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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 03/07/2002

[redacted] date of birth [redacted] place of birth Tunis, Tunisia, address [redacted] CA, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed at the INS detention facility located at 300 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA. Present during the interview was Los Angeles Police Officer [redacted]. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] was born and raised in Tunis, Tunisia. He first came to the United States on 01/25/1999 on a visitors Visa. He arrived with his mother who stayed for approximately two weeks and then left back home to Tunisia. Shortly after he arrived in Los Angeles he enrolled in a English language school called Concord English Language. After studying there for ten month he began taking computer science classes at West Los Angeles College.

[redacted] goal is to complete his education in the United States, save some money, and then return to Tunisia. [redacted] he is currently being sponsored by a Saudi Arabia named [redacted] LNU in his attempts to obtain a green card. [redacted] is approximately forty-years old and owns a computer/internet company. [redacted]

[redacted] He began sponsoring [redacted] in April 2001.

Prior to living at his current address he lived at [redacted] in Los Angeles. He lived with [redacted] from Sudan. [redacted] is approximately [redacted] years old, dark complexion, [redacted] is currently still living on Leeward, however he is still in Saudia Arabia following the Hajj. [redacted] attends the King Fahad Mosque.

[redacted] working as an independent taxi cab driver. [redacted] provides often times provides fares for [redacted]. Additionally, [redacted] pays [redacted] \$120 a month for insurance. [redacted] from the corner of [redacted]

[redacted] has also worked at Arco gas stations located at [redacted] and at another Arco located at Sunset and San Vicente Avenues. [redacted] has also sold carpets on the

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Investigation on 03/06/2002 at Los Angeles, CA

File # 265A-LA-280901

Date dictated _____

by SA [redacted]

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DR#55 (spgs)

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street or swapmeets in the past until he was given a citation for doing so and placed on probation. He would buy his carpets at United Imports [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] speaks Arabic, French, and English.

[REDACTED] has never been to Europe or the Middle East. He has also never been to Pakistan or Afghanistan. [REDACTED] claims to have never received any military or terrorist training.

[REDACTED] he is a practicing Muslim who prays five times a day, and expressed repeatedly that Islam is peaceful. He stated that he never drinks, goes to bars or clubs, and does not smoke.

[REDACTED] expressed hatred for the Taliban/Al Qaeda and said that they were not Muslims.

[REDACTED] he did not believe that Muslims were involved in the 09/11/2001 attacks on America. He said that Muslims are simple people who just pray and could not have been involved in such a complex operation.

[REDACTED] he felt extremely sad about the events of 09/11/2001. He said that he has never heard anyone express joy over the terrorist attacks, and has never heard any say that they want to harm the United States because of our current involvement in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

Currently, [REDACTED] worships at the King Fahad Mosque in Culver City. He said that the Mosque director is named [REDACTED]. He said the Imam is [REDACTED].

Approximately five to seven months ago he went to Las Vegas with [REDACTED] known to investigators as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is also from Tunisia. They drove to Las Vegas in [REDACTED] black Volkswagen Golf. [REDACTED] works as a valet parking attendant at a casino off the 710 freeway.

He went to Las Vegas one other time. [REDACTED] could not recall exactly when this trip occurred, but he went with [REDACTED] as well. While on this trip he met a person named [REDACTED].

Approximately four to five months ago [REDACTED] went to San Francisco with [REDACTED].

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 04/06/2002, Page 3

[REDACTED] They rented a van and drove to San Francisco. They stayed for one night and went sight seeing the next day. They went on the trip [REDACTED] was due to return to Tunisia and had not seen San Francisco while in America.

[REDACTED] also traveled twice to San Diego. Both times he visited Sea world. The first time that he went was with [REDACTED] from Sudan. They visited no other places in San Diego while on this trip.

With regards to the second trip that [REDACTED] took to San Diego he remembered it as an after thought. He said he remembered his second trip to San Diego in the context of two Saudi Arabian nationals who flew into LAX airport and subsequently went to King Fahad Mosque. When asked to provide the sequence of events regarding the two Saudi Arabian nationals [REDACTED] provided the following:

[REDACTED] had heard that two Saudi Arabian men arrived at LAX and where met by a person unknown to [REDACTED]. This unknown person then took the two Saudis to an apartment complex that had already been rented for them. [REDACTED] stated he could not remember the address, but that it was a large white building located on Sepulveda Blvd. between Venice Blvd. and Palm St.

One or two days after the arrival of the Saudis [REDACTED] was at the King Fahad Mosque. While at the mosque [REDACTED] introduced [REDACTED] to the two Saudis and asked [REDACTED] if he could help them during their time in Los Angeles because they did not speak english. [REDACTED] agreed and gave the Saudis his taxi cab business card.

The next day the Saudis called [REDACTED] and asked him to pick them up and drive them around Los Angeles. [REDACTED] picked them up at their apartment complex and then drove them around Santa Monica, took them to the beach, and to Hollywood. That day they ate at the Cheesecake Factory and the Mediterranean Restaurant located on Venice Blvd. At the end of the day [REDACTED] took them back to their apartment complex.

Two to three days later the Saudis called [REDACTED] again. This time they wanted to go to Sea world in San Diego. They said they would pay [REDACTED] \$200 plus gas and food for the day if he took them. [REDACTED] agreed and picked them up at their apartment where he was given \$100 and told he would get the

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remainder after the trip. [REDACTED] stated they drove straight to San Diego and the only stop that they made was at a gas station. [REDACTED] could not remember the gas stations location in San Diego. They spent the entire day at Sea world and then returned to Los Angeles. While at Sea world the three of them never met anyone. There were occasions though where [REDACTED] used the restroom by himself and left the two Saudis alone.

One or two days after they returned to Los Angeles [REDACTED] called them to receive the remainder of his money. The [REDACTED] told him that [REDACTED] would give him the rest of the money.

When asked by investigators who else knew about the two Saudis [REDACTED] replied that no one at the Kind Fahad Mosque knew about them and that he was told by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did say that the Saudi Consulate knew about the two Saudis because it was the consulate that told [REDACTED] to take care of the Saudis.

[REDACTED] was told by [REDACTED] that the Saudis were here to see their sick father who was in a local hospital. [REDACTED] said that the Saudis stayed in Los Angeles for approximately one month and then they returned to Saudi Arabia. When asked if [REDACTED] knew for a fact that they returned to Saudi Arabia he replied no and that he was just told that they had left Los Angeles.

[REDACTED] could not remember the Saudis names, but remembered one was approximately [REDACTED] and the other was approximately [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated over and over that the two Saudis came to Los Angeles prior to 09/11/2001.

The following is a list of [REDACTED] friends and associates:

[REDACTED] driver in Chicago. He is [REDACTED]
Wired [REDACTED] \$2000 to bail out [REDACTED]
from INS custody in Los Angeles.

[REDACTED] LNU-Flew down from San Jose to help bail [REDACTED]
and [REDACTED] from INS custody. [REDACTED] is
[REDACTED] is Tunisian.

[REDACTED] Lives at [REDACTED] Santa Monica, CA.

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Works for [REDACTED] at the Metro Cab
Company in West Los Angeles. Tunisian.

[REDACTED] gas station. Tunisian.

[REDACTED] restaurant at the
[REDACTED] West LA.

[REDACTED] selling carpets. Drives a
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] English School.
[REDACTED] 710

freeway.

[REDACTED] Went back to Tunisia. Plans to go
to Canada in the future.

[REDACTED] Taxi driver. Met at King Fahad .
approximately one year ago. Friends with
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Friends with [REDACTED] Met at King
Fahad. Last saw him on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lives on [REDACTED] in Hollywood.
Works for "A" cab company [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Works as security guard in
Beverly Hills.

[REDACTED] Works at a store called "Bluestone"
in Hollywood.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 03/13/2002

[redacted] date of birth [redacted], place of birth [redacted] Santa Monica, CA, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed at the INS detention facility located at 300 N. Los Angeles St.; Los Angeles, CA. Present during the interview was Los Angeles Police Officer [redacted]. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia but was raised in Jordan. [redacted] at the King Fahad Mosque and worked together briefly selling carpets at swapmeets and on street corners. [redacted] currently drives a black Ford [redacted] and also owns a [redacted] van and a [redacted] BMW.

[redacted] describes [redacted] as secretive. He appears to be very concerned about not letting people know exactly what he does and how he makes his money. [redacted] apparently married an American woman which no one knew about until latter time.

[redacted] is living in [redacted] CA. [redacted] believed the address was [redacted]. The complex is off of Westwood Blvd. on Ashton Ave. one block south of Wilshire Blvd.

[redacted] is an associate of [redacted]. Two to three times a week [redacted] will run unknown errands for [redacted]. [redacted] also helped [redacted] (phonetic) when he arrived from Saudi Arabia. [redacted] believes that [redacted] is currently an Imam at a mosque in Orange County.

There is an unknown person from Yemen who attends the King Fahad Mosque who also had interaction with the two unknown Saudis the [redacted] described in his first interview. This person from Yemen is [redacted] old and has a full beard.

When the two Saudis arrived [redacted] escorted the two Saudi around Los Angeles and attempted to charge them \$450. Due to this incident the [redacted] are at

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Investigation on 03/12/2002 at Los Angeles, CA

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odds. This incident is the reason that [REDACTED] to take care of the Saudis during their time in Los Angeles.

The Yemeni drives an American made off white minivan and another blue car of unknown make.

[REDACTED] is from [REDACTED] Tunisia. He is currently studying aviation at the West Los Angeles college.

[REDACTED] is currently in custody. He used to work security at a Korean market at Western Ave and Olympic Blvd. While in custody on a previous INS violation two unknown Tunisians wired \$2,000 to the United States from Tunisia to bail him out. One of the Tunisians is name [REDACTED] LNU.

[REDACTED] is currently being housed by INS in their Lancaster, CA facility. He is being housed with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] has become very quiet and withdrawn lately. [REDACTED] is very fearful that he will be deported back to Tunisia where he believes he will be placed in prison or killed. [REDACTED] is supposed to see a INS judge on March 21, 2002.

[REDACTED] is concerned about being sent back to Tunisia because of his associations with [REDACTED] Apparently, [REDACTED] just released from prison after several years for their association with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] explained that "Dawas" is when Muslims travel throughout the world and preach Islam to other Muslims who may not be practicing their religion in a manner consistent with the beliefs of those participating in the "Dawa". [REDACTED] says that those who participate in "Dawas" preach that Muslims should not drink and smoke and that they should pray five times a day and dress in customary Islamic attire.

[REDACTED] said that when he first came to the United States that he went to the Concord English School in West Los Angeles. The owner of the school is an Iranian named [REDACTED] LNU.

One of the Directors at the King Fahad Mosque is named [REDACTED] LNU. [REDACTED] used to ask for money every Friday during prayers and would collect between \$5,000 to \$10,000. He would tell people that the money was needed to pay the the mosque's electricity and water.

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

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A group of approximately four individuals began to question where all the money was going. This group became so suspicious of [REDACTED] that they began to follow him around. [REDACTED] made some type of report to [REDACTED] in Saudi Arabia and the four individuals subsequently received letters from the King Fahad Mosque saying that they were no longer welcomed at the mosque.

One of the individuals who received this letter was named [REDACTED] LNU. [REDACTED] is the owner of a Mediterranean Restaurant on the [REDACTED]. He also started his own mosque at [REDACTED].

Another restaurant that [REDACTED] and his friends frequent is called the Mediterranean Café located at the corner of [REDACTED]. This restaurant is owned by a Lebanese Christian named [REDACTED] LNU.

During the interview [REDACTED] stated that he could show investigators the apartment complex that the two unknown Saudis (discussed in [REDACTED] first interview) stayed at during their time in Los Angeles. At this time [REDACTED] was placed in a vehicle as he directed investigators to the apartment complex.

[REDACTED] subsequently took investigators to [REDACTED]. The apartment complex is named [REDACTED] Terrace Apartment Homes.

[REDACTED] also remembered that when the two Saudis first arrived in Los Angeles that they stayed at the Hilton Hotel on Century Blvd near LAX before relocating to [REDACTED].

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 03/07/2002

Qualid Moncef Benomrane, [redacted] place
of birth Tunis, Tunisia, [redacted]
[redacted] was interviewed at the INS
detention facility located at 300 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles,
CA. Present during the interview was Los Angeles Police [redacted]
[redacted] After being advised of the identity of the
interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview Benomrane
provided the following information:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Currently, [redacted]
[redacted] provides often times provides [redacted]
[redacted] Additionally, [redacted] a month
for insurance. [redacted] the
corner of Wagner Ave and Centinella Ave on Wagner.

[redacted]

Investigation on 03/06/2002 at Los Angeles, CA

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by SA [redacted] ct

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Qualid Moncef Benomrane, [redacted] place
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[redacted] After being advised of the identity of the
interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview Benomrane
provided the following information:

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[redacted]

Investigation on 03/12/2002 at Los Angeles, CA

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