

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - December 1, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Nima Yusuf pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to conspiring to provide material support to al-Shabaab, a foreign terrorist organization, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2339B. Yusuf entered her plea before Magistrate Judge Ruben B. Brooks; the plea is subject to final acceptance by United States District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz at or before sentencing.

As part of her plea, Yusuf admitted that she entered into an agreement with Mohamed Abdullahi Hassan, Abdisalan Hussein Ali, Cabdulaahi Ahmed Faarax, and Abdiweili Yassin Isse to provide material support to al-Shabaab in the form of money and personnel to work under the direction and control of al-Shabaab. Yusuf admitted that she entered this agreement despite knowing that the United States had designated al-Shabaab as a foreign terrorist organization and that it was illegal to provide money or other material support to al-Shabaab.

Hassan, Ali, Faarax and Isse are charged separately in a federal grand jury indictment in Minnesota for conspiring to provide material support to al-Shabaab, among other offenses. The Minnesota indictment

also charges Faarax with solicitation to commit a crime of violence, based on his alleged recruitment of three other men to travel to Somalia to fight for al-Shabaab, one of whom is believed to have carried out a suicide bombing on al-Shabaab's behalf in or about October 2008.

As part of her guilty plea, Yusuf admitted that she knew Hassan, Ali, Faarax and Isse had left the United States to join, and fight for, al-Shabaab in Somalia. She admitted that, between approximately February 2010 and November 2010, she sent approximately \$1450 to these men, who were then fighting in Somalia for al-Shabaab. She also admitted that, when she was twice interviewed by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security concerning her activities, she falsely denied sending any money to Somalia.

Al-Shabaab is a terrorist organization based in Somalia, with objectives including the overthrow of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the elimination of African Union support for the TFG, and the imposition of Shari'a law in Somalia. Al-Shabaab has engaged in, and used, violence, intimidation and acts of terrorism, including suicide bombings, in Somalia and elsewhere to further its objectives.

Yusuf is next scheduled to appear in court for sentencing on February 10, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., before United States District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz. She remains held without bail pending sentencing.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 10-CR-4551-BTM

Nima Yusuf

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2339B(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Provide Material Support to Foreign Terrorist Organization; Maximum penalties: 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

San Diego Joint Terrorism Task Force
Federal Bureau of Investigation