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2018

Free Mohamed Mohamud End FBI Stings

It's been 8 years since the FBI set up Somali teenager Mohamed Mohamud in a sting operation at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

In October, 2014 Judge Garr King sentenced Mohamud to 30 years in prison, despite the young man's forswearing violence and expressing regrets—for a crime the FBI enticed him to do. Depending whether his time served applies, Mohamud will be 48 or 52 when he gets out.

The judge took into consideration what he called "imperfect entrapment" to lower the government's 40-year request, but dismissed claims based on the feds' use of warrantless wiretapping as part of its case.

Appealing, Mohamud's lawyers made oral arguments to the Ninth Circuit Court in July 2016, saying the use of unwarranted surveillance violated his rights. The Portland US Attorney's office was awarded for a "successful" prosecution of the case on October 21, 2015, one month after the appeal was filed. The appeal was ultimately denied in March 2017.

Among other things, the FBI took the young Mohamud, who needed emotional and political (and perhaps psychological) help, and rather than aiding him to express himself constructively, helped instead to hatch a phony plot including a van full of fake explosives.

Since 2010, there have been a steady stream of similar sting operations. These stings are predominantly done against Arab, African or other immigrant populations and nearly universally against Muslims. They help foster fear of Islam and perpetuate the narrative that the FBI is stopping terrorism, when in it is their convoluted plots that create the real terror.

Man arrested after plotting Federal Reserve bomb, authorities say
From Susan Candioti, CNN
October 18, 2012 - Updated 2251 GMT (0651 HKT)



Family defends man accused of bomb plot

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- The suspect is a 21-year-old Bangladeshi man, who came to the U.S. on a student visa and was allegedly planning to blow up the Federal Reserve Bank of New York with what he believed was a 1,000-pound bomb, officials said.

New York (CNN) - Federal authorities running a sting operation arrested a 21-year-old Bangladeshi man, who came to the U.S. on a student visa and was allegedly planning to blow up the Federal Reserve Bank of New York with what he believed was a 1,000-pound bomb, officials said.

Jay Carney, White House press secretary, says Obama is not a terrorist.

A 2016 report by Human Rights Watch noted that "nearly all of the highest-profile domestic terrorism plots in the United States since 9/11 featured the 'direct involvement' of government agents or informants," and 30% involved stings (The Guardian, July 21, 2016). A 2017 multi-part series in the Intercept documents over 800 people who have been prosecuted for terrorism since 9/11, that "most of them never committed an act of violence," and that over 400 were released from custody.

Mohamud's public defender, Steve Wax, told the press after the sentencing that he wondered whether other families in the future will do what Mohamud's did and reach out to the FBI, since rather than steer him on another path, they "helped" him set up a crime. It is time to end the stings and free Mohamed Mohamud.

Some of the other FBI stings show a pattern and practice of creating problems where none might have existed without law enforcement prompting, starting with a 2014 failure:

—(New York, NY, August 2014) The FBI tried to set up Ahmed Abassi, a 26 year old Tunisian student, preventing him from returning to Canada, paying for an apartment, and suggesting that killing Americans was righteous for Muslims—all of which were done with Mohamud. Abassi "resisted attempts to move to direct action" and the sting ended with a guilty plea on non-terrorism related charges of fraud involving immigration documents (Washington Post, August 14, 2014).

—(New York, NY, October 2012) "Federal authorities running a sting operation arrested a 21-year-old Bangladeshi man, who came to the U.S. on a student visa and was allegedly planning to blow up the Federal Reserve Bank of New York with what he believed was a 1,000-pound bomb, officials said." (CNN October 17, 2012) <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/10/17/justice/new-york-federal-reserve-terror-plot/index.html>

—(Chicago, September 2012) "FBI agents have arrested a teenager who allegedly tried to detonate what he thought was a car bomb outside a bar in downtown Chicago. The arrest on Friday night of Adel Daoud, a US citizen, marked the end of an undercover sting operation." (Agence France Presse September 16, 2012) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-09-16/us-teen-held-over-27jihad27-car-bomb-plot/4263936>

Homegrown terror: a threat from within

■ Young Muslims turn radical despite comfy lives inside this country



By Sam Houston, The Tribune

Terrorists experts worry that Mohamed Osman Mohamud is the most recent example of a growing trend of young Muslims who suddenly turn radical and turn to terrorism. These potential terrorists are not being recruited or trained in the 40th state, but rather are citizens who enjoy the fruits of modern civilization and that live in the heart of the nation.

Mohamed Osman Mohamud, 19, was held after attempting to detonate a van he believed was filled with explosives during the Christmas tree-lighting event at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Nov. 2012.

The Portland Tribune's December 2, 2010 headline made us wonder: Is the home-grown threat coming from the FBI?

US teen arrested after car bomb sting

Posted Sun Sep 16, 2012 11:10am AEST

FBI agents have arrested a teenager who allegedly tried to detonate what he thought was a car bomb outside a bar in downtown Chicago.

The arrest on Friday night (local time) of Adel Daoud, a US citizen, marked the end of an undercover sting operation.

During the operation agents provided him with a fake bomb that he attempted to set off shortly before he was detained, the US Attorney's Office in Chicago said in a statement.

Daoud, who lives in the Chicago suburb of Hillside, appeared before a judge on Saturday and was charged with one count of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and another count of att



MAP: United States

(more, over)

—(Washington, DC, February 2012) “A 29-year-old Moroccan, Amine El Khalifi, was arrested en route to Capitol Hill with what he thought was a suicide bomb and a Mac-10 automatic weapon. Everyone else involved in the alleged plot to commit mass murder at the heart of the US government appears to have been an FBI agent posing as a member of al-Qaeda.”

“The rise of the undercover sting” BBC February 28, 2012
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17160690>

—(Washington, DC, October 2010) “A Pakistani-born man [34-year-old Farooque Ahmed] was arrested Wednesday and charged with trying to help people posing as al Qaeda operatives plot to bomb Washington-area subway stations. The bombing plot was a ruse over the past six months, the FBI said.”

“Man Arrested in D.C. Subway Bomb Plot”
CBS News October 28, 2010

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/10/27/national/main6996775.shtml>

28 February 2012 Last updated at 10:35 ET

The rise of the undercover sting

By Brian Wheeler
BBC News, Washington



The handing over of British businessman Christopher Tappin to the US authorities has provoked criticism of the extradition treaty between the two countries. But it also puts the use by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies of undercover “stings” in the spotlight.

Fake terror plots, paid informants: the tactics of FBI 'entrapment' questioned

Critics say bureau is running a sting operation across America, targeting vulnerable people by luring them into fake terror plots

Paul Harris in New York
guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 16 November 2011 12:33 EST



The FBI has drawn criticism over its apparent use of 'entrapment' tactics. Photograph: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

David Williams did not have an easy life. He moved to Newburgh, a gritty, impoverished town on the banks of the Hudson an hour or so north of New York, at just 10 years old. For a young, black American boy with a father in jail, trouble was everywhere.

—(Newburgh, NY, May 2009) “David Williams was arrested and hit with a 25-year jail sentence. Williams and three other struggling local men beset by drug, criminal and mental health issues were convicted of an Islamic terrorist plot to blow up Jewish synagogues and shoot down military jets with missiles. The organisation, money, weapons and motivation for this plot did not come from real Islamic terrorists. It came from the FBI, and an informant paid to pose as a terrorist mastermind.”

“Fake terror plots, paid informants: the tactics of FBI ‘entrapment’ questioned”
The *Guardian* (UK) Wednesday 16 November 2011
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/16/fbi-entrapment-fake-terror-plots>

(Miami, FL, June 2006) [The sting on Mohamed Mohamud in Portland shows] how far the FBI’s role-playing has come since an early, high-profile sting operation in Miami, Florida, almost fell apart. When federal authorities unveiled that case in 2006, they said seven men from Miami’s impoverished Liberty City neighborhood had planned to destroy the Sears Tower in Chicago. But the plot never got past the discussion stage and the group never had the means to carry out the attack.” [Note: the seven men were all immigrants from Haiti.]

“FBI Terror Stings: Entrapment or Prevention?”

CBS News November 30, 2010

http://www.cbsnews.com/2100-201_162-7103284.html

In August 2011, *Mother Jones* magazine studied 158 so-called Terrorism defendants and found at least 49 incidents where the FBI led the plots using employees. “With three exceptions, all of the high-profile domestic terror plots of the last decade were actually FBI stings. The exceptions are Najibullah Zazi, who came close to bombing the New York City subway system in September 2009 <<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/April/10-ag-473.html>> ; Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, an Egyptian who opened fire on the El-Al ticket counter at the Los Angeles airport <<http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=91485>>; and failed Times Square bomber Faisal Shahzad <<http://motherjones.com/fbi-terrorist/faisal-shahzad-times-square-car-bomb>>.”

“The Informants” *Mother Jones* September/October 2011

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2011/08/fbi-terrorist-informants>

If you think there are better ways to make our country safe, such as creating a more just and equal society for all people, contact your elected officials and tell them “No more FBI stings!”

For more information contact Portland Copwatch at 503-236-3065, or check our website at <http://www.portlandcopwatch.org>.

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