

Date/Time Recorded: 12/2/1999 @ 11:49:36
Line ID #: 972-699-9554
Contact ID #: 972-495-0844

Participants:

Ha = Haitham Maghawri
Sh = Shukri Abu Baker
Mo = Mohamed Abou Muharam
Um = Unidentified Male

Abbreviations:

<i>Italics</i>	Spoken in Foreign Languages
IA	Inaudible
UI	Unintelligible
PH	Phonetic
[]	Background Conversation / Noise / Translator's Comments
SC	Simultaneous Conversation
UM	Unknown Male

GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT
Baker Wiretap - 34
3:04-CR-240-G
U.S. v. HLF, et al.

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[Numbers are dialed].

[Phone Rings]

Um: AV.

Ha: Peace be upon you.

Um: Peace be upon you, m brother.

Ha: How are you doing?

Um: Praise be to God.

Ha: How's the health?

Um: Everybody is fine. Praise be to God.

Ha: Praise be to God. By God, is Shukri available there?

Sh: Hello! I want to go to him and I'll come back...

Ha: Peace be upon you.

Sh: And peace be upon you too.

Ha: How's the health?

Sh: Welcome, Haitham. May God greet you.

Ha: What is new?

Sh: Hi, brother.

Ha: Praise be to God, the Lord of the Universe.

Sh: Hello!

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Ha: Yes.

Sh: I can't hear you.

Ha: Fine, tune down the television at your end.

Sh: Yes, Ok.

Ha: Er... Mohamed Muharam from Gaza just called.

Sh: Mohamed who?

Ha: Mohamed, from Gaza.

Sh: Yes.

Ha: He called a while ago and talked to Ibrahim.

Sh: Yes.

Ha: He told him that there is a journalist from where you at, our town. He is, er... interviewing us.

[Background noise].

Sh: Yes, what is his name?

Ha: His name is, eh, Steven McGonigle.

Sh: By God?

Ha: Yes.

Sh: Is he in Gaza?

Ha: Yes.

Sh: Um.

Ha: He sat with him for a short time this morning...

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Sh: Yes.

Ha: ... and got some information.

Sh: Yes.

Ha: *Right now, right now, he is in a middle of a meeting* with doctor As'ad Abou Sharkh.

Sh: Yes.

Ha: Er... He's telling me, I mean. I told him, "All right, what is, what is the designated program?" He told me, "That's it, today will be the last interview and tomorrow, he would like to take us to...er, for us to take him to the families that we help."

Sh: Yes.

Ha: *So, do you wanna do anything? Do you wanna cancel the meeting? Do you want to call As'ad?* Er... We will tell him, "Hey man...", ...er, tell him, "Man....er, be aware of such and such and such issues."

Sh: Yes.

Ha: *Or, do you wanna leave it as is...*

Sh: No, no just... No, leave him. But, er...

Ha: [To someone else in the room]: God's willing, everything is fine, youths.

Sh: Where are you?

Ha: [Laughs]. Yes.

Sh: Talk..., talk to Mohamed...

Ha: Yes.

Sh: ...and warn him...

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Ha: The thing is, Mohamed won't be able to do a thing.

Sh: No, he is going to take him to families, tell him don't take him to any family, to any martyr's family. Don't take him to any martyr or prisoner.

Ha: You mean, you don't want to talk to As'ad Abou Sharkh

Sh: As'ad is *in the middle of... middle of the meeting.*

Ha: But Mohamed is telling me that he has a phone with him and there is someone else with him.

Sh: Continue...

Ha: So, *we can tell him that...*

Sh: All right, fine. Er... Ok. Er... Can you bring me... Can you put him on the line, As'ad ?

Ha: Let us talk to Mohamed.

Sh: Yes.

Ha: Yes?

Sh: Okay, I will be by your end. Do you want me to be with you or...?

Ha: No, no. Let's move now...

Sh: Ok...

Sh: ... because the man is talking.

Sh: All right, all right. *Ok*, connect me with Dr. As'ad, let me see.

Ha: Do you know Taher Shreitah?

Sh: Yes, What about him?

Ha: Who is he?

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Sh: What?

Ha: Who is he?

Sh: He is from the, er... He is a journalist who had been arrested by the authority long time ago due to articles he wrote and so forth. Hello!

Ha: Yes, yes.. Give me, by God, Gaza's phone number?

Sh: What took Steve over there?

Ha: Huh... Taher Shreitah.

Sh: He is the one who took him!

Ha: Yes.

Sh: Oh, my dear! Um...

[Short pause].

Ha: *Yeah*, I told Mohamed, "Frankly Mohamed, from the beginning, anybody, any foreign newspaper ..."

Sh: Ah!

Ha: "... contacts you, er, in this regard, I mean, you must at least contact us..."

Sh: *Yeah*.

Ha: "... to inform us, let us know. So, just in case we have any observations..."

Sh: Yes. Especially when the man is coming from Dallas.

Ha: And, the man is coming from Dallas. He said that he told them, "I am, er, Shukri's friend."

Sh: Liar! *He's my enemy*.

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Ha: I told him, "Man, he is the lowest..." I told him, "He is not a journalist. He is full of grudges, despicable, has no relationship with journalism whatsoever. If he only takes... You are taking him, talking to him, visiting with him, speaking to him, and explaining everything to him, that is fine." I told him that this is fine. To the contrary, I want him to listen. However, see, if nine and nine, 99.5 of the conversation was all honey and he is not happy with only 0.5 %, he would grab the 0.5 % and circle it around."

Sh: Yes, correct.

Ha: So, I told him, "At least you should've let us know and..."

Sh: Ok, get us, get us Abou-Sharkh.

Ha: O, Ibrahim!

Sh:

[Short pause].

Ha: O man, the office, our office, don't you have the phone number?

Sh: Ok, now the man hasn't called you?

Ha: Who?

Sh: Who called you?

Ha: It was Muha... Mohamed.

Sh: Ok!

Ha: But I thought I would ask you before we, er, do anything.

Sh: Take As'ad's direct phone number. Doesn't he have a *mobile phone* or anything?

Ha: What? [To people in his office]: Youths, what is going on? It's our office, we want to talk to him.

Um: May I transfer him to you?

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Ha: Yeah.

Um: [UI].

Ha: The thing is... Can I do a *conference* if you transferred him. I know that I should be the one who makes the call.

Um: [UI].

Ha: Yes. Yeah.

Sh:

Um: [UI].

Ha: Ok, give me the number. Give us the number.

Um: [UI].

Ha: That is it. Say it to Shukri.

Um: Nine, seven, two.

Ha: Nine, seven, two.

Um: Seven.

Ha: Um.

Um: [UI], four.

Ha: Um.

Um: Seven, seven, zero [UI].

Ha: Okay. Please let him hang up. All right, let me... One moment, by God.

Sh: Should I hang up?

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Ha: No, no, stay.

Sh: Um.

[Pause for 26 seconds]

Ha: Hello!

Sh: Yes.

Ha: Hello!

Mo: I have another line now...

Ha: Mohamed...

Mo: ... that is Haitham, possibly.

Ha: Mohamed...

Mo: Who? Haitham?

Ha: Yes, yes. Hang up with Bassam...

Mo: All right, *Ok*

Mu: Ok, Ibrahim, that is it. Ok Abou [UT]. With peace. Yes, yes... Yes.

Ha: Yes, Hajj, also with us, eh... on the line is Mr. Shukri.

Sh: Hello, brother Mohamed.

Mo: [To others away from the phone]. Fine, all right, no problem.

Sh: Hello!

Mo: [To others away from the phone]. Ok, sure.

Ha: Mohamed!

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Mo: [To others away from the phone]. No, he doesn't have a *mobile*, but the, the, the journalist has a *mobile*, and I will let him call me on the *mobile*, no problem. I will get him, I mean.

Sh: With whom is Mohamed talking?

Mo: With Bassam, Sheikh, it is over.

Sh: Talk to me... Talk to me now.

Mo: Yes!

Sh: Hello! There is no god but God! [Making sounds].

Mo: [Talking on the other line]: No, anything you want us to do, he won't feel a thing, he will never know a thing. I mean, I... Yes, fine.

Sh: Haitham!

Ha: Yes.

Sh: Transfer the call to me.

Mo: Ok, peace. Hello!

Ha: Yes, Mohamed.

Mo: Hello, please go ahead brother Haitham.

Ha: With you... with us on the line is Mr. Shukri.

Mo: All right, fine.

Ha: Here we go.

Mo: Go ahead.

Sh: Hello, peace be upon you.

Mo: Peace be upon and God's mercy.

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- Sh: Er, brother, is he... er... the man now with, with Dr. As'ad?
- Mo: Yes, with Dr. As'ad.
- Sh: Does Dr. As'ad have a phone?
- Mo: Dr. As'ad have a *mobile*, I mean, with the journalist that is with them. I can't tell if they have a phone at the location they are [SC] at or no.
- Sh: Whe... Whe... When did this man arrive?
- Mo: This guy arrived to us around five-thirty in the evening, about two hours and a half ago.
- Sh: Who, who brought him to you, Taher?
- Mo: Taher Shreitah brought him over.
- Sh: Based on what?
- Mo: Based on his conversation with Dr. As'ad...
- Sh: Ah!
- Mo: He talked to him at noon today and made an appointment with him.
- Sh: All right? You need to know that this man... This journalist is a Zionist, meaning that, er, he is not a friend. [SC]. I mean, this man... [SC]. Yes, has been, he has been attacking the foundation here in Dallas, in America, for four years, and he tries...
- Mo: He, of course...
- Sh: Yes.
- Mo: ... he said something different Mr. Shukri. He said, "I am Shukri's friend, I mean, with very close ties."
- Sh: Is that Steve...

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Mo: This lie is very obvious, of course.

Sh: Are you talking about Steve McGonigle?

Mo: Exactly.

Sh: No, brother, he is our fierce enemy, and we now have, et, we have an issue with the lawyers and possibly we will sue his newspaper bec... because of his writings. [SC]. I will tell you what his *agenda* is. He came to Gaza...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: He is trying to find any issue that may link the foundation with terrorism

Mo: Ahhh!

Sh: I will give you an idea. So, if you are going to take him, even if you take him to ninety-nine families tomorrow...

Mo: Yeah.

Sh: ...and it happened that one of the fami... families belongs to Hamas or Islamic Jihad or belongs to any...

Mo: He will say that they are belong to them.

SH Meaning, he will say that the matter is closed. Or that, er, you take him to, for example, the children of the prisoners, or whatever, you have to, you have to be smart with this man...

Mo: My generous brother...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: We..., I mean, we... I... When I talked to him, I told him that we sponsored Christians.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: We sponsored... We, I mean, we sponsored from anywhere, Jews, it doesn't

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matter as long as he is in need.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: So, we didn't have any discrimination with regards to

Ha: Who is translating, Mohamed. Who is translating between you and him?

Mo: No, I was talking to him in English.

Ha: All right.

Mo: Any ways, Taher speaks English.

Sh: Taher! Do you trust Taher?

Mo: No, I don't know him real well, Taher, I mean.

Sh: Hum.

Mo: I don't know him. I just hear about him through the T.V. and radio, that is all.

Sh: Yes, [SC]. Er, I was supposed to talk to Taher so that he can... would know exactly whom he really is dealing with.

Mo: I could get you Taher right now, Mr. Shukri.

Sh: Hum.

Ha: Can you put him on line?

Mo: No, I can't put him on line.

Ha: You can't!

Mo: However, I can bring him in. I mean, we... Because he is a home-town fellow and a Palestinian, I mean, I believe....

Sh: No, I know the man has a good reputation, we have no problem with him. But it appears that he doesn't know whom he is dealing with. This man, Steve, is a

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man, just like a snake. I mean, you don't know him. And then he will meet with you, take your statements and thr... throw it all aside and take any word that is out of line, or it could be understood mistakenly. Therefore, it is important if he arrives by your end, let him see our work, let him go and see the hospital...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: ... eh, let him take statements from the nation's dignitaries, from the Health Minister, from...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: ... the people we dealt with who know what the Holy Land Foundation is all about, and what its direction is, which is the charity and the work for the whole Palestinian people because they are... He is a part of a concentrated campaign, er, [SC], in America in cooperation with the Jewish *lobby*...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: ... to cut off the aid for the Palestinian totally, the aid that the *Congress*, er, has approved. So, they are on a campaign overall to cut off the aid from the, from the Palestinian State.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: So, the man initially is not...er, it is not that he carries about the Palestinian people. Any source of income for the Palestinian people, he wants to anything in order to prevent any kind of charity that may reach the Palestinian people. [SC]. So you have to be very, very aware of the kind of a man you are dealing with.

Ha: All right, Shukri...

Sh: Yes.

Mo: Great. We really know now who he is. Which way would you like us to act? I mean, I told brother Haitham, I told him, "Suppose he got to Gaza and went back to America without interviewing anybody, and say whatever he likes to say. I mean, nobody was going to be able to prevent him".

Sh: Yes.

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Mo: Now, you want us to prevent him after we knew who he is ...

Sh: No, we don't want to prevent him. Our policy...

Mo: ... in what way, I mean,

Sh: No, we don't prevent him because..., because our policy is to document everything you have talked to him about, so when he comes over here and lies... I mean, when comes over here and publish, he will lie, you are not, not going to see the articles.

Mo: We are not going to see them, yes.

Sh: Yes. We will see them. Therefore, we wi... we will... so we can sue him if he publishes any statement that is not correct, we will tell him, "You are a liar. Here is Mohamed Muharram ...

Mo: My brother, I...

Sh: ... come here Mohamed..."

Mo: ... I will write a report about myself, about whatever I said, with all that he asked me and all that I answered.

Sh: Excellent.

Mo: I mean, I have no objection to reveal this man, the liar.

Sh: A second method is that, that the whole interview ...

Mo: If you also want, we will let him write a report of what he heard and document his statements with his signature on...

Sh: He wo... He won't accept that. He won't accept that. However, what can be done, is that any other interviews, you record them, I mean, record them, er, verbally. I mean, say: "We, we are recording this, er, conversation..."

Mo: Yes.

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Sh: ... I mean, "...for our own uses."

Ha: Ok, Abou Mohamed...

Sh: Yes.

Ha: The man, this is his last interview with Doctor As'ad. Tomorrow, if there will be... there will be only a visit with ...

Mo: Tomorrow the meeting will be with families.

Ha: ... families. So I mean, why don't our brother jump now and take with him a recorder and record...

Sh: I, I, this is my opinion, that it will be, it will be... Or we try to advise doctor As'ad, if there is a way to talk to him.

Mo: Abou Mohamed!

Ha: Can we talk to him?

Mo: Abou Mohamed!

Sh: Yes.

Mo: I mean, I can possibly locate where doctor As'ad is and go to him, while this journalist doesn't know that we know about him anything.

Sh: Yes, this is necessary. He is not supposed to know anything.

MU: And we'll tell him to start the interview all over again.

Sh: E... Excellent. I mean, it is important that he won't know that, er, anything had happened.

Mo: No, he will never know. He will never know at all.

Ha: You! Abou Mohamed!

Sh: Yes.

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Ha: Do you want us to talk to Doctor As'ad. I mean, for example, ask Mohamed to get us his phone number and you talk to him directly?

Sh: This... This is better my brother. This is better, so I can even give him...

Ha: Mohamed, are you able to get his phone number?

Mo: Yes, yes. Now, now. Er, call me back after three minutes.

Ha: Ok.

Sh: Which one?

Mo: Three minutes and call the same number, Haitham.

Ha: Ok.

Sh: Okay. Er, alright. Er, er, has he asked, asked for certain families or did he said that you, I mean...

Mo: No, no, no. He said that we select them.

Sh: Um. Ok, fine.

Mo: Ok.

Sh: As I, as I advised, my brother...

MU: Oh, you got it, you got it.

Sh: It's fine, I don't have any problem that he meets with families. Er, and let the families ...

Mo: [UI] Abou Mohamed. I mean, I said... I'm telling Haitham. I am telling him, "I mean, suppose he enters Gaza and goes back..."

Sh: Yes.

Mo: ...and he says, "I made interviews..." If he wants to lie, he will lie.

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Sh: No, he will... He will meet with you and then leaves to Tel-Aviv and meet with the Israelis...

Mo: Yes.

Sh: ... and he will take other statements from them, and so on. But with regards to us, the most important thing is that in Gaza, he really should see the true work...

Mo: That's it, fine. [UI sentence]. [SC] - -

Sh: So when... when he returns, God forbid, when he comes back and writes wrong conversation, I will tell him, "You son of a dog, you didn't see [UI]. You weren't in Gaza, you were..."

Ha: Brother Mohamed, I mean...

Mo: Go ahead.

Ha: ... it is important to keep away, keep way from the families that Shukri talked about.

Sh: No, no, no. We... Look, I mean, I...

Ha: I mean, the man, as I...

Mo: No, no, no. That's it.

Ha: ...as he said. He will comment on any minor thing he sees... He will comment. Regardless if that family is in need or not in need.

Sh: Ok, did he visit the hospital?

Mo: Okay, only let us... Let us, let us... Abou Mohamed, I say let us get the phone number of doctor As'ad and we will talk to him, all right?

Sh: Hurry up, I will...

Ha: Ok?

Sh: I will be waiting for you at Ahmad's.

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Ha: In the meantime, tell the doctor....

Mo: You want me to work fast, I mean?

Ha: Get, get the phone number of doctor As'ad...

Mo: Yes.

Ha: ... and secondly, prepare, er, a recorder and tell doctor As'ad, "I am coming to you wherever he is."

Mo: Ok.

Sh: May God bless you!

Ha: May God bless you. And I will call you back in three minutes.

Sh: And I...

Mo: Peace be upon you.

Sh: Ok.

Ha: Abou Mohamed, stay in... by Ahmad.

Sh: I am here by Ahmad.

Mo: Ok. Peace be upon you. Peace.

Ha: Peace. Ok, may God be with you.

Sh: Good-bye. Ok.

Ha: Yes, Hajj.

Sh: Er... Your safety! He's... Let the guys behave correctly today because they can't prevent him.

Ha: Correct.

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Sh: Er... If they prevent him, he will make things up. Leave him and, anyway.... This could be the bomb we will push on him...

Ha: Ok.

Sh: ... if he lies or published any lies...

Um: O Haitham!

Ha: Yes.

Mo: Hang up the phone...

Sh: Yes, hang up, hang up this...

Ha: Abou Mohamed, Abou Mohamed I will call you

Sh: Good-bye.

Ha: Peace be upon you.

END OF CALL.