

Explosive New Evidence Of Saudi Role in 9/11

by Edward Spannaus

Sept. 29—Despite their claims to want the release of the secret 28-page chapter from the 2002 Congressional Joint Inquiry into the 9/11 attacks, the Saudis are actively resisting discovery of evidence relating to what is likely a central item in those 28 pages: the connection between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a southern California network that provided financial and logistical support to the 9/11 hijackers.

This could not be more urgent. At a time when the Obama Administration is plunging the nation into yet another war in the Middle East, ostensibly to destroy a terrorist group (Islamic State/ISIS/ISIL) created in large part by Saudi Arabia, public exposure of the Saudi role in sponsoring terrorism is of vital importance to our national security. Even worse, the Obama Administration claims to have recruited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an ally in the anti-ISIS coalition. On the other side, in Washington, momentum is slowly building in Congress in support of HR 428, to force disclosure of the 28 pages.

Meanwhile, with little fanfare, lawyers for 9/11 victims and insurance companies have been aggressively pursuing discovery of evidence, as part of ongoing litigation in New York. The 9/11 plaintiffs received a big boost in late June, when the U.S. Supreme Court said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia could be sued and potentially held liable for sponsoring the attacks. This was done over the objections of the Obama Administration, which, like the George W. Bush Administration before it, sided with the Saudis at every point in the protracted legal proceedings.

Just a few weeks ago, the 9/11 plaintiffs filed an updated statement of Facts and Evidence, which powerfully lays out the case for establishing the Kingdom's role in sponsorship of the 2001 terrorist attacks (see box). First, we review that filing, and then we will summarize recent Saudi attempts to obstruct the disclosure of evidence that would confirm its role, and provide the

basis for establishing U.S. legal jurisdiction over the Kingdom and related entities.

'Lavish Sponsorship' of al-Qaeda

The Sept. 15 filing of the "Consolidated Amended Pleading of Facts and Evidence" has definitely raised the ante against Saudi Arabia and its protectors in the U.S. government.

Interestingly, the new pleading revives and updates the extremely detailed allegations against the Saudi Kingdom and its "charities" which were originally contained in the Lloyds suit against various Saudi banks and charities, which was filed and then mysteriously withdrawn in 2011.¹ The new, 157-page complaint contains all the essential material from the Lloyds suit—going back to the alliance between Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab and the House of Saud in 1744, and the long history of Saudi-sponsored institutions financing the rise of jihadist movements, and particularly al-Qaeda, up through the 1990s—and updates it with a very detailed account of the San Diego/Saudi support operation, and a summary of the Sarasota/Saudi FOIA case, on which *EIR* has reported extensively.

New also, is the emphasis on the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs, which, it says, "provided the Ulema [the Wahhabi religious leadership] with direct access to government resources and platforms to advance its Islamic and jihadist causes, including through the direct support of al Qaeda and the September 11th attacks," and which also provided critical support for the hijackers in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Berlin, Germany.

The new amended complaint states that the success of the 9/11 attacks "was made possible by the lavish sponsorship al Qaeda received from its material sponsors, including the Kingdom and SHC [Saudi High Commission], over more than a decade leading up to September 11, 2001." Without the critical financial and logistical support provided to Saudi government agents Omar al-Baymoumi, Fahad al-Thumairy, Osama Basnan, Anwar Aulaki, et al., "the hijackers would have been incapable of successfully carrying out the single worst enemy attack on United States soil this country had seen in 60 years."

Bayoumi, as the pleading explains, was a longtime

1. Jeffrey Steinberg and Edward Spannaus, "Saudi Bankrolling of al-Qaeda Well Known to U.S. Government," *EIR*, Sept. 27, 2013.

employee of the Saudi government, and “served as a Saudi intelligence agent responsible for monitoring Saudi citizens’ activities within the United States.” Citing evidence from the Congressional Joint Inquiry and its co-chairman, former U.S. Senator Bob Graham, plus the 9/11 Commission and other investigations, the pleading details how Bayoumi, acting on instructions from Thumairy and other officials of the Saudi Consulate’s Ministry of Islamic Affairs office in Los Angeles, welcomed future hijacker-pilots Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Midhar to the U.S., and arranged for them to get settled and assimilated into the San Diego Muslim community. Bayoumi also hosted a third future hijacker-pilot, Hani Hanjour, in his apartment, and he put the hijackers in contact with al-Qaeda operative Aulaki,

who was later killed by a targeted U.S. drone strike in Yemen.

Overall, the updated pleading presents an overwhelming case for establishing Saudi Arabia as not only the prime sponsor of 9/11, but the leading state sponsor of global terrorism today. The issue is whether the court will finally determine that it has the jurisdiction and enough specific evidence to hold the Saudi Kingdom and related entities liable for the 9/11 attacks.

Discovery of Evidence on Bayoumi

Last December, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York reversed its previous ruling, and ruled that Saudi Arabia and related enti-

9/11 Plaintiffs Present ‘Facts and Evidence’

Here are excerpts from the “Factual Background” of the plaintiffs’ consolidated amended pleading of facts and evidence in support of their claims against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi High Commission for Relief of Bosnia & Herzegovina (SHC).

8. On September 11, 2001, nineteen members of the al Qaeda terrorist organization, fifteen of whom were citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, hijacked four commercial airliners, and used those planes as weapons in a coordinated terrorist attack upon the United States and its citizens (the “September 11th Attacks”).

9. The September 11th Attacks resulted in the tragic loss of several thousand lives, personal injuries to countless other persons, and property damage on a catastrophic scale, including the complete destruction of the World Trade Center Complex.

10. To al Qaeda and its adherents and supporters, the September 11th Attacks represented a single targeted operational strike, carried out as part of a broader and long ongoing campaign to wage jihad

against the United States.

11. The success of al Qaeda’s jihadist campaign, including the September 11th Attacks themselves, was made possible by the lavish sponsorship al Qaeda received from its material sponsors and supporters, including the Kingdom and SHC, over more than a decade leading up to September 11, 2001.

12. As further detailed below, the Kingdom and the SHC provided material support to al Qaeda with knowledge of al Qaeda’s intent to conduct terrorist attacks against the United States, and an awareness that al Qaeda would use the support provided by the Kingdom and SHC to achieve that objective, a goal al Qaeda has tragically realized on numerous occasions, including on September 11, 2001.

13. As further detailed below, the support provided by the Kingdom and SHC enabled al Qaeda to obtain the global strike capabilities necessary to carry out the September 11th Attacks, and was essential to the success of those attacks. Indeed, the material support provided by agents of the Kingdom, all of which is attributable to the Kingdom itself, included direct assistance to the September 11th plotters and hijackers.

14. Absent the support provided by the Kingdom and SHC, al Qaeda would not have possessed the capacity to conceive, plan and execute the September 11th Attacks.

ties could be sued for damages over the 9/11 attacks. In late June, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of that ruling brought by the Kingdom, thus clearing the way for the lawsuit against the Saudis to proceed.

At the same time, the discovery of evidence concerning Bayoumi's employer, the Saudi aircraft firm Dallah Avco, was proceeding in Federal court in New York, as a result of a April 2013 ruling in which the Second Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the earlier dismissal of Dallah Avco as a defendant, and sent the case back to the District Court for "jurisdictional discovery," i.e., to determine if sufficient evidence existed to give U.S. courts legal jurisdiction over the Saudi firm, which claimed that it did not conduct business in the United States.

The core of the 9/11 plaintiffs' argument, is the undisputed fact that Bayoumi, while in the U.S. assisting the future hijackers, was on the Dallah Avco payroll. The plaintiffs have faced intense obstruction from both Dallah Avco and the Saudi government itself, in their efforts to obtain the documentation which would prove this point, and which would confirm, as the plaintiffs have asserted, that Bayoumi was "a Saudi intelligence agent who provided direct assistance to several of the September 11th hijackers in support of the 9/11 attacks, while operating under the cover of a 'ghost job' provided by Dallah Avco."

Dallah Avco operates under contract with the Saudi Presidency of Civil Aviation (PCA), a government entity. Al-Bayoumi was on Dallah Avco's payroll from 1995 through 2001 in San Diego, allegedly working on a PCA project in Saudi Arabia, but he only showed up for work once in seven years! Meanwhile, he was, of course, providing direct assistance to three of the 9/11 hijackers, including assisting them in enrolling in flight training classes. The plaintiffs also cite evidence that al-Bayoumi (in addition to his salary of around \$4,000 a month), "had access to seemingly unlimited funding from Saudi Arabia."

In an Aug. 25 court filing, lawyers for the plaintiffs charge that Dallah Avco has attempted a "wholesale" avoidance of discovery, and that its stonewalling amounts to "a total failure to comply with its discovery obligations." They show that, in Dallah Avco's efforts to avoid handing over evidence regarding al-Bayoumi, it has claimed that it cannot provide any more information, because the Saudi government and Saudi law will not permit any disclosure of this information, on the

grounds that it would harm the Kingdom's "national security, interests, policies, or rights."

However, what little evidence has seeped out so far, is quite damning in terms of the overall case. In an index of documents which are claimed to be exempt from disclosure under Saudi law, are listed Dallah Avco documents showing that Bayoumi was "seconded" (posted) from the Saudi government's PCA annually from 1995 through 2001, and documents indicating that his salary was simply passed through Dallah Avco by the PCA, and that Bayoumi's higher education in the U.S. was under the sponsorship of the PCA, i.e., the Saudi government.

In fact, one document makes this case. In what appears to be a January 2014 letter to the PCA, Dallah Avco says that since Bayoumi was working on a PCA contract, "he was not an employee of Dallah Avco at any time," and that Dallah Avco was not familiar with Bayoumi's activities. This might help Dallah Avco evade the jurisdiction of the U.S. courts, but it confirms that Bayoumi was indeed a direct agent of the Saudi government in the period when he was aiding the 9/11 hijackers.



The Al-Qaeda Executive

Financed and deployed by the British-Saudi Empire, al-Qaeda has

been protected by the Obama Administration to accomplish the Empire's global war. In this feature [video](#), LaRouchePAC documents President Obama's use of the al-Qaeda networks to overthrow Qaddafi in Libya, and to carry out bloody regime-change against Assad in Syria, by the same forces who attacked the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

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