

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

Case No. 8:03-CR-77-T-30TBM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-vs-

1 May 2006

SAMI AMIN AL-ARIAN,

8:48 a.m.

Defendants.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
(SENTENCING HEARING)
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES S. MOODY, JR.,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government:

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(appearances continued on next page)

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED
COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION

ALSO PRESENT:

SAMI AMIN AL-ARIAN (Defendant)
KERRY MYERS (FBI Case Agent)
CHARLOTTE BRAZIEL (FBI Agent)
CHRIS GRIFFITHS (Paralegal -
U.S. Attorney's Office)
SARA BOSWELL (Courtroom Deputy
Clerk)
FRANK DOHERTY (Court Security
Officer)

REPORTED BY:

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E X H I B I T S

(None marked or received)

1 (8:48 a.m.) P R O C E E D I N G S

2 * * * * *

3 THE COURT: Dr. Al-Arian, as usual, you speak very
4 eloquently. I find it interesting that here in public in
5 front of everyone you praised this country, the same country
6 that in private you referred to as "the great Satan"; but
7 that's just evidence of how you operate in the face of your
8 friends and neighbors.

9 You are a master manipulator. You looked your
10 neighbors in the eyes and said you had nothing to do with
11 the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. This trial exposed that as a
12 lie.

13 Your back-up claim is that your efforts were only
14 to provide charities for widows and orphans. That, too, is
15 a lie. The evidence was clear in this case that you were a
16 leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. You were on the
17 board of directors and an officer, the secretary. Directors
18 control the actions of an organization, even the PIJ; and
19 you were an active leader.

20 When Iran, the major funding source of the PIJ,
21 became upset because the PIJ could not account for how it
22 was spending its money, it was to your board of directors
23 that it went to demand changes. Iran wanted its
24 representative to have a say in how its money was spent.

25 To stop that, you leaped into action. You offered

1 to rewrite the bylaws of the organization. You proposed
2 that all PIJ funds be controlled by a three-person
3 committee, of which you would be one of the three. You made
4 calls to fellow directors all over the world to gather
5 support. This committee would account for Iran's money, all
6 to keep the money flowing.

7 But when it came to blowing up women and children
8 on buses, did you leap into action then? Did you offer to
9 form a committee to protect the innocent? Did you call your
10 fellow directors and enlist their aid in stopping the
11 bombing or even to stop the targeting of the innocent? No.
12 You lifted not one finger, made not one phone call. To the
13 contrary, you laughed when you heard about the bombings,
14 what you euphemistically call "operations." You even
15 pleaded for donations to pay for more such operations.

16 I'll give a specific example: On January 22nd,
17 1995, in Beit Lid, there was a double suicide bombing
18 claimed by the PIJ. The bombings occurred at a busy bus
19 transfer station. People, including women and children,
20 were milling about waiting for their buses.

21 When one pulled up -- not a particular bus, a
22 random bus -- the first bomb was detonated, killing
23 passengers and bystanders alike. The second bomber waited
24 ten minutes or so and blew up the ambulance crews and other
25 bystanders who had rushed in to help the wounded and dying.

1 Anyone with even the slightest bit of human
2 compassion would be sickened. Not you. You saw it as an
3 opportunity to solicit more money to carry out more
4 bombings.

5 You composed a letter to a member of the Kuwait
6 legislature. Your true attitude is best described by your
7 own words, and I quote: "The latest operation carried out
8 by the two mujahideen who were martyred for the sake of God
9 is the best guide and witness to what the believing few can
10 do in the face of Arab and Islamic collapse at the heels of
11 the Zionist enemy and in keeping the flame of faith,
12 steadfastness, and defiance glowing. I call upon you to try
13 to extend true support of the jihad effort in Palestine so
14 that operations such as these can continue."

15 And yet, still in the face of your own words, you
16 continue to lie to your friends and supporters, claiming to
17 abhor violence and to seek only aid for widows and orphans.

18 Your only connection to widows and orphans is that
19 you create them, even among the Palestinians; and you create
20 them, not by sending your children to blow themselves out of
21 existence. No. You exhort others to send their children.

22 Your children attend the finest universities this
23 country has to offer while you raise money to blow up the
24 children of others.

25 You are indeed a master manipulator.

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CERTIFICATE OR REPORTER

I, SHERRILL LYNN JACKSON, Official Court Reporter
for the United States District Court, Middle District of
Florida, Tampa Division,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I was authorized to and
did, through use of Computer-Aided Transcription, report in
shorthand the proceedings and evidence in the above-styled
cause, as stated in the caption hereto, and that the
foregoing pages numbered 1 to 6, inclusive,
constitute a true and correct transcription of my
shorthand report of said proceedings and evidence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand
this 1st day of May, 2006.

SHERRILL LYNN JACKSON, RPR
Official Court Reporter