



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY:

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that a federal grand jury had returned a one-count indictment charging Jamil Salem Sarsour (a/k/a "Jim Salem" and "Abu Salem"), age 53, a Milwaukee businessman with evading the currency transaction reporting requirements that cash transactions in excess of \$10,000 be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. Sarsour structured \$25,000 in financial transactions on October 22, 1998, the day he departed for Israel, to avoid the federal reporting requirements.

The following is a listing of the transactions that took place on October 22, 1998:

(Put in listing from indictment)

On October 23, 1998, Sarsour was arrested when he arrived in Tel Aviv from Milwaukee. Israeli court documents show that he was charged with aiding HAMAS and later pled guilty to those charges. Deportation proceedings began when he completed his term of imprisonment and upon his recent release from prison in Israel he was deported to the United States. He was arrested on a criminal complaint on December 27, 2002.

This case was cooperatively investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue service, Criminal Investigation Division, with the assistance of Israeli law enforcement authorities. If convicted of these charges Sarsour would face up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is the formal method of issuing charges and does not, in and of itself, create an inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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