



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 1, 2009

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**ASSOCIATE OF INTERNATIONAL ARMS DEALER MONZER AL KASSAR  
SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON FOR TERRORISM OFFENSES**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that TAREQ MOUSA AL GHAZI, an associate of international arms dealer MONZER AL KASSAR, was sentenced today to 25 years in prison. On March 17, 2009, AL GHAZI was found guilty following a two-week jury trial before United States District Judge JED S. RAKOFF of conspiracy to murder U.S. officers and employees, conspiracy to acquire and export anti-aircraft missiles and conspiracy to provide material support and resources to the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (the "FARC"), a designated foreign terrorist organization. The sentence was imposed by Judge RAKOFF in Manhattan federal court. According to the superseding Indictment filed in this case and the evidence at trial:

Between February 2006 and June 2007, AL GHAZI and AL KASSAR agreed to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons to the FARC, including thousands of machine guns, millions of rounds of ammunition, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and surface-to-air missile systems. During a series of recorded telephone calls, e-mails, and in-person meetings, AL GHAZI and AL KASSAR agreed to sell the weapons to two individuals who were in fact confidential sources working with the Drug Enforcement Administration. The confidential sources represented that they were acquiring these weapons for the FARC to use in attacks directed at U.S. helicopters in Colombia.

AL GHAZI co-defendants MONZER AL KASSAR and LUIS FELIPE MORENO GODOY were previously sentenced by Judge RAKOFF to 30 and 25 years in prison, respectively, after being found guilty at trial of related charges. In addition to the prison term, Judge RAKOFF sentenced AL GHAZI to five years of supervised release.

Mr. DASSIN praised the cooperation and investigative efforts of the DEA, the Spanish National Police, and the Romanian

Border Police in developing this case. Mr. DASSIN also thanked the United States Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs and the United States Department of State. He further expressed appreciation to the United States Embassies in Spain and Romania.

Assistant United States Attorneys BOYD M. JOHNSON III and BRENDAN R. McGUIRE are in charge of the prosecution.

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