

Date/Time Recorded: 2/16/1995 at 01:07:00

Participants:

Mo = Mohamed Elmezain
Sh = Shukri Abou Baker

Abbreviations:

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

Sh: Hello.

Mo: Peace be with you.

Sh: Peace be with you and God's mercy.

Mo: How is Abou Mohamed doing?

Sh: Welcome Abou Ibrahim.

Mo: Have you slept?

Sh: Somewhat [Laughs].

Mo: May God help you.

Sh: Just a second. I have Haitham on the line. Just a second so that I can tell him to....er, to rely on God.

Mo: Hum.

Sh: Just a second, by God.

[Elmezain is on hold].

Sh: Hello. Hello.

Mo: Peace be with you.

Sh: Yes. Peace and God's mercy.

Mo: May God greet you, Abou Mohamed.

Sh: May God greet you.

Mo: How is it going?

Sh: By God, thanks be to God. It is good.

Mo: May God give you strength. May God bless you. Did you speak with the Hajj?

Sh: About what?

Mo: About the.....er,UI.

Sh: I mean, I spoke with him. No, I didn't talk to him until he sends me the file, my brother. I mean, he must be ready.

Mo: How much did the Hajj transfer for the school?

Sh: He transferred....., I mean, it is about.....er, he still has 5.....er, with that he would have transferred 90.

Mo: How much was transferred to Abou Hamza?

Sh: Transferred to him?

Mo: Yes.

Sh: We transferred to him.....er, 70.....er, 70....., 70 including the last installment. He might not have receive that one yet.

Mo: How is that? He is saying.....er.

Sh: I spoke with Abdel Jabbar two or three days ago....

Mo: Hum.

Sh: We still haven't gotten it yet. Five thousands still remain. He will give it to us.

Mo: It seems that Abou Hamza was informed that the Hajj has transferred 90....

Sh: Yes.

Mo: He called me now from Jerusalem.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: Screaming and shouting. I told him, "Don't make a problem".

Sh: Yes.

Mo: I don't need this from you now.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: What I understand that the amount of money which we received for you was transferred.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: He said, "The Hajj is saying that he transferred 90 and you didn't send it *straight* and you didn't do I don't know what and the tape is enough to move people".

Sh: What tape?

Mo: The *video* tape he sent to you.

Sh: We didn't get the *video* tape.

Mo: He is saying he sent a video tape for the school.

Sh: No, no. We didn't get it.

Mo: And he is saying that the Hajj said, "They received it but you didn't send to him".

Sh: Hum. We didn't get the *video* tape or anything.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: *I have no idea about it.*

Mo: Yes. So, I told him that I will....er. He said....UI and we can raise money.. I told him, "May God provide success, God's willing".

Sh: Yes.

Mo: I told him that, by Almighty God. I told him, "I mean, may God provide success. I mean, we pray that you are successful".

Sh: Hum.

Mo: He said, "We are...., I don't know what. Give us those 20 and we will manage ourselves from other sources and....er" and he said big things. I told him, "Sheik, don't make things bigger. Fear God".

Sh: No. That's it.

Mo: You see? "Fear God in your words and don't get us entangled in things are not up to".

Sh: Yes.

Mo: "You told the Hajj you wanted the 90,000. He told you here is the 90,000. How come it is now 300,000?". He told me, "Because of things I cannot tell you". I told him, "This is not my concern".

Sh: Hum. Ok, I will transfer it to him as soon as he sends the check to Abdel Jabbar and....er, it is 5,000 and 15,000 and.....er, I mean, we will complete it for him.

Mo: You see? I told him, "What is due to you with us, we will not.....er. Whatever is due to you is fine. We don't....., don't have anything. But, please, sheik Jamil, this is not the way to deal and this is not the favor that is between us".

Sh: Hum.

Mo: He said, "I don't forget". I told him, "We didn't do a favor or stuff. But, at least, let's not say big things, may God keep you".

Sh: Hum.

Mo: "Don't keep making noise. This stuff doesn't go well with me". I let him hear words which are....

Sh: Why?

Mo: He told me, "They told me that you're upset". I said, "I'm upset and very mad as well". He said, "No. It is not what you think. We defended you". I told him, "May God reward you good, my brother. You want to wear the charity robe, wear it. You want to wear the politics robe, wear it. You put the two of them together in the washer, they get mixed up together".

Sh: *Yeah, yeah.*

Mo: In this wording. He told me, "No. The citizens of a city are more knowledgeable about its roads". I told him, "May God give you strength. You're free". In this way.

Sh: My master, we will transfer his money to him. I, by God, wanted to wait for it and....er

Mo: By God, transfer his money to them and send him a letter that is as nasty as possible.

Sh: And then I want to tell you that there are administrative fees, I mean.

Mo: I know. It is for Hajj Ahmad.

Sh: Yes. So, that he won't say....

Mo: I know this stuff.

Sh: It cost us a trip and it cost us....

Mo: How many times we stopped by the Hajj? Maybe three to four times we went to the Hajj.

Sh: Yes. It will be good, God's willing. Abou Ibrahim. It is not a problem.UI. He is done, that's it. He is done. It is because he is arrogant and he says, "Man, I'm building a school with it and stuff".

Mo: No. Just tell him, "Sheik Jamil, it is with sorrow that we see you say stuff and then contradict it, expand and do whatever you want and get us entangled and cause people's trust in us to wane".

Sh: Yes. That's what is going to happen. This what.....

Mo: My brother, Abou Mohamed, write some stuff for him....., you know, like the letter to the Association.

Sh: [Laughs] Yes. Abou Ibrahim.

Mo: Yes, by God. And tell him, "Sheik Jamil, he who wants to do charity work must adhere to charity work and must not seek other than charity work".

Sh: Hum. My man, what happened? I mean, why.....er, why is this confusion?

Mo: I don't know.

Sh: And this is about something that is not worth mentioning, I mean.

Mo: I had just walked in. I was recording stuff in TV. I had just returned.

Sh: Yes. What is going on at your end? A TV series?

Mo: I've been having a series for two days.

Sh: By God? On the Arab TV?

Mo: The Center is taking a one-hour slot; half an hour before the break-of-fast and half an hour after the break-of-fast.

Sh: It is going to be live, I mean?

Mo: Yes.UI.

Sh: By God?

Mo: And people will be hear the call to prayer on time, Quran, Jurisprudence and Interpretation.

Sh: Very good. Is it on *cable*, I mean?

Mo: On *cable*.

Sh: Excellent.

Mo: *Free*. But it is on the *Public Access*.

Sh: *By God, very good, very good, God's willing*.

Mo: Today, I told them "He who wants to....". I was talking about al-Fitr Zakat, I told them, "Anyone who wants to send al-Fitr Zakat abroad, here is the *Holy Land Foundation* and its telephone number is so and so....UI" [Laughs].

Sh: Yes. One should take advantage of the opportunity.

Mo: What?

Sh: I'm saying, "Take advantage of these opportunity".

Mo: Yes. And tomorrow the infomercial will be aired on TV and the TV will also have an interview with me on Monday as well; a meeting where they will come to visit the office and they will show it. The owner is a good man. [To a child] No, baby, no, my beloved one. Don't do that, daughter. This would break the sharpener. No, my beloved one. Come on. [To Shukri] She is sharpening a pen. May God be with Plato wherever he is resting [Laughs].

Sh: [Laughs] We have the sheiks here today and yesterday.

Mo: Who?

Sh: Abdel Aziz Jaber was over here yesterday.

Mo: When is Abdel Aziz Jaber going to come? It is not reasonable that he comes and we don't

see him.

Sh: These couple of days. Yes, he will stop over by you.

Mo: When?

Sh: By God, I don't know. He will go tomorrow to Detroit....

Mo: Hum.

Sh: After that he will go to....er.

Mo: Did..., did the people of Flint agreed?

Sh: We haven't gotten the Flint people yet. We're still working on them.

Mo: Hum.

Sh: Franklin.....er, the problem now, my brother, is that Sheik Abdel Aziz..., huh....

Mo: Hum.

Sh: *He is not a fundraiser.* I mean, the man is kind. He is a speaker and stuff....

Mo: Hum.

Sh: ...but he doesn't have the ability to get people to a stage where he is frank with them and to tell them, "People, rely on God. I came to make sure you're Ok. Go ahead and give money".

Mo: It happened with us in the past before.

Sh: I'm afraid..., I'm afraid that....er, in Franklin he will *blow it*. I told Haitham to call Ibrahim tomorrow at least.

Mo: Who is Ibrahim?

Sh: This Ibrahim guy....er.

Mo: Nizar?

Sh: Yes. So, that Ibrahim might be able to go out with the Sheik.

Mo: By God, Abou Mohamed, I told you that Ibrahim....er, Ibrahim is....UI.

Sh: But, we should train him, my brother. We didn't train him before.

Mo: Train him. Tell him, "Ibrahim, work with us during Ramadan and, God's willing, you will have your compensation and this and that from us".

Sh: I asked about him, my brother, the man is good but he is slow, I mean, slow....er, I mean, *very slow*. The man is....

Mo: My brother...UI.

Sh: By God, I don't know, Abou Ibrahim. By God, after the youths....er, after the *disappointment* you get from the youths..... One is.... The youths are good and stuff but all of them have problems and stuff, all of them have complexes and stuff. By Almighty God. Anyway, we will try him. I will put him....er, I told him to put me on a *conference* with him tomorrow, myself and Haitham....

Mo: Good.

Sh:and we will tell him, "What...., what is needed, I mean?". How can he check on the sheik and be honest with the people, "People, this and that happened. This is what we want".

Mo: It is good that you told him.

Sh: Yes. Also, Soliman al-Saad arrived today.

Mo: Hum.

Sh: This Soliman al-Saad guy.

Mo: Where is arriving to?

Sh: Over here, Dallas. I mean, he came from Amsterdam directly and we will let him rest tonight and he will start in God's land tomorrow. And I'm going to San Francisco tomorrow.

Mo: With whom:

Sh: I'm going to San Francisco, to San Jose and to these areas on Sunday.

Mo: Are you going to raise funds in San Jose only or what?

Sh: Yes. Following some problems over there and stuff, "It is forbidden...", it is forbidden. So, at the end and after many intermediaries and on the basis that I will raise funds for Palestine only and Chechnya otherwise they won't allow me. We told them, "People, fine....UI. It is not important. Anyway". And, of course, there was a ...UI with the board of....er, with this guy, Muzamil, this Muzamil guy.

Mo: As usual.

Sh: Yes. And Hajj Ahmad intervened.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: He ripped them apart. He told them, "You are racist people. You are....er, who give priorities to all causes over the cause of Palestine. By God, I will do this and that with you and I will not give you". He was going to give them \$50,000. He told them, "I will not give you one single penny. You either....". And he hung up on Muzamil and then he called us. We had initially agreed with the people on Anis Ahmad. Anis Ahmad declined. And then they told him....er, they said, "That's fine. Shukri will...., will go deliver the sermon and stuff". They said, "We don't want Shukri because we are afraid...., we are afraid because he is known to the Americans, to the FBI and with the government and stuff, the presidential order and stuff. Send us another person". So, we said, "Ok. We will send you Mohamed Nijm from Palestine. Who is this guy and what are his academic qualifications, what does he want to talk about and what is his background?". So, Hajj Ahmad told them....er, he told them, "It looks you want a *report* from the Intelligence about everyone who wants to speak about Palestine".

Mo: Yes.

Sh: Anyway....er, the situation got tense and they said...., and then they said, "We will not give you a Friday sermon. Come during the Taraweh prayer". He told them, "We're not begging from you and we don't want to take a Friday prayer or anything". So, he went....

Mo: Hajj Ahmad?

Sh: He went to....Yes, Hajj Ahmad. But, it was a very excellent speech.

Mo: Excellent.

Sh: So....er, he then said.... He then said that he went to him at the office and told him, "Whatever you want and whatever you....". He told him, "No. We don't want anything. Good-bye. We don't want Friday sermons and he had told him we will make it up to you. So, he told him we don't want that. Fine, good-bye".

Mo:UI Hajj Ahmad.

Sh: Yes, of course.

Mo: [Laughs].

Sh: Of course, the people are now very tense because....er, he withdrew his money. He was going to give them 50,000 but then declined. He will give it to us.

Mo: Hum.

Sh: So,UI. So, that man in San Jose called him and....er, I mean, he said, "People, excuse us, we barred all fundraising. That's it. We issued a decision. But, just for you....er, just so that we remove the burden from ourselves, I mean, in order to get out of embarrassment...., I mean, Palestine is the cause of...., what you call it".

Mo:UI.

Sh: We told them, "Fine it is. I mean, this is reasonable". We will be visiting people, you see? And yesterday we had these people, what you call them, the people we told you about from Germany....

Mo: Yes.

Sh: ...they came over and stuff.

Mo: Hum, hum.

Sh: I mean, and did the stuff we agreed on making \$50,000 go to this 200 tons of wheat, flour, that is....

Mo: Yes.

Sh: And they will provide full media coverage and everything is fine. They will send us video and they will send us photos. The people are...., I mean....

Mo: Excellent.

Sh: Yes. So, *you can announce it*, I mean, that it will happen during this Ramadan.

Mo: *I already* made an announcement.

Sh: Yes. I mean, 200 tons are, thanks be to God, is an excellent quantity.

Mo: Good. So, this stuff will be immediately read in the news because the reporters are now on TV....

Sh: Yes, yes.

Mo: And the news bulletin might come in 15 minutes or 30 minutes.

Sh: Ah. Excellent. And we have not forgotten our brothers in Bosnia during the winter season and stuff like that.

Mo: And this stuff is seen by thousands of people, by many people.

Sh: Yes. A ton costs about \$250, you see, \$250. And even if you're going to donate...UI. I mean, if God made things easy and we saw that the people do a good job and people donate to Bosnia... There are people who donate to Bosnia, by God.

Mo: There are. There are people who gave me Zakat money for Bosnia and Zakat for Chechnya and I told them, "We don't send to Chechnya".

Sh: Yes, even for Bosnia, even for Bosnia.

Mo: Hum.

Sh: Even Bosnia as well.

Mo: Ok.

Sh: I mean, this is what is going on.

Mo: By God, I was...., I let you down, I mean.

Sh: Huh?

Mo: I let you down lately.

Sh: By God....er, a little bit. We excuse you but, by God, About Ibrahim, we got stuck. I mean,....

Mo: By Almighty God, you know, my heart is like on fire.

Sh: Yes, I know.

Mo: And people....

Sh: Yes.

Mo: You know, people are like....er. Your man left all of a sudden to Washington....

Sh: Yes.

Mo: ...without hi or bye, there are no sheiks and the sheiks who are present speak Arabic while we are preparing for Ramadan.

Sh: Yes.

Mo:UI

Sh: Yes.

Mo: You see?

Sh: Yes.

Mo: And there is no one right now at the mosque, by Almighty God. See what time it is at our end, it is 1:30. I'm breaking my fast right now, Abou Mohamed.

Sh: May God give you strength, Abou Ibrahim.

Mo: By Almighty God. Between the TV, the mosque, the Taraweh, Quran review....

Sh: I know, I know. May God keep you.

Mo: By God, and between people's problems, I mean.....

Sh: The month of Ramadan is known for these things.

Mo: But, despite all of that, by God, not a day passes without mentioning the *Holy Land Foundation*.

Sh: That's it. My brother, man's good intention is what is wanted.

Mo: By Almighty God, by sunset, a guy who owns a restaurant. He told me, "This \$100 is for the Holy Land. Take \$300 and go....UI". He told me, "Here take it. Do whatever you want with it".

Sh: Ah, excellent.

Mo: Wherever I go I find people who tell me, "Here. Take this".

Sh: Thanks be to God. No, it is good, thanks be to God, Lord of the Two Worlds.

Mo: Sometimes one....er. When I said, "Let me take a vacation". So, the other guy left and it is not reasonable that the two people.....

Sh: How about that other guy?

Mo: Man! Man! May God be pleased with you. You know our friend and you know how he is and stuff.

Sh: Hum. My man, Almighty God will....

Mo: God's willing, God will provide for us, he won't let us down and....

Sh: God's willing.

Mo: *I already* sent the scholarships to Syria yesterday. So, God's willing....

Sh:Ul. My brother, be firm with them during Ramadan so that they send us something to finish a part of....Ul.

Mo: I must.

Sh: So that we can stir things a little bit.

Mo: God's willing, God's willing.

Sh: Ok.

Mo: I will do that. But, just send a long letter to Sheik Jamil....

Sh: Hum.

Mo: You see? And if any of the female teachers' allocations arrive, send to.....er.

Sh: By God, I tried to call Sheik Jamal the other day but I didn't reach him. I wanted to ask him what happened....., you pledged....., you pledged. Also, I'm going to Phoenix....., Arizona....., Arizona, not this week but the one after and this brother did not send us the project for canopies and stuff, my brother, you see? Abou Malik. Did he send you anything, my brother.

Mo: No. But, I tell you something, transfer from the canopies to the hospital project or the university project.

Sh: I need to....er, I need to meet the man. He had *already*.....UI. I don't know if he changed his mind.

Mo: He will change his mind. He donated 20,000 to this hospital the other day.

Sh: Yes, that's it. This project...., the clinic of this guys....er, what is his names, this Harb guy, does he have....., do you have a project for a clinic?

Mo: Two pages.

Sh: Two pages?

Mo: Hum.

Sh: It is because he is done with the bids and stuff and he called Anati today. He is saying, "The people....., the man wants to get his money". So, I told him, "By God, I don't know what is the issue and what is the project about". It might be....

Mo: He was asking for 25,000.

Sh: No. He said that it is 17 or 15 or something, I don't know.

Mo: Send him 12,000.

Sh: If the project is complete, my brother, you see, let me send him his money.

Mo: Tell....., tell Anati, "Have him send the entire project".

Sh: Yes.

Mo: He finished getting the bids and we don't have a single page out of them.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: And this guy, Anati,UI. How come the people of Gaza work?

Sh: I don't know, sheik?

Mo: By Almighty God, I'm serious, I mean.

Sh: He is having hard time with those people, sheik, Harb, Sheik Harb. They are a headache.

Mo: But, I started to understand now; the people of Gaza now have a head. Therefore, they're doing well with the societies while poor Mohamed is by himself.

Sh: Yeah. There is no one with him.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: I mean, there is no one with him. There is no ranking person who goes and comes and stuff. There is no one. And those people, praised be God about them, we want to do a good job with Sheik Jamil while Sheik Jamil drove Anati crazy. He tells me that.UI.

Mo: I told him, "Why don't you talk with Shukri, Sheik Jamil?". He told me, "I resort to God from the Pelted Devil. Am I going to bypass the employee who is at my end?". [Laughs].

Sh: By God?

Mo: I started to laugh. I told him, "By God, one day you fall asleep and then you get up scared".

Sh: Yes. And when the *Associated Press* people go to talk to him, he tells them, "Talk to Shukri Abou Baker" [Laughs].

Mo: Yes. He tells you, "I will not bypass the employee who is in charge at my end to call you".

Sh: He doesn't reply to him. He ignores him. He doesn't reply to him or neither does he get back to him. Believe me. It will be good. Anyway....er, God's willing, I will have him send the project to me. He said he will send it to me again. But, I will transfer to him a portion of his money so that he won't say more about us, him and this guy, Harb. Let's not have him say more about us. I mean, there is good in these poor people.

Mo: Yes. And Sheik Harb, by God, he is a man of God.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: He worked us more than Sheik Jamil.

Sh: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Mo: I mean, one is....

Sh: That other guy collected, went and came back.

Mo: Mohamed Ibrahim called the Gaza office.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: I don't know if he returned or not yet?

Sh: No, not yet, not yet. He is not back yet.

Mo: Yes. He told them, "I would like to visit you".

Sh: Yes.

Mo: So, I told them, "He is one of the good guys".

Sh: Yes.

Mo: "And if he comes, you should be generous with him as well".

Sh: Yes, good.

Mo: The other day I sent them a small gift for the youths.

Sh: Yes.

Mo: They're very happy with it.

Sh: What did you send to them?

Mo: Clocks which broadcast the call to prayer.

Sh: By God?

Mo: Yes.

Sh: They don't hear the call to prayer in Gaza? [Laughs].

Mo: I mean, you know, they are young people and when they feel that their brother is coming to see them....

Sh: Yes. Whom did you send them with?

Mo: With Taher.

Sh: By God? Yes.

Mo: Yes.

Sh: Good.

Mo: I sent them three; one for Aboul Nagi and two for Saeid Nasri.

Sh: Ok, good. [Laughs].

Mo: It will be good, Abou Mohamed. We were long on you.

Sh: Ok, my brother.

Mo: May God bless you, God's willing. Let's just stay in touch.

Sh: A good break of fast, my brother.

Mo: May God bless you.

Sh: And a good dawn meal, God's willing.

Mo: One is not hungry and....UI.

Sh: Yes.UI.

Mo: What?

Sh: [Laughs]UI. Anyway, may God help you.

Mo: May God honor you and bless you.

Sh: Ok. Peace be with you.

Mo: May God give you strength, God's willing. Peace be with you.

END OF CALL.