



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

Paul J. McNulty
United States Attorney

2100 Jamieson Avenue (703)299-3700
Alexandria, Virginia 22314 Fax: 703-549-5202

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Alexandria, Virginia
October 23, 2003

For further information contact
Sam Dibbley 703-299-3822

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the return today of an 18-count indictment against Abdurahman M. Alamoudi, 51, of Falls Church, Virginia, by a federal grand jury in Alexandria. Alamoudi is charged with false statements, writings and schemes; prohibited financial transactions with the Libyan Government, a state sponsor of terrorism, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332d; prohibited financial transactions with Libya in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA); money laundering; money structuring; misuse of a passport; unlawful procurement of naturalization; and failure to report foreign bank accounts. If convicted, he faces a possible sentence of 105 years in prison, and revocation of his United States citizenship.

The indictment alleges that from November 1995 to September 2003, Alamoudi devised a scheme to obtain money from Libya and other sources overseas for transmission into the United States without attracting the attention of the Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, Customs and Border Protection, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department. The purpose of this scheme was to hide the amount of money he controlled, how and where he obtained it, and what he did with the money.

The indictment sets forth a comprehensive scheme to conceal, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(1), including: (1) engaging in prohibited financial transactions related to Libya; (2) false statements to the Immigration and Naturalization about his overseas travel; (3) false statements to the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection officials denying travel to Libya; misuse of his United States passport to travel to Libya; (4) obtaining visas for travel to Libya from the Libyan Embassy in Canada; travel to Libya on different passports than those presented to Customs and Border Protection officials upon his return from Libya; (5) attempting to structure the importation of cash received from Libyan sources overseas and to structure transactions with domestic financial institution to evade reporting requirements for currency; and (6) and concealing foreign bank accounts.

The indictment also alleges that on August 13, 2003, Alamoudi received a phone call at his hotel in London, England from a person with a Libyan accent who stated he had "something" for Alamoudi. Alamoudi received from the individual a briefcase containing \$340,000 in sequentially number bills of United States currency from an individual, which he transferred to his own luggage, leaving the briefcase behind.

The indictment identifies the source of the \$340,000 in cash as the Islamic Call Society, a branch of the Government of Libya, and alleges that Alamoudi received such cash without complying with the licensing and authorization requirements of the Libyan Sanction Regulations and in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332d. Further, the indictment alleges that on August 16, 2003, Alamoudi attempted to transport the \$340,000 in cash out of England, to deposit it in banks in Saudi Arabia and attempted to structure the \$340,000 into the United States while evading currency reporting requirements.

On Sept. 28, 2003, upon entry into the United States thru Washington Dulles Airport, Alamoudi falsely represented his overseas travel to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer by stating he had only visited England, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon, when, in fact, he had also traveled to Libya and Egypt.

It is alleged that Alamoudi also made false statements under oath regarding his Application for Naturalization by falsely stating the number of absences from the United States as only five in the five years preceding his application, knowing full-well he was absent approximately 10 times during that five year period. He also failed to list his present and past membership in or affiliation with every organization, fund, foundation, party, club, society or similar group in the U.S. or elsewhere, by omitting that he was Director of Mercy International - U.S.A., Inc; Director of the United Association for Studies and Research, Inc., and had been a member of the Eritrean Liberation Front/Peoples Liberation Force.

"Today's indictment alleges an extensive effort by the defendant, Abdurahman Alamoudi, to hide his business dealings with Libya – a state sponsor of terrorism," stated Attorney General John Ashcroft. "The Justice Department will prosecute those who would put America at risk."

United States Attorney Paul J. McNulty said: "Those who 'cozy up' with state sponsors of terrorism will not be tolerated. Today's indictment demonstrates our commitment to prosecute those who take secret money from state sponsors of terrorism."

This case is being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Gordon Kromberg and Special Assistant United States Attorney Steven Ward are handling the prosecution for the United States Attorney's Office.

###