence networks that were used to support the 9/11 hijackers, were created by

the Saudis after the first Gulf War, to monitor the activities of Saudi students who were studying in the U.S., to ensure that Saudi leaders did not suffer the same fate as the Shah of Iran. This is consistent with what *EIR* reported as far back as 2007: that Bayoumi was suspected by the Arab community in San Diego of being an agent for Saudi intelligence, who was keeping tabs on Saudis in the area, especially Saudi students attending college in southern California. . . .