

Date/Time Recorded:

4/1/1996 at 14:58:28

Participants:

SB = Shukri Ahmad Abou Baker

GA = Gayle (LNU)

Abbreviations:

[]	Background Conversation / Noise/Translator's comments
[U]	Unintelligible
...	Incomplete sentence
[sic]	Stated as is
[SC]	Simultaneous conversation
LNU	Last name unknown

[Translator's note: This call is entirely in English].

Verbatim Translation

**GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT
Baker Wiretap-2
3:04-CR-240-G
U.S. v. HLF, et al.**

SB: Well, whether he spoke or not, I don't know how relevant it... You know at that time... First of all, Hamas did not have a... Their military wing, according to all experts, started operating 1992.

GA: Aha.

SB: So, I don't know. The Intifada in 1990 was no more than throwing ah, stones, at, at the soldiers of the military occupation of Israel. So ah, ah, 1990 was, ah, just about two years, ah, after the Intifada started and, and a lot of emotional, ah, ah, feelings were, were ah, [sighs] you know ah, surfacing and, and a lot of, ah, rhetoric was said.

GA: Right.

SB: I said, ah, ah, that's, that's why the, the, the historical context is very important. I don't know what ah, what Emerson is really trying to say here. If, if he met with, ah... I, I don't believe....

GA: Oh, let me ask you....

SB: I don't think.....

GA: Let me ask you this.

SB: Um.

GA: Let me ask in this context....

SB: Um, um, um.

GA: Maybe this is a better way of asking.

SB: Yeah.

GA: You know, is it, is it... Would it be correct to say that if the, you know, if some of these conferences, which, at which, you know, I believe ah, ah, if it wasn't this one, it was another just about that time that, ah, you know, was, was, ah, was, one of the speakers thanks, you know, the Occupied Lands Fund and, and IAP for their sponsorship of the conference and of, and of Hamas and goes on, you know, and say things like that. And, you know, these, you know, there are signs saying that they were sponsored by IAP. You know, is it possible that, that, you know, back then the organizations did take a more, you know... Well I know you can't speak for IAP but....

SB: Well, well...

GA: but HLF did take a more political stance and that now you, you've stepped back from that?

SB: No, no act... In fact, ah, I can speak for the Holy Land Foundation very comfortably. We have never raised... We have raised [sighs] money for Hamas. I dare, I dare anybody to say "Shukri you wrote, or you stood up in, in front of a, you know, conference ask money for HAMAS and or trying to recruit members for Hamas." We have never done this. You can go back to our, since we started, ah, the, ah, fund-raising literature. We, we, we have never in any written communication used the word Hamas or in any oral communication in front of an audience try to raise money for Hamas To us, and to Intifada it was a, a historical uh, uh phenomenon and we were trying to... And at that time, of course, Palestinian people were the underdogs. They were the people who were receiving heavy casualties.

GA: You know, that so you're saying that even if, even if, ah, ah, ah, a Holy Land Foundation leaders ah, appeared at conferences, you know, with people who are supporting Hamas and who were very, you know, much in favor of, of armed jihad and things like that. That just because y'all sponsored the conference and the speakers spoke there that doesn't mean that you were sending the money? Is that what you are saying?

SB: Well, we, we didn't sponsor any speakers from Hamas to start with.

SB: ... when we raise money, even in the presence of, of Hamas supporters, we, ah the money we raise is very, is explicitly mentioned in, in any fund raising event where it goes to. And we haven't in any single case ah, asked money for, on the behalf of Hamas or, or the, the programs of Hamas in the area. Anyway, however, in 1990, Hamas itself did not have any, ah, ah, ah, military agenda at that point. It, it only evolved in, you know, back 1992. So, 1990, a lot of, ah, Palestinians didn't find it objectionable even to associate with Hamas. You know, a lot of, a lot of people in this country, they sympathize with Hamas very much because it has, ah, it has demonstrated ah, the, the kind of, ah, an aspiration for the Palestinian people during the Intifada days when, ah, you know, everybody noticed that the Palestinian people had the capability of saying "N" to occupation. But, you know, then later on when the military wing started doing different military operations, a lot of people distanced themselves.

GA: What, what I was asking you, was? Is that kind of, the position HLF found itself in?

SB: Well, we never, we never associated with, with, with, ah, with Hamas to start with, to distant ourselves later on. We never associated with Hamas anyway. So, I invite you to look back at the, ah, type of literature we, we published, ah... See the one that ah, for example, that the ADL found, and they were very excited about, is us helping the, the Palestinian deportees in 19, ah, 93....

GA: Uh huh.

SB: And that was, to, to them, that was the link and they quoted me ah, and my letter asking money for, for those people. But in my letter, I have never, ah, hinted, or never talked to them on behalf of Hamas. I was raising money for a bunch of volu... of, of deportees. They were deported against the international laws and against the United Nation resolution. And I was asking the international community to, to stand by those people. So....

GA: What, what, you know, so were most, were most of the deportees Hamas members?

SB: I don't care.

GA: But were they?

SB: They are still Palestinians. Yeah. And, and that was in, ah, Lebanon.

GA: Okay.

SB: Remember in 1992.

GA: Okay. A... also, ah, I talked to ah, Mr. Marzouk's attorney...

SB: Uh huh.

GA: ... the other day, Stanley Cohen.

SB: Yeah.

GA: And we went over a whole lot of different things.

SB: Uhm.

GA: And I was real surprised because when we got to the point where I asked him about, ah, Mr. Marzook making the, I think \$210,000 contribution...

SB: Uh huh.

GA: ... to the Holy Land fund. He said, "Oh no, Mr. Marzook never made that contribution".

SB: Uh.

GA: Whereas, you all remembered very distinctly. It was after a conference. It was a one-time deal.

SB: Yeah.

GA: So, do you? Can you give me any? You know, do you know why he would have said that or?

SB: I don't know. Maybe he doesn't know about it.

GA: Okay.

SB: Maybe ah, you know ah, the, as we said, this man is ah. He's a, he's a philanthropist and he gives money right and left. And maybe this is to the entire case is insignificant. I don't know if the, if the lawyer took the time to look into this. That's why you, you know, to me when, when, ah, you mentioned, when, ah, what's his name, the other guy?

GA: Steve McGonigle.

SB: Well, Steve mentioned that. I said, well it's, it's a good thing if I...

GA: Sure.

SB: ... if I can call up his attorney and tell him you know, this is, the man has given us some money and this proves that, ah, if he try... was trying to, ah, a launder money or, or, you know, send money back home, he could have done it without, you know, going through a public org....., organization and exposing himself. He could have just wired the money himself...

GA: Right .

SB: Because that's what the media has been saying. He's been sending money all over. So why go through the Holy Land Foundation which is a very public organization and he knows that ah, you know, our public, our records are public and very well in the open. So, I don't know, ah, Gayle, I don't know if... I haven't, I haven't even spoken with a, with this man. And ah...

GA: Okay.

SB: I don't know ah if I should but, ah, ah, ah, he might, ah, need to ask, ah, ah, Abu Marzouk himself.

GA: Well, he

SB: I'm sure he will remember.

GA: He, he said he was speaking for Mr. Marzouk.

SB: Yeah.

GA: Ah, so, I, but I don't know. I was very, I was very....

SB: Yeah.

GA: Surprised by that.

SB: Yeah.

GA: Uhm, now. Uhm, I think we asked you this the other night and, ah, if we did, I apologize. But, but, ah, what was your explanation or, and it could be very simple, why Mr. Marzouk would have like your home phone and the Holy Land L.A. number in his address book when he was, ah, arrested at JFK?

SB: When he was arrested?

GA: Yes.

SB: He has my home num... Home phone?

GA: Yes.

SB: I don't... I don't... As long, you know, along with another thousand names maybe.

GA: Yes, that's right.

SB: [Laughs].

GA: [Laughs].

SB: So this tells you, I mean, I mean, the man is a charismatic, is a philanthropist. Maybe he picks up my....er

GA: The man is what? I didn't understand what you said.

SB: He, he, he's a philanthropist.

GA: Right.

SB: And he's ah, he's ah charismatic person. Otherwise, he would not be in the position he's in right now.

GA: Sure.

SB: Maybe he picked up my, ah, my number from, ah, from the convention. We talked together about, ah, this, ah, donation. Ah, the, ah, of course, he would have the number for the, for the Holy Land Foundation because he was, ah, either about to give a donation or he has already given. I don't know when he, ah, got these numbers down but I bet you it's, it's before he made the donation.

GA: Right.

SB: So, I, I don't think the man would have sent ah this ah amount of money without taking the basics which is the phone numbers of the, of the office and the officers. I don't know.

GA: Okay. Now, I'm confused, because was, was some branch of the Holy Land Foundation or the Occupied Lands Fund started in Indiana?

SB: Indiana?

GA: Aha.

SB: A branch?

GA: Yeah, I mean. I had some... You know, somewhere I saw something saying y'all started in Indiana.

SB: Well, Indiana... I think that is, ah, ah... No, not Indiana. We didn't start in Indiana. I was in Indiana at that time ...

GA: You?

SB: I worked as a volunteer, working for the Occupied Land Fund as a volunteer.

GA: Okay.

SB: So, I was receiving mail there when ah, we send.... We, ah, set up a P.O. Box...

GA: Uh huh.

SB: ... and the mail was coming to me.

GA: Okay.

SB: Yeah, was coming to me.

GA: Okay. Well

SB: To, to Indiana.

GA: Okay. Okay. Now, uhm, we were looking at, at some of the, some wire stories recently and from awhile ago. And there's something else I'm not, I'm not clear on. The whole issue came up about the, ah, the, ah, gentleman in Jerusalem named Mr. Hamami? Okay, that runs the faith school....

SB: Aha.

GA: And the, uh, cult, ah, I forget, the Islamic Cultural and Science....

SB: Yeah.

GA: Organization?

SB: Yeah.

GA: Okay. And, and he's apparently been taken into custody at least a couple of times....

SB: Oh yeah.

GA: ... by the Israelis....

SB: Yeah .

GA:for being a connected to a leader of HAMAS?

SB: Uh huh.

GA: Okay. So, this is... Okay, so, so he runs schools and orphanages and clinics?

SB: Uh huh.

GA: And I think this gets down to what y'all were explaining to us....

SB: Aha.

GA: Don't look at the affiliation of people. You're just....

SB: Yeah.

GA:looking as if they are helping orphans?

SB: Yes.

GA: So, you all contribute to the, the organizations that he runs, right?

SB: Oh yeah!

GA: Okay.

SB: Oh Yeah. It's one, it's one of the most reputable organizations in, in the West Bank.

GA: Okay.

SB: [Sniffs]. And the schools he runs, they have received, ah, high marks from the, ah, ah Ministry of Education, the Israeli Ministry of Education. And I was there myself. I visited the territories about three times. And I visited the schools there. They're, they're one of the best private schools in the area.

GA: Okay.

SB: Yeah.

GA: So, uhm, ah, so if, if there are a schools whose, ah, leaders are ah, associated with Hamas?

SB: Uh huh.

GA: This is neither something that is for or against the school

SB: Yes.

GA: ...in your thinking?

SB: Exactly.

GA: Okay.

SB: To me it's not, it's beyond... it's, it's ah, beyond the point. It's, it's not a... It's not even a point, a point to consider. I, look at the organization. If it's legitimate, if, if it's providing good services, then I should not deny ah that organization my support just because one or two people happen to be non-liked... not liked by the Israelis or being in jail, or even Hamas or whatever. I don't care about that. My, my objective is, is, ah... The humanitarian objective is not colored by the practical reality in that, that region. I don't. I don't care about it. See at this point, we're, we're

GA: Who is the head of the Holy Land Foundation over there?

SB: Ah, well the, the office there is, is, is registered as Jerusalem office. It's, it's, works under the Israeli jurisdiction. So...

GA: Uh huh.

SB: A young man in the name, by the name of Anati. Mr. Anati. A-N-A-T-I.

GA: Okay. Mr. Anati.

SB: Yeah.

GA: Okay. Okay. Uhm...

SB: And, and as you know our office is closed right now along with other, you know, 75% of charities, local charities. But we are, ah, pursuing that in courts.

GA: Now, why is it closed?

SB: Well, along with 75% of all Palestinian charities are closed now.

GA: Uh huh. Because they are claiming you have Hamas ties?

SB: Oh, well, yeah. [Sniffs].

SB: ... They, they have their own intelligence. In fact, this country relies on the Israeli intelligence for a lot of things. Because they are far superior than the CIA when it comes to Middle East issues.
