

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Criminal No.  
v. : 18 U.S.C. §§ 1203 & 2  
AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH, : I N D I C T M E N T  
a/k/a "Chaudrey Bashir"  
a/k/a "Bashir"

The Grand Jury in and for the District of New Jersey,  
sitting at Trenton, charges:

Count 1  
(Conspiracy to commit hostage  
taking resulting in the death  
of Daniel Pearl)

1. At all times relevant to the allegations contained  
in this Indictment:

a. The Wall Street Journal was a prominent  
newspaper published by Dow Jones & Company, Inc., which had its  
headquarters in South Brunswick, New Jersey. Copies of the  
newspaper's different editions were distributed worldwide.

b. The Wall Street Journal reported on  
international, national, and area news on a regular basis. In  
order to gather information, the Wall Street Journal assigned  
reporters to locations throughout the world.

c. Internet e-mail messages to addresses at the  
Wall Street Journal were routed through the company's computer  
server in South Brunswick, New Jersey.

d. Daniel Pearl, a United States national, was an accomplished journalist for the Wall Street Journal where he began working in 1990. Starting in 2000, he served as the newspaper's South Asia Bureau Chief and was based in Bombay, India. He traveled throughout South Asia to report on matters in that area. As part of his responsibilities, Daniel Pearl traveled to Pakistan in or about December 2001.

e. Defendant AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH was affiliated with radical, militant organizations. He trained in military camps in Afghanistan and, in or about September and October 2001, fought in Afghanistan with Taliban and Al Qaeda forces.

f. Mullah Zaeef was the former Ambassador to Pakistan of the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

2. From in or about January 2002 to on or about February 21, 2002, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, including Karachi, Pakistan, defendant

AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH,  
a/k/a "Chaudrey Bashir"  
a/k/a "Bashir"

did knowingly and willfully conspire with others to seize, detain, and threaten to kill, injure and continue to detain Daniel Pearl, a United States national, in order to compel the United States government to do and abstain from doing certain acts, described below in paragraphs 8 and 10, as an explicit and implicit condition for Daniel Pearl's release.

3. The death of Daniel Pearl resulted from this

conspiracy.

4. The object of the conspiracy was to take hostage a journalist from a U.S. newspaper in order to affect certain U.S. government policies, including policies undertaken in response to terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

5. It was part of the conspiracy that defendant AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH, posing as Bashir, and others lured Daniel Pearl to a meeting in Karachi, Pakistan under the false pretense that he was to meet with a prominent Muslim cleric. Daniel Pearl wanted to interview this individual in connection with a news story he planned to write. In setting up this meeting, defendant AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH, posing as Chaudrey Bashir or Bashir, caused Internet e-mail messages to be sent to Daniel Pearl at his Wall Street Journal e-mail address. These e-mails were routed through South Brunswick, New Jersey.

6. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators abducted Daniel Pearl in Karachi, Pakistan while he was trying to meet with the prominent Muslim cleric.

7. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators held Daniel Pearl captive, in seclusion, by the use of force, violence and threats of violence.

8. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators communicated demands by e-mail sent from Pakistan to various media outlets:

a. On or about January 26, 2002, conspirators

sent an e-mail message from "[kidnapperguy@hotmail.com](mailto:kidnapperguy@hotmail.com)". The message declared that "The National movement for the restoration of Pakistani sovereignty" had captured Daniel Pearl and was holding him in "very inhuman [sic] circumstances" similar to the way that "Pakistanis and nationals of other sovereign countries [were] being kept in Cuba by the American Army." According to the e-mail, "[i]f the Americans keep our countrymen in better conditions we will better the conditions of Mr. Pearl and all the other Americans that we capture." The e-mail demanded that if America wanted Daniel Pearl to be released, "all Pakistanis being illegally detained by the FBI in side [sic] America merely on suspicion must be given access to lawyers and allowed [to see] their family members." The e-mail demanded that "Pakistani prisoners in Cuba must be returned to Pakistan" and "tried in a Pakistani Court." The e-mail also demanded that "Afghanistan's Ambassador Mulla Zaeef" [sic] be sent back to Pakistan.

b. The above e-mail message had five attachments. The attached files included four photographs of Daniel Pearl in captivity; one photo depicted Daniel Pearl in shackles with a gun pointed at his head. A fifth file contained a message written in Urdu that restated the above demands. The message also demanded that the United States government provide F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan or return the money Pakistan had paid for the planes with interest.

c. On or about January 30, 2002, conspirators sent a second e-mail message from "Daniel News"

"[strangepeoples@hotmail.com](mailto:strangepeoples@hotmail.com)". The message criticized America's detention of Pakistanis in Cuba and in the United States, America's detention of Mullah Zaeef, the "ambassador to [Pakistan]," and America's refusal to deliver F-16 fighter planes after accepting payment from Pakistan. The message threatened to execute Daniel Pearl within 24 hours unless America fulfilled "our demands." The message also warned other American journalists to get out of Pakistan within three days, after which time they would be targeted.

d. The January 30, 2002 e-mail message had three attachments. The attached files included two photographs of Daniel Pearl in captivity; one photo depicted Daniel Pearl with a gun pointed at his head. A third file contained a message written in Urdu restating the conspirators' demands.

9. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators forced Daniel Pearl to make statements against American governmental policy, which were videotaped.

10. It was further part of the conspiracy that conspirators killed and decapitated Daniel Pearl, which they videotaped in part. The videotape also threatened Americans and repeated demands contained in the e-mails described in paragraph 8.

#### Overt Acts

11. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its object, the following overt acts were committed:

a. On or about January 16, 2002, defendant AHMAD OMAR

SAEED SHEIKH caused an e-mail message to be sent from "Chaudrey Bashir" to Daniel Pearl at his Wall Street Journal e-mail address.

b. On or about January 19, 2002, defendant AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH caused an e-mail message to be sent from "Bashir" to Daniel Pearl at his Wall Street Journal e-mail address.

c. On or about January 20, 2002, defendant AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH caused an e-mail message to be sent from "Bashir" to Daniel Pearl at his Wall Street Journal e-mail address.

d. On or about January 22, 2002, defendant AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH caused an e-mail message to be sent from "Bashir" to Daniel Pearl at his Wall Street Journal e-mail address.

e. On or about January 23, 2002, conspirators abducted Daniel Pearl at the direction of defendant AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH.

f. On or about January 26, 2002, conspirators sent various media outlets an e-mail message, with attachments, containing certain demands.

g. Before January 30, 2002, conspirators brutally killed Daniel Pearl.

h. On or about January 30, 2002, conspirators sent various media outlets a second e-mail message, with attachments, threatening to execute Daniel Pearl if their demands were not met, even though they had already killed him.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1203.

Count 2  
(Hostage taking resulting in  
the death of Daniel Pearl)

1. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 and 4 through 11 of Count 1 are realleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth fully herein.

2. From in or about January 2002 to on or about February 21, 2002, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, including Karachi, Pakistan, defendant

AHMAD OMAR SAEED SHEIKH,  
a/k/a "Chaudrey Bashir"  
a/k/a "Bashir"

and others did knowingly and willfully seize, detain, and threaten to kill, injure and continue to detain Daniel Pearl, a United States national, in order to compel the United States government to do and abstain from doing certain acts, described in paragraphs 8 and 10 of Count 1, as an explicit and implicit condition for Daniel Pearl's release.

3. The death of Daniel Pearl resulted from this hostage taking.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections  
1203 and 2.

A TRUE BILL

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FOREPERSON

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CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE  
United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey

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ROSCOE C. HOWARD, JR.  
United States Attorney  
District of Columbia