



*United States Attorney
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2009

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**AFGHAN DRUG KINGPIN CHARGED WITH TERRORIST
FINANCING FOR FUNDING TALIBAN INSURGENCY**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MICHELE M. LEONHART, the Acting Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), announced today the filing of a superseding indictment charging HAJI JUMA KHAN, a/k/a "Abdullah," a/k/a "Haji Juma Khan Mohammadhasni," with conspiring to finance terrorist activity by the Taliban. These new charges are in addition to a charge already pending against KHAN for violating the 2006 federal narcoterrorism statute.

According to the superseding Indictment filed in Manhattan federal court:

Since at least 1999, KHAN led an international opium, morphine and heroin trafficking organization (the "Khan Organization") based principally in the Helmand and Kandahar provinces of southern Afghanistan. The Khan Organization arranged to sell morphine base, an opium derivative that can be processed into heroin, in quantities as large as 40 tons -- enough to supply the entire United States heroin market for more than two years. The Khan Organization also operated labs in Afghanistan that produced refined heroin and sold the drug in quantities of as much as 100 kilograms and more.

KHAN was closely aligned with the Taliban, which, in 2002, was designated by the President of the United States as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist Group. The Taliban's totalitarian government controlled Afghanistan from the mid-1990s until 2001, when it was removed from power by the United States and allied military forces. Since the United States' military

intervention, the Taliban has operated an insurgency aimed at re-establishing its control of Afghanistan, and forcibly expelling the United States and its allies, through terrorist tactics such as suicide bombings, improvised explosive devices, shootings and kidnappings, targeting American soldiers, Afghan political leaders, security contractors and civilians. The Taliban has publicly claimed credit for terrorist attacks, including a January 14, 2008 attack on civilians and employees at the Serena Hotel in Kabul, in which an American citizen was murdered.

The Taliban's terrorist insurgency has been funded in part by drug traffickers who provide financing to the Taliban in exchange for protection for their drug routes, production labs, and opium poppy fields. The Indictment charges that KHAN has supported the Taliban's efforts to forcibly remove the United States and its allies from Afghanistan by providing financial support in the form of drug proceeds to the Taliban. The new charges allege that KHAN violated the separate terrorist financing statute by providing funds to the Taliban with the knowledge that they were to be used to support terrorist activity in Afghanistan.

KHAN is charged with one count of conspiring to traffic in narcotics with the intention of supporting an organization engaged in terrorism, one count of trafficking in narcotics with the intention of supporting an organization engaged in terrorism, one count of conspiring to finance terrorism, and one count of financing terrorism.

If convicted, KHAN, 55, faces a maximum sentence of life and a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The case against KHAN is being presided over by United States District Judge NAOMI R. BUCHWALD. KHAN currently is detained pending trial.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's International Narcotics Trafficking Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys MARSHALL A. CAMP, EUGENE INGOGLIA, and MICHAEL M. ROSENSAFT are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges and allegations contained in the superseding Indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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