



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
YUSILL SCRIBNER  
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**MARYLAND MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PROVIDING MATERIAL  
SUPPORT TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATION**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that MAHMUD FARUQ BRENT, also known as MAHMUD ALMUTAZZIM, pleaded guilty this afternoon to charges that he conspired to provide material support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba foreign terrorist organization. During the plea proceeding, BRENT acknowledged that, working with others, he traveled to Pakistan in 2002 and attended a terrorist training camp operated by the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist organization. BRENT thereafter returned to the United States and was living in the Baltimore, Maryland area at the time of his arrest in August 2005. According to charging documents filed in Manhattan federal court and BRENT's guilty plea:

As part of the conspiracy to provide material support to Lashkar-e-Taiba, BRENT received martial arts training from TARIK SHAH, a co-defendant who is presently awaiting trial in the Southern District of New York on similar charges. SHAH was previously found to be in possession of an address book containing telephone numbers for "MAHMUD ALMUTAZZIM" and "Sayfullah." Telephone records reveal that one of the numbers listed for "ALMUTAZZIM" was subscribed to by BRENT's wife at his home in Gwynn Oak, Maryland, and that the number listed for "Sayfullah" was subscribed to at an address known to have been used by SEIFULLAH CHAPMAN. CHAPMAN has been convicted in the Eastern District of Virginia of multiple terrorism and firearms charges as part of the Virginia Jihad Network prosecutions.

In a recorded conversation with an undercover FBI agent, SHAH mentioned the names of several students with whom he had studied martial arts and who had gone overseas to training camps in Afghanistan and Yemen, including "MAHMUD ALMUTAZZIM." Among other things, SHAH reported that BRENT had told him how

"difficult" it was to be back in the United States and not to be in training. SHAH said that BRENT could be trusted because he was a longtime student of his who, after leaving school, started "seeking the way to become Mujahideen." SHAH also told the undercover agent that he intended to call BRENT to enlist his help in preparing a demonstration video to be used for martial arts training of jihadists. Phone records reveal a subsequent 16-minute telephone call between phones used by SHAH and BRENT.

After SHAH was arrested, he agreed to meet with BRENT and to allow the FBI to secretly monitor the encounter. SHAH and BRENT met at a hotel in the vicinity of Columbia, Maryland. During that meeting, when SHAH indicated that he wanted to "travel," BRENT replied that his "connections" were "kinda gone," in light of what had been happening in the community and that his only connection was "doing time now." BRENT explained that he never really "knew names" since that was the "way that they had it set up" over there and that, at the time he went to the camps, everything was "really organized." BRENT described the difficulties he encountered in reaching the "camps" and the process by which he was able to find a connection to get into the camps, although he told SHAH that he would not "mention" his connection's name to SHAH. BRENT encouraged SHAH to travel overseas to the camps and told SHAH that it was a question of "how much" SHAH was willing to "sacrifice" and whether SHAH was willing to "take a risk." BRENT explained how difficult it was to make the trip since it was difficult to "trust" people in the current climate and noted that "we don't know who is who," and that "we were not in a position to make new friends." BRENT also indicated that he had traveled to Pakistan. When SHAH inquired whether BRENT had stayed in the city, BRENT responded that he had not been in the cities but had been up in the "mountains" training "and stuff" with "the mujahideen, the fighters." BRENT stated that because of "treaties with Bush," it became dangerous for "foreigners," like BRENT, to stay in the camps, and so they moved him around from place to place. BRENT stated that he had agreed to provide whatever "assistance" he could over there and expressed his hope that Allah would bless him for his efforts. BRENT stated that he would never "go back" on his decision to go to the camps and that it was "one of the better decisions in [his] life."

BRENT pleaded guilty before Magistrate Judge DOUGLAS F. EATON and will be sentenced on July 10, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. before United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA. He faces a maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment.

Mr. GARCIA also praised the work of the New York Joint Terrorism Task Force, including the Federal Bureau of

Investigation and the New York City Police Department, for their efforts in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys JENNIFER G. RODGERS, VICTOR L. HOU, and KARL METZNER are in charge of the prosecution.

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