

Date/Time Recorded: 9/13/1993

Contact ID #:

Participants:

Ab = Abdel Haleem Al Ashqar, a.k.a. Aboul Hasan  
Sh = Shukri Abou Baker, a.k.a. Abou Mohamed  
Om = Omar Yehya, a.k.a. Abou Mohamed

Abbreviations:

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

**GOVERNMENT  
EXHIBIT  
Ashqar Wiretap-1  
3:04-CR-240-G  
U.S. v. HLF, et al.**

Sh: What is going on? What's going on, Abou Mohamed? What do you have?

Om: By God, what I have is to arrange the program, we have to have a meeting on October second.

Sh: Yes.

Om: I mean, *we have to really benefit from it*, otherwise . . . You know, *if we benefit...*, if we want to benefit from it, we have to start working on it from now, I mean.

Sh: Yes.

Om: So, I, I mean, let's mention the names and what are the subjects in the papers and who will write a paper. And inform those people before *Friday*, I mean. Each and every one of them should have a notice on what's required of him.

Sh: Yes.

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Om: I mean, *basically*, those belonging to the Association [IAP], we would write the names, those belonging to the Fund, those belonging to our committee.

Sh: Hm.

Om: And, four from...er, from the Capital, I mean.

Sh: Yes.

Om: In addition to...[UI], I mean, they could come in the car with Abou Ibrahim, he has two or three...[UI] and Abou Ibrahim. [Heavy breathing] The Canada people, we will ask them to bring two or three, I mean, they could come by car.

Sh: Yes.

Om: These are the names. I don't know if you and Aboul Hasan *basically* agree on these names?

Ab: These names... I really sent yesterday three names to...er, Abou Mohamed.

Sh: Yes.

Ab: Did you get them, Abou Mohamed?

Sh: They are here, yes.

Ab: Yes. These names are...er, Muin.

Om: Yes, I listed him, I listed him as if he were in the committee, I mean.

Ab: Abou Mohamed...er, Aboul Anas, Mohamed Helmy.

Om: Oh, yes.

Ab: And Dr. Hisham Darwish.

Om: Yes.

Ab: Because, the truth is...

Om: You think Mohamed Helmy..., I mean, understands why we are holding the meeting?

Ab: He understands my brother, it is important that he will be in the picture. it's very important, I mean, for reasons I do not want to discuss over the phone now.

Om: You mean, psychological and physical reasons?

Ab: My brother..., the one who appears most in the media at their end is him. And also the man is really...er. First of all, I mean, as I said. At another time, let's not waste time over that, I mean.

Om: That's it, fine.

Ab: I'll talk...er, I mean, we will talk another time. Fine?

Om: Fine.

Sh: By God, I don't know, what I understood is...er, is... [Heavy breathing] I prefer that this meeting will be an *open* presentation. I mean, so that some walks into us from the street and hears the talk, he will not . . . [SC]

Om: Yes, of course. Yes, yes.

Ab: Absolutely, I mean, there is no problem, I mean.

Sh: Yeas, I mean, the talk will be normal.

Om: Yes, of course. It has to be normal.

Sh: Because, you have talk about the organizations and you need to work properly.

Om: Correct.

Sh: ...coordinate with each others. [Heavy breathing]

Om: *That's the point.*

Sh: And also, I mean, if the number exceeds a certain limit, I think there will be a *counter balance*, I mean, there will be no...er, If there is thirty people and each one wants to speak for five minutes, it will not work. I mean, I am afraid that it will turn into....er.

Om: A conference.

Sh: A forum, or a conference. What we want is a session I mean, it is a session, a session or two, especially that they will be coming from the festival, I mean. So...er. Abou Ibrahim will go to the...[UI]. He is the one who is available and two or three will go [Heavy breathing]. I believe that the whole thing will be *basically* on Saturday, right?

Om: Until Sunday, noon, I mean.

Sh: I mean...

Om: Sunday morning until 1-0 O'clock.

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Om: Ok. This is for arrival. In regards to the...er. Abou...er, Aboul Hasan, I believe that, in regards to Mohamed and Hisham, we are not bringing...[SC].

Ab: [SC] Hisham is working with me, my brother, in the Fund.

Om: Ah, Ok.

Ab: And also, Mohamed Helmy will work with me in the Fund. I have talked to him about this. However, listen...

Om: [Laughs]. But, this doesn't mean they become *members*.

Ab: But, listen [SC]. My brother, what is his name, this guy, Mohamed Helmy is nominated to head the *MCC*.

Om: Yes. True.

Ab: I mean, he in the middle of the..., the middle of the community...

Om: Yes.

Ab: Or, actually, not in the middle, as you know the entire community is in the North side.

Om: Correct. By "the middle" you mean the North.

Ab: ~~In the middle. This should be like that, my brother. And also the truth is he appears every day out in the media at their end.~~

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Ab: Mohamed Helmy, to tell you the truth, it is for many reasons to tell you the truth including that...

Om: It's Fine. It will not make a difference with two people. I mean, Muin, we *already* put him.

Ab: Muin, there os really a problem regarding his understanding of the issue of his work in the..., in this thing.

Om: He is coming, yes, of course.

Ab: Yes. But, I mean, I talked to him after the..., after what you call it. He told me, "I have not resigned".

Om: No. He did not resign.

Ab: "I excused myself from attending one meeting only".

Om: No. They said he was suspended. But, not...er.

Ab: No. Not suspended. He told me, "I didn't say suspended". He said...

Om: [SC] [UI].

Ab: [SC]. He told me, "I declined to attend the meeting that due to be held at that time only".

Om: God willing, it will be good. Ok, good. Ok, what are the papers?

Ab: Ok....er.

Om: We need them.

Ab: Ok. How about the location, my brother? I have no idea up until now.

Om: Philadelphia.

Ab: Philadelphia. Ok, where is the place.

Sh: The place. In the place... [SC].

Ab: [SC] Is there only one..., is there only one airport in Philadelphia or more than one? I don't know.

Om: There is one airport. We will be near the airport, approximately, five minutes from the airport, and also there is a *shuttle bus* to the..., to the *hotel*. *Already*, I mean, the brothers are trying to make reservation in that *hotel*.

Ab: Is that *final*?

Om: Almost, yes. They made reservations. But, I mean, *tentative*, I mean we can cancel it if we want to cancel it, I mean. *Ok?* The people of Washington and New Jersey can come by car.

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Om: There is some one from Philadelphia, his name is Abdel Azim Sidiqi.

Ab: The Sudanese brother?

Om: Yes. What do you think? This person is a representative of a country, shall we invite him or not?

Sh: That guy works for all parties.

Om: *Yeah*. the problem is . . . I mean, he's not [SC]

Sh: I'm...er, I'm not with the, I mean, I'm *just* with *the original idea* that we limit the number. We don't necessarily have to bring everyone who is working because the issue is *strategic planning*, I mean, it is not....

Om: Yes, correct.

Sh: ...it is not *field planning*. I mean, we are not planning for activities. We need to plan..., we need to understand the upcoming phase, what is its nature...[SC]

Om: Yes.

Sh: ...[UI] and stuff. A large number, my brother, will be suspicious and..., will attract attention and....er, I don't think that....er. I mean, it will be....[UI] if we increase it more than what's necessary.

[Heavy breathing].

Om: Fine. We will have, I think, twenty two, approximately. Twenty two or twenty three, the number. He is making reservation for twenty five. It is a reasonable number. I mean, with two additional ones. We will see. Some people might even decline, they might out of town and it becomes *twenty two*, I mean. Fine. No, in regards to the..., to the papers; should we..., should we ask every organization, its members or one of them, to present a paper on behalf of his organization? And then, we ask people..., I mean, brothers from Washington, for instance, to present papers to *the general*? For instance..., for instance, the people of the Association [IAP], we are four or five. All of us should try to organize our thoughts and one of would come and present a paper, to see what he believes, the *strategy* and what is the situation of the work in the future. For instance, the same thing for the Fund, the same thing for Al Aqsa, too. And then we ask other brothers like Mohamed Abbas and Jawad and those people to write a *general* paper, I mean.

Sh: Yes.

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Om: You know whom we will bring? I know that the available time is..., I consider it..., I consider it approximately eighteen hours. If five papers were presented, sometimes one paper alone takes about two or three hours.

Ab: By God, my brother, I mean, you also need to hear from people.

Om: Yes, correct, yes. But, how are we going to... I mean, *we wanna*, I mean, we want to hear from people, but, in the same time, we need to come out with a result as well. We don't want to go, talk a lot and come out with nothing at the end, I mean. *We wanna a balance*, I mean, a balance in the subject. What do you think, Abou Mohamed?

Sh: I am convinced. I mean, we want to get out of the meeting knowing what to...er.

Om: Yes, we need a direction.

Sh: I mean, I don't have a problem because we have...er. I mean, we have at least..., I mean, tentatively, what are our visions, for instance, for the Foundation in the coming stage...er, in light of the events. How can it address people and how can we...er, maintain its balance and stuff like that.

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Om: I mean, should we tell him, for instance, "You write for us about the subject of the media, you write about the subject of charity, and you write about...er, for instance, about that", you know what I mean?

Sh: Yes.

Om: Or, should we leave it..., that's it. We, for example, write a letter, a general letter about what is the goal of the meeting and tell him, "Write a general paper in this field"? This is the question, I mean.

Sh: My opinion is to designate people to write.

Om: They will do the writing.

Sh: People, certain people who are designated to write.

Om: Any specific subjects?

Sh: I think, no less than a paper, for example, to analyze what is going on...er, the nature of the upcoming stage in regards to..., in regards to the political situation.

Om: Yes.

Sh: The situation of...

Om: Like recommendations, you mean.

Sh: The region's policy...er., the Palestinian-Arab region, the shape of the situation during the self rule, what can happen? The nature of the...er, the...er, I mean, the political relations, how are they going to be in the region. I think it is essential to know what the future of the charitable and national organizations under the self rule area will be. At least, even if theoretically, I mean from the *legality* standpoint, what can happen to them; does the self rule have the authority to shut them down? It doesn't? Er..., the address to the American public, how can it be developed and modified. What does the opposition line represent for the Palestinian's point of view inside and the American point of view abroad. Is it considered radical groups? Is there anything against the law that is taken against it? Do they still have the right to express their opinion without any reservation and fear of being targeted by the law? There are some legal issues, I mean, that we need to know as well. I mean, the brothers contacted me before now and asked me to do the sermon on Friday. You see?

Om: Where?



Sh: Here in Richardson.

Om: Hm.

Sh: So far, I am refusing to do so.

Ab: Why?

Sh: Because, I don't think I should play the role of an Imam now and a guide for the nation because the stuff I'm going to say, *wether you like it or not*, will be held against me because I'm a person in charge in the Foundation. So, I can't get up on the pulpit and be a hypocrite. I should talk in a clear, daring and strong way on the pulpit. So, I told them, "Brothers, I have to think about it until tomorrow morning. We will see. However, in principle, I am opposed". They are putting pressure on me to deliver the sermon on Friday because there is nobody else in the city who will talk about this subject and [UI] will talk about this subject.

Om: Yes.

Sh: You see? So, this is an issue that I'm working on. But, I have no [UI] I mean, if ~~someone puts pressure on me, I will go up and deliver the sermon and it could be~~ because of a Friday sermon that one gets the Foundation in grave trouble.

Ab: Ok, excuse me, my brother, I'm...er, I mean, your words are reasonable if they are implemented in their entirety, However, Abou Ibrahim for example, is the president of the Foundation, and he preaches in the biggest mosque.

Sh: [UI]

Ab: So, I don't know how do you...

Sh: I mean, Abou Ibrahim, he is more of...

Ab: Yes.

Sh: ...an imam, my brother.

Ab: No. Abou Ibrahim, is more known as the president of the Holy Land Fund.

Sh: No. I mean...

Ab: I resort to God...

Sh: No, from the legal point of view, my position..., my position is more dangerous than Abou Ibrahim's because, I'm *the executive director*....

[Heavy breathing].

I mean, I am the one who faces people. Abou Ibrahim is an employee of the mosque or an Imam. So, when he talks as an Imam, as a religious guide, still has the..., I mean, two formal positions. The religious position is stronger or more dominant in him than..., then being the *chairman*. Normally, a *chairman* is an honorary position. As for me, to step on the pulpit now and talk..., attack and speak honestly and then the next..., the next hour the *media* comes to me at the office of *Holy Land Foundation*? Of course, they will ask who is this Shukri? They will tell them, "He is the *Executive Director*". They will come to my office and conduct an interview with me. Thus, my role will shift from a charitable foundation to an organization for preaching, guidance, political awareness and public mobilization. I mean, there is..., there is fear in it, there is fear.

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Om: O. We agreed that the second and the third ones are [UI] . I mean the Association [IAP] organization will write a paper and the Fund will write one and Al Aqsa will write one. We will have three for the second one, the first one has two papers and the third one has one paper. So, there are six papers which must come from the people, *in general*, I mean [Heavy breathing]. So, we have... Who are the people who can write? Or...

Sh: Those who are dedicated to writing, my brother.

Om: Fine. Of course, I might, *I can tell you*, Jawad, Mohamed, I will ask Ahmad. Er... [Heavy breathing] we also have Yaser. I don't know if he writes or not.

Ab: [Heavy breathing] Muin can write.

Om: Muin. I think, the three of us must write something.

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Om: Ok. We said, Jawad, Mohamed, Ahmad, Yaser, Muin and the three of us.

Ab: That's seven. And Abou Ibrahim?

Om: Seven, eight..., that's eight, and Abou Ibrahim, that's nine. We can also contact Akram and Abdel Rahman to write papers. [Heavy breathing] Nihad....

Ab: Akram, and who, Abou Mohamed?

Om: Abdel Rahman.

Ab: And Nihad?

Om: Nihad and Osama. What do you think about Riyad?

Ab: Riyad, our friend?

Om: Or, Hisham?

Ab: By God, I don't know. I don't know. As for Riyad, he can write, yes. [Heavy breathing].

Om: I mean, about fourteen or fifteen people, fourteen.

Ab: Yes.

Om: The ones we mentioned are nine papers only, *total*.

Sh: My friend, [UI].

Om: What?

Sh: If someone comes with something written, it is better than coming without something written. Let all of the people write.

Om: I think all should write.

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Ab: We don't know all the names.

Om: You have them. .

Ab: Those that You gave me, that's it.

Om: Ok. They are Jawad, Mohamed and Ahmad.

Ab: And Yaser.

Om: Yaser.

Ab: And Muin, Omar, Shukri and Abdel Haleem.

Om: That's it, we know the subject.

Ab: And Abou Ibrahim, Akram, Abdel Rahman, Nihad and Osama. Is there anymore?

Om: Riyad.

Ab: Ok. Riyad and who else?

Om: We had listed Salah Obaid. Abou Ibrahim wanted him to come.

Ab: Ok. He will talk to Abou Ibrahim.

Sh: Who this Salah?

Om: The president of the center at their end?

Ab: The president of the center.

Sh: What is his relationship with the...er?

Ab: He has no relationship with anything, my brother. He is just the director of the center.

Om: Fine, if you want... , I..., I..., Abou Ibrahim wants to get him closer to us.

Ab: Yes.

Om: I mean, this is . . . *public relation*. *He wants to get him involved*, I mean.

Sh: It is *public relation*. God is Great.

Om: I don't know . . . [SC].

Ab: Do you know him, Shukri?

Sh: There are two....[SC].

Om: Yes, I do know him.

Sh: There are Two friends of mine, I want to bring them with me as well.

Om: No, Sheik. This is Abou Ibrahim. You know Abou Ibrahim.

Sh: Ok. Fine.

Ab: ~~O-man, I know..., he has no-relationship.~~ Anyway, it will be good.

Om: Let me tell you something. If Salah..., I mean, I understand what Abou Ibrahim wants. Abou Ibrahim is thinking that if Salah, for example, is encouraged and starts to work with us, this is a large Islamic center.

Ab: Yes. This..., this is his intention.

Sh: [UI].

Ab: Ok, are we going to have a [UI]...

Om: Ok. Ok, it will be good You are...

Ab: Ok. My brother. But, not... There are others who need to be notified.

Om: And they are... ,Mohamed Helmy and Hisham.

Ab: Mohamed Helmy.

Om: Whom else do you have?

Ab: And Hisham (LNU).

Sh: I still have reservations about the brother. This is just *for the record*, I mean.

Ab: Mohamed Helmy?

Sh: I still have reservations, my brother. I mean, let some distance between us and him, especially in a situation like this where all the brothers are there. I am not against you working with him, between you and him. But, his presence with us... I don't think that is..., I mean, for us, I don't think that it will benefit us with anything right now. He will probably benefit [Heavy breathing] and anyone who attends will benefit. But, I mean...er, I still feel that those people are..., I mean, they remained under surveillance for a while and I don't know how his presence will serve exactly? I mean, it is not... I remain wary.

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Ab: Back to the subject.

Sh: Aboul Hasan will do us a favor and contact some of the brothers... [SC].

Ab: My brother, specify it, I mean, now, Jawad and Mohamed... [SC].

Sh: There are seven of them... [SC].

Om: Him and [UI]. Write it down; Ismail, we forgot about Ismail.

Ab: I already listed his name, to tell You the truth.

Om: [UI] Aboul Hasan, and Riyad, and... [SC].

Sh: Abou Ibrahim has definitely informed Riyad.

Om: No. I don't think so.

Sh: Not yet?

Om: By God, I don't know.

Ab: Ok. Abou Ismail, Hisham.

Om: Hisham.

Ab: Riyad.

Om: Riyad, Muin.

Ab: Muin... [SC].

Om: Yasser, Ahmad, Mohamed and Jawad.

Ab: Ok.. That's all who are invited? These are seventeen, my brother.

Om: Is the total seventeen?

Ab: Seventeen.

Om: No. We also have..., what do You call it.

Ab: Three from Canada?

Om: There are two or three from Canada.

Ab: That's twenty.

Om: And also from the Association [IAP] there are... what's his name? Hasan is coming, and Hai..., and Haitham from the Fund.

Ab: Those are yours, I mean, You will notify them.

Om: We don't want them for the papers. Hasan will come to take care of the situation. I mean.

Sh: Yeah. [SC].

Om: ...with the hotel and stuff.

Ab: Ok, but...[SC].

Om: ...and Haitham is coming to attend the festival and stuff, and he will attend with us.

Sh: Yes.

Om: And Ghassan

Ab: Ok, in regards to the charitable work, what exactly are the papers needed to be introduced?

Om: By God, I think there are two points, I mean; the charitable work and its future here and its ramifications on what is here, and the new fields, I mean, this is what I am thinking, I mean.

Sh: I mean, I am thinking about what would be . . . [SC].

Om: Our presentation.

Sh: I mean, its future, under the new political situation. I mean. just to *reinforce it*, I mean. This is one. We can introduce our vision, "If this happens, we can open this and that field [Heavy breathing] or our address to the public will be in this specific way". [Heavy breathing] But, at people who have experience about the inside ought to write their visions about the inside, I mean, more than us trying to do *predictions*.

Ab: Then, if we say the future of the charitable work inside and the future of the charitable work...

Om: In America.

Ab: In America, right?

Om: Yes.

Ab: Is that fine, my brother?

Sh: *Yeah.*

Ab: Recommendations. Of course, the recommendations will be in a discussion session.

Sh: A general . . . [SC].

Om: Discussion and summary of decisions