



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

News Release

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Man indicted for supporting terrorists to remain in custody

MINNEAPOLIS—Earlier today in federal court, Mahamud Said Omar, age 45, was ordered to remain in custody pending the outcome of the federal case against him. The order was issued by United States District Court Chief Judge Michael J. Davis. On August 20, 2009, Omar was charged in a five-count indictment with conspiring to provide material support to terrorists and foreign terrorist organizations, providing material support to terrorists and foreign terrorist organizations, and conspiring to kill, kidnap, maim, and injure persons abroad. Omar, also known as Mohamud Said Omar and Sharif Omar, was recently extradited from the Netherlands, where he had been in custody since November of 2009.

The indictment and other court documents state that from September of 2007 through August of 2009, Omar, who is a Somali citizen with permanent U.S. resident status, conspired with others to provide financial assistance as well as personnel to terrorists and foreign terrorist organizations. According to court documents, Omar facilitated the travel of the young men from Minnesota to Somalia to train with and fight for al-Shabaab, which is designated by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist organization. Omar also allegedly visited an al-Shabaab safe-house and provided hundreds of dollars to fund the purchase of AK-47 rifles for the men who traveled there from Minneapolis to fight with al-Shabaab.

This case arose out of the "Operation Rhino," a federal investigation that focused on young, ethnic Somali men from the Twin Cities' area who were recruited to fight with al-Shabaab against Somalia's internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government and

African Union peacekeeping troops in Somalia. The case is the result of an investigation by the FBI's Minneapolis Joint Terrorism Task Force, with the assistance of the Dutch National Police Service, the Dutch Ministry of Justice, the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Defense. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Docherty and Trial Attorney William M. Narus of the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division.

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