

Date & Time: 12/3/1999 at 10:04:47

Line ID: 699-0718

Number called: 01197272853417

Participants:

Sh = Shukri Abou Baker
Gh = Ghassan Elashi
Ha = Haitham Maghawri
Mo = Mohamed Abou Moharam
Uf = Unidentified Female
Um = Unidentified Male

Abbreviations:

<i>Italics</i>	Spoken in English
IA	Inaudible
UI	Unintelligible
PH	Phonetic
<u>Hybrid</u>	Hybrid word are underscored.
<u>TI</u>	Translator's comment
SC	Simultaneous conversation

GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT
Baker Wiretap - 38
3:04-CR-240-G
U.S. v. HLF, et al.

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[Numbers are dialed].

Sh: [Off the phone:] but it...*is a big story. It's na...er, it's a big story.*

Ha: [Off the phone:] [UI] You'd find that *he had changed the whole file from...*

Gh: [Off the phone:] We'll go back, and...er .

[Phone rings] .

Ha: [Off the phone:] He met with Ahmed Yasin, and he met with al-Zahar

Sh: Which means...

Uf: Hello!

Ha: Peace be upon you.

Uf: And peace be upon you.

Ha: Is Mohammed available, By God?

Uf: Who is asking about him?

Ha: Haitham.

Uf: One moment, please, so that we call him. He is at the door.

Ha: Alright .

Sh: [Off the phone:] God willing, Sheik Ahmad Yasin will mess things up when talking, mess things up. [Noise] "In Europe and America we will..." [Noise]. I am afraid that these tough-man act..., it is always scary.

[UI talk in the background].

Sh: " We will reach you and will get you". [Noise]. I pray to God that it turns out...

Gh: On the contrary they are now UI. They are protesting and they are saying...er, I don't know what.

Sh: By God, Ghassan, I don't trust the intelli- the critical intelligence of anybody.

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[Children's noise].

Gh: *See, I..., my point is that the whole step is going to dig on Holy Land Foundation.*
It seems to me [Noise]...

Mo: Hello.

Sh: Peace be upon you.

Mo: And upon you.

Sh: Abu Ahmad!

Mo: Who is talking to me.

Sh: Who is talking to you...

Ha: Shukri and Haitham.

Mo: Welcome, Haitham, welcome.

Ha: [UI].

Sh: Mohammed?

Mo: Yes...yes.

Sh: How are you?

Mo: May God greet you, how are you.

Sh: Thank God. What is the news report of today? [Laughs]

Mo: About Mohammed?

Sh: What is the news report that you have?

Mo: About Mohammed?

Sh: Yes.

Mo: The news report...I mean everything is fine, thank God.

Sh: Yes,

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Mo: We recorded, I mean, the minutes of the interview today — I, Doctor As'ad, and the journalist, and Shreitah.

Sh: [off the phone] It is from his side...

Mo: Hello!

Sh: I am with you.

Mo: Excuse me, it is because I am going up the stairs, too many, I was downstairs. I mean excuse me please.

Sh: It is Ok.

Mo: So, we recorded everything for him, and we surrounded him so tightly...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: ...he will not, in any way, to write any report contrary to the reality, that we have here, I mean.

Sh: Ok.

Mo: So...I spoke to brother Haitham with regards to Mohamed... he is going to meet Mohamed Anati...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: ... and at the same time, it seems that — according to Shreitah..., Taher...

Sh: Fine.

Mo: ... it seems that he will obtain facts from Israel, or something...

Sh: Huh.

Mo: ... with regards to the Foundation.

Sh: Fine.

Mo: So Taher, I mean he accepted today that you talk to him.

Sh: Fine.

Mo: So, so there is no problem in calling him today, Taher, God willing. Uh, be assured that matters...I mean that there is nothing of what was said does not serve

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the Foundation, and we have everything *documented* through recording.

Sh: Fine.

Mo: That's the only thing that happened. I mean that he even had an interview with Sheikh Ahmed Yasin, yesterday...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: Uh, Taher is very intelligent, I mean; he went in advance to Sheikh Ahmed and told him; "Such and such, and that this one is coming intentionally, meaning he is targeting the Foundation."

Sh: Yes.

Mo: So, when he interviewed Sheikh Ahmed Yasin, he, Sheikh Ahmed Yasin, played a little dumb and told him that; "What is this Holy Land Foundation? I do not know anything about it. Where is it? Let them help us and send us anything, we want to build a school." I mean things like that. He also interviewed Mahmoud al-Zahar...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: ... and the interview was also positive — this is in the presence of Taher Shreitah.

Sh: Fine.

Mo: So matters, I mean, it seems to me that, God willing, good may come out of bad, turned out in our benefit, all of it.

Sh: God willing, God willing, God will-

Mo: So, I mean, you be assured from your side. Taher Shreitah witnessed the report which I wrote...

[Noise].

Sh: Alright.

Mo: ... the one that I sent to you, probably you received it.

Sh: [SC] Yes, received, yes.

Mo: And...er, he is willing- He tells you that he will send him the report which he will write in their paper, and Taher said, "Anything contrary to all the events which took place and all that I heard, I personally, will file a lawsuit against him".

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Sh: Good, Beautiful.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: Good, Beautiful. [Child's noise] So, eh...

Mo: I mean, thank God.

Gh: Er...when he told you [child's noise] that he knows Shukri, what was the word that he used in English? Was it *friend*, or what did he say?

Mo: Yes, exactly, he told me; "*He's my friend...*". See this was, frankly I mean that Taher did not hear it because he was talking to Dr. Mufid. I took advantage of the time when Taher was talking to Dr. Mufid, and as would be the case with anybody else, I mean, we started a side talk. [Child's noise] So I, I mean... routine stuff, "How are things in America? How are the brothers over there and stuff". He said, "I know the Holy Land Foundation and those there, and *Shukri is my friend*". I mean that I want to tell you, not, I mean... so that we are frank, I mean, it is not possible that I comprehended all that was said and I inserted the word *friend* on my own...

Gh: Yes.

Mo: ... and I did not imagine that this *friend* has a special meaning, to you, I mean.

Gh: But in the paper that you sent in Arabic, you say, "In the evening, he said I am neither an enemy nor a friend".

Mo: Exactly.

Gh: How was... how did that happen?

Mo: Unfortunately, Doctor As'ad's *concentration* is weak sometimes. I mean, I reminded him today, I told him, "Such and such happened [child's noise] when I first sat with you, I liked to create an ambience and for him not to feel that we, that there is anything going on in our mind. So, I told Dr. As'ad, "*He knows Shukri and he knows Holy Land Foundation there*". So he answered immediately. I don't know if he was, I mean, he seems to be very intelligent, this journalist.

Sh: Eh...very intelligent.

Mo: Very intelligent. So he said; "*He is not my friend and he's not my enemy*". Taher witnesses to this.

Gh: How do you explain that he said in the evening, "*He's not my friend*", and two hours prior to that he said, "*He is my friend*"?

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Mo: Yes, this, he...he told me that, personally. I don't know, it is possible that he, I mean, imagined that there is something going on behind the scene.

Gh: Yes.

Mo: After he finished his interview with us at the office, and sat with Dr. As'ad there, and sat here, and communication with Dr. As'ad took place over the phone...

Gh: Yes.

Mo: ... and a sort of the...doubt on his side, it is possible that he realized what happened and said this. This is what I imagine.

Sh: It is reasonable, it is reasonable. Because he realized that this word is serious and in the protocol...

Mo: Exactly, and he knows better what that [SC] from a legal point...

Sh: ... of course. In the media protocol, this is very serious.

Mo: Very serious, exactly, yes.

Sh: Because his newspaper was about to summon him — when they knew what is being said...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: ... when he spoke to them.

Mo: As for me, I mean I certify to this before God, and I am ready to certify anywhere to the issue of, "*He is my friend*". He might have took advantage of it while I was talking to him, and in the absence of and not being listened to by Taher, because probably Taher knows such things...

[SC].

Sh: This is...

Mo: ...from the legal point regarding what he said. Yes.

Gh: I tell you something, isn't it possible that he...how did he introduce himself? How, did he identify his relationship with us to Taher? from the beginning?

Mo: Taher told me, "He told me that I, personally, during previous meetings with him, he told him, he told him that Shukri, "*He is not my friend and he's not my enemy.*" This stuff also.

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Gh: *Ok, Ok, Ok.*

Mo: Yes. So I asked Taher. He told me, "He told me this between me and him also".

[Noise].

Gh: Yes. It means that when he identified his relationship with the Foundation to Taher...

Mo: Yes.

Gh: ... he mentioned that...

[Child's noise].

Mo: Just, "*I know them*", I mean.

Sh: But, but did Steve ask any personal questions about me?

Mo: About Abu Mohamed?

Sh: About me.

Mo: No, no, he did not ask any personal questions about you.

Ha: So what was his dialogue, I mean what was the dialogue?

Mo: Today?

Ha: What were the questions about?

Mo: The questions... he, of course, I mean he makes such approaches to it in the manner of, "How does aid reach you? and how does it reach the orphans and families? and how do you make sure whether one is needy or not". Then he makes another approach in the manner of, "Do those belong to a certain side? Are they martyrs' families, for instance. Are they families of...?". I mean, he weaves in the things that means after he asks the questions which are... I mean, which are routine ones.

Sh: Yes, yes.

Mo: Yes. So he tries, I mean, so that while one would be carried away with talking, he will try to trap him [SC]. But, nobody fell in any of the traps that he sets up, I mean.

Sh: Ok. Excellent...excellent.

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- Mo: I mean be completely assured that Taher Shreita returned to me after he took him to Erez, to the crossing, he returned to me to sign on what he and I agreed upon and wrote down, so he told me from A to Z, from the time he visited Gaza till the time he left, I mean we worked hundred percent right.
- Sh: Did he visit families?
- Mo: Yes, he visited families. Yes, he visited two families.
- Sh: Did he ask them any questions?
- Mo: Uh, we, frankly, I mean, did not go. We sent a guy with them. The guy, and of course Taher himself attended the interview with the families, and the families, I mean, the interview with them was excellent, and there isn't any kind of fault, I mean.
- Sh: *Ok.*
- Ha: But why..., why doesn't he want any of those who work for the Foundation?
- Mo: He, I mean, yesterday he said, "If you want to go, there will be no problem". But, he is very intelligent, he said, "Don't you expect, Mohammed, that if you go they will be embarrassed and change what they want to say?". So, of course, he was smart, I mean, we told him, "There is no problem, if you would like us to go, we will, if you don't want...". He said, "No, that's alright, don't feel you have to...". I mean, he goes... We told him, "We will send a guy with you, I mean, who knows the addresses and such stuff".
- Sh: Which cases did he visit?
- Mo: He visited a family sponsored by us...
- Sh: Yes.
- Mo: ... of 10 members...
- Sh: Yes.
- Mo: The father is paralyzed, er..., they do not have a breadwinner, I mean there is no one who brings income to them. Uh, another family, there are three orphans who are sponsored by us at the Holy Land and live on the roof, and their situation is very difficult.
- Ha: Is any of their relatives...er, I mean...
- Mo: Is linked to...

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Ha: Detained or is affiliated with a political activity?

Mo: *No, no, no, no, at all, at all.* No, no.

Sh: Ok...

Mo: No, the two families are not linked at all, and no... I mean, he asked them, he asked them. He asked them if they belong to, or such...one family said, "We were in Saudi Arabia eight years ago..."

Sh: Good.

Mo: ... the father became paralyzed and they came here.

Sh: So did he visit the hospital?

Mo: No, they did not.

Sh: Why?

Mo: Frankly, Dr. Mufid declined yesterday to let them visit the hospital...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: ... and he, of course, when he spoke to Taher, he told him, "No, if he wants to go see the hospital from outside, he can do that, but he does not go inside the hospital".

Ha: That's better.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: It is his right, his right.

Mo: Yes. It is his right...er, so Abou Mohammad, I mean that according to our evaluation and according to Taher's evaluation, and according to everybody's evaluation, I mean things mostly worked to our benefit, thank God.

Sh: Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful.

Mo: Yes, so be assured, I mean.

[SC]

Sh: May God bless you, and we...

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Mo: May God [UI], I want to say...

Sh: ... because this one is man resembles a ...

Gh: Bad.

Sh: ... is like a serpent, turns facts into...into lies, and any person who is an enemy of the Palestinian people...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: ... for sure will turn into an enemy of the Foundation, and...

Mo: Exactly.

Sh: ... we did not like that he comes and, I mean, see something which he would interpret...er, I mean...

Mo: Yes, wrongly.

Sh: Anyway, you did well.

Mo: In general, he came and was caught in the trap, I mean. Thank God.

Sh: Yes, thank God. *Good, good.* Excellent.

Mo: He is considered to have been caught in the trap. I mean that during the interview, with Dr. As'ad present, I mean Taher wrote to me, I mean the man is very crafty and unable to talk, so Taher wrote to me on a piece of paper: "The man is very crafty".

Sh: Uh-huh?

Mo: And...the man, I mean he refers to the journalist, Steve...

Sh: Yes...yes.

Mo: ... is very crafty and cunning.

Sh: Cunning.

[SC]

Mo: -He tells me, I mean...

Sh: It is a known tactic.

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- Mo: Yes. He was tightly circled. He did not find anything to hold against us, and Taher wrote down to me saying; "The foreigner is cornered and has nothing at all to hold on to." [Noise] So, I mean his situation was disastrous.
- Sh: Did you record the interviews?
- Mo: Yes, we recorded them.
- Sh: Then keep them, Mohammed, may God be pleased with you.
- Mo: They are available. If you want us to send them, we will send them.
- Sh: I, when [SC] [UI]. Fine, send them to us when you finish with the tour, or... he finished, there is nothing left.
- Mo: There is nothing left for him, no. He, as Taher told me, he told me that he wants to go see, Mohamed Anati...
- Sh: Yes.
- Mo: ... and, frankly when I knew this, I thought of contacting you in case you want to talk to Mohamed Anati, so I called brother Haitham. Uh, I don't know if it is according to Taher's calculations or that he heard from him; he told him, "I will also meet..., I mean, the Jews there.
- Sh: Of course, he has to obtain...er, he has to seek the Jews' opinion on the subject.
- Mo: Exactly. So this is all the news, and God willing, God will guide us to do what is good.
- Sh: May God bless you, my dear.
- Mo: May God reward you well. This Foundation has become part of us, my brother.
- Sh: Of course, may God bless you. This is a period that we have to go through, by the will of God, the Great Almighty.
- Mo: It will pass away, by the will of God, Lord of the Two Worlds.
- Sh: God willing.
- Mo: By the will of God, Lord of the Two Worlds.
- Sh: -And all those lies will be out of the way, then you will... What I want to say is...I mean that we will coordinate with each other in the future when a journalist or such comes from...

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- Mo: There is no doubt about it. I considered... frankly, because I have been on it a day or two...
- Sh: Yes.
- Mo: ... and the assignment has just been received, and Dr. As'ad is still a bit eager...
- Sh: Huh!
- Mo: ... and he directed me towards this, I will not refuse, I mean I did not refuse...
- Sh: Yes...yes.
- Mo: ... Yes. So it was... but, I mean, thanks to God that God wanted for me to call Ibrahim so as to tell him, one, two, three, and may God help us, I mean to catch this crafty man.
- Sh: Anyway, brother Mohammed, may God bless you, I mean, uh...
- Mo: May God protect you.
- Sh: ... take care of the office and, and keep us informed by any...
- Mo: I tell you, by God, Abou Mohammed, and I don't have to swear to it, that I and the two sisters who are working now, who are in charge of this office, are very loyal to this Foundation, regardless to anything else.
- Sh: This is the intention, sir. Regardless to being key figures, the bigger issue is to serve this people.
- Mo: Exactly, I mean we are neither key figures nor we want...
- Sh: We are in the front row, my brother, and God willing that...
- Mo: God willing.
- Sh: ... that during your time the Foundation will witness a new stage of development and work...
- Mo: We ask God. We ask God.
- Sh: Fine, my brother.
- Ha: Mohammed.
- Mo: Yes.

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Ha: By God, if you would send us the tape. I mean keep a copy with you...

Mo: Yes, exactly, I will keep a copy and send you one.

Ha: May God show you the way.

Mo: May God keep you safe.

Ha: Thank you, my brother.

Mo: Is there anything you would like me to do, our brothers?

Sh: Say hello to Dr. As'ad and all the brothers.

Mo: May God reward you well. Be safe, good bye.

Sh: Did he visit anyone in the Authority?

Mo: No, no, no, no, no, I don't believe so. I don't believe so. He visited Sheik Ahmad Yasin and Mahmoud Al-Zahar only.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: Taher is very intelligent, of course. Taher..., I mean, he told me that fifteen days prior to his visit, he started communicating with him via *e-mail*. Taher did not know him before...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: But, he sent him through *e-mail* that he wanted to visit and such. Taher, being intelligent, I mean went to Sheik Yasin and told him such-and-such, so-and-so is coming...

Sh: Yes.

Mo:and is targeting the Holy Land, meaning, he is targeting it.

Sh: Yes...yes...yes...yes.

Mo: So he gave Sheik Yasin *feedback*, and briefed him on the situation, and told him, I mean. So when he came to Sheikh Yasin, he told him that... "Your relationship with the Holy Land". He told him, "What Holy Land? Is there a Holy Land in Gaza? He said, "Yes, there is a Holy Land". He said, "Then bring them to build a school for us. We want to build a school".

Sh: Fine.

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Mo: So...the man...

Sh: Anyway, may God grant you health, my brother Mohammad, stay in touch.

Mo: May God reward you well.

Sh: Good bye.

Mo: In God's safety, good bye. Welcome.

END OF CALL.