



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. CITIZEN PLEADS GUILTY IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT
TO CONSPIRING TO PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO AL QAEDA**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that SYED HASHMI, a/k/a "Fahad," pleaded guilty today in Manhattan federal court to conspiracy to provide material support to Al Qaeda.

HASHMI, 30, was arrested on June 6, 2006, at Heathrow Airport in the United Kingdom, shortly before he was to board a flight to Pakistan. He was later extradited to the United States; HASHMI is the first individual to be extradited from the United Kingdom to the United States on terrorism charges.

According to the Superseding Indictment filed in Manhattan federal court and statements made during the guilty plea proceeding:

From January 2004 through May 2006, HASHMI provided material support or resources to Al Qaeda by helping to provide equipment to others who then transported the equipment to Al Qaeda associates in South Waziristan, Pakistan. HASHMI provided the equipment with knowledge that it would be used by Al Qaeda to fight against U.S. forces in Afghanistan. HASHMI also provided money to a co-conspirator who planned to transport the equipment to Al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

HASHMI pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to provide material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization, namely Al Qaeda, which carries a maximum potential penalty of 15 years in prison. HASHMI is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Chief Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA on June 7, 2010, at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the Joint Terrorism Task Force ("JTTF"), which principally consists of special agents and detectives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department. Mr. BHARARA thanked the U.S. Department of Justice's National

Security Division and Office of International Affairs. Mr. BHARARA also expressed his gratitude to the British authorities and law enforcement community, including New Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service, for their cooperation in the investigation.

U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "This afternoon, Syed Hashmi admitted that he knowingly provided material support to Al Qaeda. Having admitted his guilt, he will now face justice for giving aid to terrorists he knew full-well were dedicated to harming Americans."

This case is being handled by the Office's Terrorism and International Narcotics Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys BRENDAN R. MCGUIRE and JOHN M. HILLEBRECHT are in charge of the prosecution.

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