

Date/Time Recorded: 04/03/1996 at 13:53:00 call #2

Participants:

Mo = Mohamed Elmezain
Sh = Shukri Abu Baker
Ha = Haitham Maghawri

Abbreviations:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| <i>Italics</i> | Spoken in Foreign Languages |
| IA | Inaudible |
| UI | Unintelligible |
| PH | Phonetic |
| [] | Background Conversation / Noise/Translator's comments |
| SC | Simultaneous conversation |

Sh: So, thanks be to God, until now..., I mean, matters are..., like I told you, there is nothing.... The only thing is this female journalist who had contacted you...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: She called me yesterday. She is saying, "I was trying to get hold of *Mr. Elmezain* and stuff" and there is nothing to it. She is saying that there is a question regarding the year 1990....er, there is a guy who says that he met with people at a conference and told them, "We need to..., for Jihad and stuff, the war and Palestine". I told her, "By God, to begin with, I don't believe that this happened. We have nothing to do with this issue and stuff". She is saying that. I told her, "Who is your source?". One of those things written by Emerson, that is.

Mo: *Dallas...., Dallas Morning News*, that is.

Sh: Yes. But, she is doing a research about the issue.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: One of these things Emerson fabricated, that is. She will tell you, "This person confessed. One person they arrested and stuff".

Mo: Yes, yes.

Sh: She told me, "*But, can you promise me that you talk with him and...*, I mean, this is now my question... *He doesn't wanna talk to me?*". I told her, "I don't know". She told me, "*I'll call him*"....UI.

Mo: Hum, hum.

Sh: That's it. These are the only questions, I mean. She asked me..., she said, "Is this true that you..., I mean, that you are so and so and the donation Abou Omar made to the Foundation...".

Mo: She asked about it?

Sh: Of course. This is *public record*. So,...., the sum of 210 and stuff.

Mo:UI.

Sh: I understand, I told her that I understand the issue. This man was....er, I mean, we were at one of the MAYA conferences in 1990.... He wrote the check in *January 1992*....

Mo: For how much?

Sh: 210.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: Yes. So, we were at a conference and....er....

Mo: In one lump sum?

Sh: Yes. Of course, what do you think.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: We.... So, we were at the conference and we held a *fundraising* and *he made a pledge*.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: And we returned from the conference. In January, he sent it, that's it. *It is a one-time deal*, I mean. He didn't send again and we didn't hear from him.

Mo: Did she....UI *donation*?

Sh: No. So, I told her, "That's it. This even tells you that neither he has a relationship nor we have a relationship with him. If he had a relationship, he would have transferred the money directly from his side. He doesn't need to send it to the *Holy Land Foundation*, that is".

Mo: Yes.

Sh: You see? And that we are...., what you call it,...

Mo: ...UI.

Sh: Er..., and this was in the year 1990. It wasn't even..., the man had no relationship with any political work in the first place.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: She asked, I mean, "*How come...*". It looks like my name was in his phone book.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: I told her, "*Well, I'm a man who is active in the Palestinian activism in America since the year 1980 and I'm a famous and a well-known person and stuff and this man..., he is a community leader, I mean. So, you will find my name in his pocket as well as in the pockets of a thousand person, I mean, what is the big deal, I mean, if my name is in his pocket?*"

Mo: Hum.

Sh: And this guy who wants to donate \$200,000 to the Foundation, isn't he going to have the Foundation's telephone number and the name of its president?

Mo: Yes.

Sh: Yes. So, these are issues which are being circulated now. I mean, she started to work on them. She contacted his attorney and his attorney said, "No. He didn't donate. He didn't make any donations", even though this is a matter of..., I mean....

Mo: It is a big mess, my brother.

Sh: Yes. Don't you remember when we warned him and told him, "In these matters, you should...." So, now his attorney is denying even though this is there. *You cannot....*, I mean, *it is a bank record*. The check is known, the check number is known...

Mo: We got the check from him and from others.

Sh: Yes. We tell her that. I mean, they now know. We told her that we know him but...

Mo: She didn't speak directly with me, that is, regarding the...

Sh: That is the question she was asking. She said that she will ask me that question and about Abou Marzouk, "What do you know about him and stuff". So, we told her, "Anyone who donates to us... As long as the donation is unconditional, I mean, we accept it. But, if the donation is conditional, we don't accept it".

Mo: And all of those work with...UI.

Sh: Yes. So, and all of that was in the year 1990 or 1991 when the man was not..., even if he..., he had no relationship with anything that we know, I mean, politics and stuff. Therefore, we have no relationship with this issue. So, it looks like there are people who dig into all of these issues and one should be *careful*. Er..., there is nothing. The fact that he calls her and tells her that...UI.

Mo: No. Talk to her and tell her that this stuff is not true.

Sh: ... She is asking, "Why was your policy in the beginning that you..., that you were with Hamas and stuff and then lately just because there has been violence...."

Mo: She was saying this stuff?

Sh: Yes.

Mo: Tell her...UI...*we have no...UI publication or announcement that we are affiliated with any..., any...*

Sh: I told her, "I challenge you...". To start with, I told her, "We don't have a connection with Hamas in the first place, no connection to discontinue. We..., I challenge you. All of our *literature*, printed materials and our speeches during our *fundraising...*, I challenge you to find that we one-day stood up or wrote asking for donations for Hamas. I challenge you". So, she remained quiet. I told her, "It is not that we started...".

Mo: Tell her, "What..., what..., what Hamas..., I mean, I mean, regarding donations to Hamas *at that time were not illegal*. Also, in truth, they are an honor to the entire Palestinian people in the first place...

Sh: She said, "Ok, you..., I mean, as long as they do good work and stuff, I mean, what is the problem?". ...UI. I told her, "I personally visited the homeland three times and we...er, give assistance to the parties which serve true assistance to the Palestinian people and, by God...er, by God...", she cited me an example of Jamil Hamami and told me, "Isn't he so and so and the one in charge of schools and stuff?". I told her, "Yes". I told her..., she said, "Did you support them?", I told her, "Yes, we supported them and that the fact that Hamami is affiliated with so and so does not mean that I will deprive a thousand students from the best schools according to the testimony of the Israeli ministry of education, the best schools in...UI, this does not mean that...". I told her, "Our policy that we give the organizations and we don't give to the individuals. We don't give to the individuals".
