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May 26, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CENTRAL INDIANA MAN SENTENCED FOR WORKING
WITH FORMER IRAQI INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced today that SHAABAN HAFIZ AHMAD ALI SHAABAN, also known as SHAABAN HAFED and JOE H. BROWN, age 54, who formerly resided in Greenfield, Indiana, was sentenced by the Honorable John Daniel Tinder to 160 months imprisonment. SHAABAN was convicted at trial in January of Conspiracy, Acting as a Foreign Agent without Notification, violations of the Iraqi Sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, Unlawful Procurement of an Identification Document and Unlawful Procurement of Naturalization. At the sentencing, Judge Tinder indicated that Shaaban engaged in dealing with the enemy and gave aid and comfort to this country's sworn enemy at a time when this country had declared war against Iraq and U.S. forces were being positioned to invade Iraq.

Judge Tinder also noted that SHAABAN was masterful at manipulation of this country's immigration and citizenship process; he engaged in a campaign to dissuade family members from giving truthful testimony; and he abused and misused every aspect of the judicial system.”

United States Attorney Susan W. Brooks stated: “ I applaud the prosecution team and appreciate the extraordinary efforts that went into the successful prosecution of an individual that wanted harm to be done to Americans.” Susan Brooks also commended the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their diligent work in the investigation of this case, and their assistance to the prosecution team.

Federal law requires individuals – other than diplomats, consular officers, and attaches – who agree to act as an agent of a foreign government to register with the Attorney General. SHAABAN never registered as an agent of Iraq, yet in 2002 and 2003 when he lived in Indianapolis and Greenfield, Indiana SHAABAN agreed to act as an agent for Iraq. As an unregistered agent for the Saddam Hussein regime, SHAABAN committed the following acts:

- traveled to Baghdad in late 2002 where he agreed to sell names of U.S. intelligence agents and operatives to Iraq for \$3 million dollars.
- sought to gain Iraqi support to establish an Arabic television station in the United States that would broadcast news and discussions that would be pro-Iraqi.
- sought to enter into a “ Cooperation Agreement” where he would be paid a fee by Iraq to organize volunteers to act as human shields to protect Iraqi infrastructure during the war.
- broadcasted messages of support for the Iraqi government on Iraqi media stations that advocated support for Iraq and encouraged others to forcibly resist the United States and others who opposed Iraq.

The travel to Iraq and SHAABAN’ s attempt to sell intelligence information to the Iraqi government were not only violations of the Foreign Agent Notification Act, but were also violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act [IEEPA] in effect at the time.

In 1990 before Iraq invaded Kuwait, then President George H. W. Bush declared a national emergency with respect to Iraq and, under IEEPA and the Iraqi Sanctions Regulations, banned travel and any transactions with Iraq unless authorized to by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control. These sanctions were continually in place until May 2003 when certain sanctions were lifted and it was not until July 2004, when the President declared that the national emergency with Iraq was over.

The two IEEPA convictions establish that in late fall 2002, SHAABAN violated that criminal statute, when he, without authorization, traveled to Iraq and attempted to provide services to Iraq by selling names of U.S. intelligence operatives. While in Iraq, SHA' BAN met with members of the IIS, or Iraqi Intelligence Service. The IIS, known in Arabic as the *Da' irat al-Mukhabbarat al-'Amma*, or the *Mukhabbarat*, was the foreign intelligence arm of Iraq. The missions of the IIS included foreign intelligence collection (the gathering of information regarding the intentions of foreign governments), counterintelligence (the detecting of efforts by foreign governments to gather intelligence about the Iraq), and the collection of information regarding individuals and groups considered hostile to the Iraq.

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