

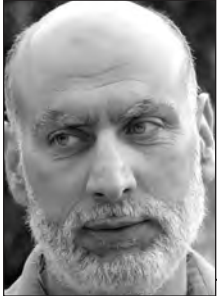


The Chicago Connection to International Terrorism

A Special Project of the The Jewish Community Relations Council of the JUF of Metropolitan Chicago

Fact Sheet: United States v. Ashqar, Marzook and Salah

Mohammad Salah



Daily Southtown

- Age 53, born in Ramallah, moved to U.S. in 1971, Bridgeview resident.
- Arrested in 1993 by Israel.
- While in custody in Israel wrote a 53-page confession acknowledging his role in financing Hamas and pleaded guilty, serving five years in prison.
- Characterized a “Specially Designated Terrorist” by U.S. upon his 1998 return to Chicago.
- December 2004, Salah, along with the Quaranic Literacy Institute and the Holy Land Foundation, found liable for murder of U.S. citizen David Boim, killed in 1996 Hamas terrorist attack in Jerusalem. \$156 million in damages was awarded to the Boim family.
- Charged with: conspiracy to support a terrorist group and obstruction of justice for lying during the Boim civil case.

Abdelhaleem Hasan Ashqar



- Age 48, born in Tulkarem, Ashqar entered the U.S. in 1989.
- Despite being offered immunity, Ashqar charged in 2003 with criminal contempt for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury in Chicago regarding connections to Hamas.
- Ashqar released on bond on 9/15/04, with friends posting a \$2.5 million bail. Ordered to home confinement in northern Virginia.
- Charged with: conspiracy to support a terrorist group and obstruction of justice for refusing to testify before a grand jury.

Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook



Associated Press

- Age 55, born in Gaza Strip and moved to the U.S. in 1981.
- Marzook rose through the ranks as a Hamas member while living in the U.S.
- Set up organizations—the Islamic Association for Palestine, the Holy Land Foundation and others—to support Hamas.
- Marzook characterized as a “Specially Designated Terrorist” in 1995 by U.S. and Holy Land Foundation had its assets frozen in 2001.
- 1992 Marzook left the U.S. to head political office of Hamas in Damascus.
- Marzook will be tried in absentia. He is believed to be living in Syria.
- Charged with: conspiracy to support a terrorist group.

Lawyers

- **Michael Deutsch** (representing Mohammad Salah) from the People’s Law Office, Chicago, IL.
- **William Moffit** (representing Abdelhaleem Hasan Ashqar).

Pre-Trial Proceeding Highlights

- Over the defence’s objection, Judge Amy St. Eve will allow the testimony of two Israeli Secret Service agents who questioned Salah while in Israeli custody. The identities of the agents will be hidden through disguise with only the judge, jurors, lawyers, defendants, and the families of the defendants allowed in the courtroom.
- Over the prosecution’s objection, the jurors will not be anonymous.
- The prosecution dropped the charge that upon Salah’s return to the U.S. he resumed providing money and recruited new members for Hamas.

Date of Trial

Jury selection begins October 12, 2006. Estimated to last three months.

For updates, visit www.juf.org/jcrc/trial