UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
HONORABLE TERRY J. HATTER, JUDGE PRESIDING
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )

Vs.
Plaintiff, $)$ )
 No. CR 06-221 (B) TJH

WILLIAM SHAOUL BENJAMIN,

Defendant.


REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL PROCEEDINGS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008

LEANDRA AMBER, CSR 12070, RPR OFFICIAL U.S. DISTRICT COURT REPORTER

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> I N D E X

DEFENSE'S WITNESS
WILLIAM SHAOUL BENJAMIN
CROSS-EXAMINATION (CONTINUED) BY MS. HUDSON REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BLATT

ROLAND EDWARDS LYONS
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. HEINZ
MR. SARGON
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. HUDSON81
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BLATT ..... 85
REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. HUDSON ..... 94
RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BLATT ..... 94

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008
9:37 A.M.
-○0○-
(Outside the presence of the jury.)
THE CLERK: Please remain seated and come to order.
This Court is once again in session.
THE COURT: Good morning.
We're outside the presence of the jury.
Are there any matters that any counsel wish to
raise?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
MS. HUDSON: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: Let's bring the members of the jury in
then.
THE CLERK: Please rise.
(Whereupon, at 9:39 a.m. the jury entered the
courtroom.)
THE COURT: Please be seated.
And good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
Ladies and gentlemen, has anything about this matter come to your attention in any way since you were last here yesterday? If so please raise your hand.

I see no hands being raised.
Well, we're going to complete the evidence in this case today, ladies and gentlemen. And in that regard we'll
continue with the cross-examination.
Mr. Benjamin, would you, again, repeat your name for the record and spell your last name, sir.

THE DEFENDANT: William Shaoul Gorial Benjamin, capital $B-e-n-j-a-m-i-n . ~ B e n j a m i n, ~ l a s t ~ n a m e . ~$

THE COURT: Mr. Benjamin, you are still under oath in this matter.

THE INTERPRETER: Your Honor, the interpreter would like to make clarification for the record, if you permit me to.

THE COURT: What is the clarification about?
THE INTERPRETER: About a term was used yesterday by the interpreter.

THE COURT: Oh, yes. You may.
THE INTERPRETER: It has been brought to the attention of the interpreter that term lady has a derogatory connotation in American English, which the interpreter did not realize. The Arabic term used by the witness when addressing the U.S. Assistant Attorney means and can be interpreted as Mrs., My Lady, or ma'am. There is no derogatory or negative implication in the Arabic world.

THE COURT: Thank you for that.
THE INTERPRETER: Thank you, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Let's continue.
MS. HUDSON: Thank you, your Honor.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Mr. Benjamin, you testified yesterday that when you came to America in 1992, some family members stayed behind in Iraq; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Who stayed behind?
A. My daughter with her family.
Q. That's your daughter Nahrain?
A. Yes.
Q. And her husband?
A. Yes.
Q. Did they have children?
A. Yes.
Q. How many children?
A. Two.
Q. What were the children's names, if you know?
A. Pibi, and the boy is Lenny.

THE INTERPRETER: Lenny. The boy is Lenny.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. It was a boy and a girl?
A. Yes.
Q. And the girl's name was Stevie?
A. No. Pibi.
Q. Pibi?
A. Yes.

THE COURT: How would you spell that?
THE WITNESS: P-i-b-i.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Was that a nickname?
A. (In English) No.

THE WITNESS: No.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. That was the full name?
A. Yes.
Q. And what is your daughter's husband's name?
A. Robin Ishoo.
Q. Is he known by any other names?
A. In Iraqi culture the father is always called by the name of the first child.
Q. Which would be what in this case?
A. Abu Pibi.
Q. Have you ever heard of anyone named Abu Miriam?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is that?
A. Abu Ahmad himself. And he's, at times, called Abu Riyam.
Q. Abu Riyam?
A. Yes.
Q. With an "M"?
A. "M."
Q. All right. Mr. Benjamin, do you recall that on or about May 4th, 2007, you came to a conference room in this building for an interview?
A. Yes.
Q. That was up on the 17 th floor of this building; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. Your attorney, Mr. Blatt, was there; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And your daughter, who is present in court here today, was there also; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. FBI Special Agent James Rubin and Scott Hill were there as well; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. And Assistant U.S. Attorney Ms. Heinz and $I$ were also there; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And the translator who was translating earlier in court for the witness, Mr. Sargon, was there; is that right?

And I'm referring to Gabriel Cartouche.
A. I believe so.
Q. And your attorneys were satisfied with that interpreter;
is that correct?

MR. BLATT: Objection. Speculation.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. As far as you know?

MR. BLATT: Objection. Speculation.
THE COURT: He can answer to his knowledge.
Overruled.
THE WITNESS: I do not know.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. And at that time you admitted that you knew some of the people whose names appeared in your file; is that correct?
A. Like what? Like whom?
Q. 'Abd Salam?
A. Yes.
Q. And you said that he was also known as Abu Ahmad; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. And you also said that you knew an individual named Jamal Hamadi; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And he is also known as Abu Khalid according to you; is that correct?
A. Yes. He's also known at times as Abu Miriam.
Q. So Abu Holland is also known as Abu Miriam? Miriam?
A. Miriam as Mary -- Mary -- the Virgin Mary.
Q. And that's the same alias that Abu Ahmad also uses at
times?
A. Which name?
Q. Abu Miriam.
A. Yes. At times because he has five girls, five daughters.
Q. They both have daughters named Miriam?
A. Yes.
Q. All right. I'd like to show you Page 68 from Exhibit 1.

Do you have Exhibit 1 in front of you?
A. Yes.
Q. Would you take a look at Page 68.
A. Yes.
Q. Do you have that document in front of you?
A. Where are the page numbers written?
Q. They are written either at the top or the bottom of the page in pencil with a circle around them.
A. Yes.
Q. This individual 'Abd Salam is someone you knew; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And you also knew him as Abu Ahmad?
A. Yes.
Q. And this individual Jamal Hamadi was someone else you also knew; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And you also knew him as Abu Khalid --
A. Yes.
Q. -- or Khalid?
A. Yes. Several names, yes.
Q. All right. And it's your testimony that Abu Miriam is a name that was used by both Abd-al-Salam and Abu Hamadi?
A. We used to address them sometimes or address them by Abu Miriam.
Q. Both of them?
A. Yes. But I wouldn't meet with them at the same time. When I would meet with one of them I would call them Abu Miriam, Abu Ahmad.
Q. You didn't say that at your proffer -- what I'm
referring to as your proffer interview on May 4, 2007, did you? You didn't say that you refer to these individuals as Abu Miriam?
A. Because no one asked me that question.
Q. What your testimony was was that Abd-al-Salam was also known as Abu Ahmad; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And that Jamal Hamadi was also known as Abu Khalid?
A. Yes.
Q. And that's correct; isn't it?
A. Yes.
Q. Could you please turn to Exhibit 6.
A. Six?
Q. And I direct your attention on Exhibit 6 --
A. Is it six you are talking about?
Q. Six.
A. Yes.
Q. -- to the page that is marked in the lower left-hand corner in pencil 1667.
A. Yes.
Q. Now, you've previously testified that you wrote this lawyer; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And this letter contains information about the activities of an Assyrian group -- opposition group in the United States; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. That Assyrian opposition group is called the Bet-Nahrain Party; is that correct?
A. What do you mean by opposition?
Q. They were opposed to Saddam Hussein; is that correct?
A. Also, besides that, also Bet-Nahrain was opposite -opposite to my party; it was.
Q. Isn't it true that they were opposed to Saddam Hussein?
A. The American branch of this party was, yes. And

American was against Saddam Hussein as opposed to Saddam
Hussein. Back in Iraq they could not say that publicly, but
we knew they were opposed to Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi branch of the party.
Q. You couldn't say that publicly in Iraq that you were opposed to Saddam Hussein?
A. It's impossible.
Q. You wrote in this letter that one of the goals of the Bet-Nahrain Party that they decided to adopt was to work diligently to topple the Baath government in Iraq, headed by Saddam Hussein; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And you sent this document to Iraq; is that correct?
A. (In English) To my cousin, yes.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Is it your testimony that Abu Khalid is your cousin?
A. This was not the one that you are referring to.
Q. That's not the Abu Khalid that is Jamal Hamadi?
A. This is Khalid Gargis Shamon.
Q. And you also mention in the letter your respected cousin Hisham and your brother Abu Ahmad. That is Abu Ahmad, who is Abd-al-Salam; isn't that correct?
A. The term of the -- the term Abu Ahmad was used by a lot
of Iraqis. At that time Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr was the president of Iraq, and people were calling their son after him because they wanted to feel proud.
Q. My question is isn't the Abu Ahmad that you referred to
in this letter Abd-al-Salam?
A. No.
Q. Is this Abu Ahmad another of your relatives, according to you?
A. It's not a relative, but it's a neighbor of my cousin's workplace.
Q. And is Hisham one of your relatives?
A. Hisham is a name that's used both by Kaldanians and by others and is -- is my maternal cousin, and his mother is Kaldanian.
Q. What about Khalid? Isn't that a Muslim name?
A. Yes. But the Christians also use it.
Q. You testified previously that you copied the information in this letter out of a magazine; is that correct?
A. Yes. Both in the broadcast radio and the magazines -from magazines.
Q. And your testimony was that you wanted to provide information about the activities of an Assyrian opposition group in the United States to your relatives in Iraq; is that correct?
A. I don't consider Bet-Nahrain a party opposed to me. It's Assyrian. It's part of me and my community.
Q. They were opposed to Saddam Hussein; is that correct?
A. We were all opposed to him, but we were afraid to speak out.
Q. But you weren't afraid to send this letter about their activities to Iraq, were you?
A. I sent it -- I sent it to my attorney. He's well known among the Assyrian community in Iraq, and I had complete trust in him. And he was --
Q. But first you said that --
A. -- supposed to hand it over to the recipient.
Q. But didn't you testify yesterday you first sent this letter directly to Abu Khalid?
A. But let me clarify something for you, ma'am.

I'm very frank. I'm not trying to hide anything. If there's a mistake I apologize for that mistake. For somebody to be in my position here at this stand, it's not easy to remember everything or recall everything.
Q. So does that mean you're changing your testimony now?
A. No.
Q. So you stand by your testimony that you first sent this eight-page letter about the activities of a group opposed to Saddam Hussein in America -- you first sent it to Abu Khalid in Iraq?
A. That is correct.
Q. And it's your testimony --
A. That's correct, but --

THE COURT: Just a minute.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. -- that it's apparently -MR. BLATT: Excuse me. THE COURT: Just a moment.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Is it a coincidence --

THE COURT: Did you complete your answer?
THE WITNESS: No, I have not yet.
MS. HUDSON: Oh, I'm sorry.
THE WITNESS: The first letter which I sent -- the first letter I sent directly to my cousin. He lives in the Al-Wahda Street -- Al-Wahda area, Number 904 -- that is his shop address or workplace -- workplace address is Al-Wahda, 904 6th street, and the area 904 -- 906 . Sorry.

He did not receive the first communication. I sent him another letter through the attorney, which he did not receive -- it was not received there. I have a video of this. If you wanted the video, I would have sent him a video copy.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Is it your testimony that fact that the names Abu Khalid and Abu Ahmad appear in this letter is simply a coincidence and that they do not refer to the Abu Ahmad and Abu Khalid, who we saw in all the documents in your file?

THE COURT: Well, just a minute. That's compound.

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MS. HUDSON: I'll withdraw that.
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THE COURT: Uh-huh.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Getting back to your copying the contents of this letter out of a magazine, could you look at Page 4, please.
A. Yes.
Q. Now, there's a reference at the top of that page to Johnson Karam.

You know that individual, don't you?
A. I know what it is, but $I$ can't find it here. I know it's there, but I can't find it. What's your question? I can't see it, but what's your question.
Q. By translation it should be at the top of Page 4?
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. Do you see the part that I'm referring to?
A. In that -- yes. In the translation, yes. But in the Arabic I can't find it. I can't find it now.
Q. Well, do you agree that it does appear in that letter?
A. Yes, it is. It is. It appears. It is there, but I can't find it now. I can't spot it. It's on Page 5 in the Arabic text.
Q. Have you found it now?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, what you wrote about Johnson Karam, you didn't copy that out of a magazine, did you?
A. Of course when we send the letter, we have to -- we have to put our point of view, our feelings. It's not precise information that you wrote it word to word, exactly like a conversation between two people. That's the letter, exactly like that. Same format.
Q. So this part was not copied out of a magazine; is that correct?
A. (In English) No. That's my opinion.

THE WITNESS: That's my opinion.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Did you, in fact, ask Johnson Karam to attend the Bet-Nahrain conference?
A. I urged and urged all Assyrians to join Bet-Nahrain and not to leave it.
Q. Didn't you just say that Bet-Nahrain was opposed to your party?
A. Yes. It's, I would say the opposition or the -- they oppose us in ideas but not in the gains, not in the goals or the aims, as far as politics is concerned. In politics there is no permanent friendship, but there is always permanent interests.
Q. Did you ask Johnson Karam to attend the conference so that you would have the eye and the ear regarding what was going on?
A. (In English) Yes. Yes.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Did you also encourage your brother-in-law Michel Yunan to attend the meetings and report --

I'm sorry?
A. Yes. Yes.

THE WITNESS: Both these persons, at that particular time they had left Bet-Nahrain's party. They had been kicked out actually. So I urged them to go back, and I told them, "This is your party. Go and rejoin it." BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Now you're familiar with the leader of the Bet-Nahrain Party, Sargon Dadisho?
A. Yes, I know him.
Q. Do you support -- did you support him at the time you wrote this document?
A. At that time, no. But later on I found that he was very active, very honest, very political, and he was working for the interest of the Assyrians through his party.
Q. You wrote in this letter that Sargon Dadisho took advantage and controlled properties of the Bet-Nahrain Party since 1981; is that correct?
A. Yes. I said that at that time. At that time -- at that time when this letter was written, that was how my opinion was of this person -- as it's written there at that time.
Q. And you didn't copy that out of a magazine, did you?
A. This is not a political letter or an intelligence type of letter. This is a letter where a cousin is communicating with another cousin, a brother is communicating with another brother. Write your opinion, get his opinion, general. And we're -- we're in a country a democratic country, a free country where you can express your opinion, say whatever you want to say. That's why we came over here, to be able to say what we wanted to say.
Q. But you sent this letter to Iraq, didn't you?
A. Yes. To my paternal cousin, Khalid Gargis Shamon. Sorry.

MS. HUDSON: Your Honor, there is no question pending.

THE COURT: Yes. There is no question pending. Let's have another question, please.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. You also wrote that Sargon Dadisho was -- took control
of all the media outlets of magazines and party bulletins through Jewish organizations and Jewish lawyers.

Did you write that?
A. Yes, I write.
Q. Did you copy that out of a magazine?
A. Yes. Yes, I did. This is my personal opinion, and everybody was talking about it.
Q. So the answer is no. You did not copy that out of a magazine?
A. It was written or it appeared in the publication of Bet-Nahrain magazine, exact text, word to word.
Q. Bet-Nahrain wrote in its own magazine that they were controlling the media through Jewish lawyers and Jewish organizations?
A. (In English) Yes.

THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Do you still have that magazine?
A. We can also contact Sargon Dadisho and send it to John.

He knows -- he knows about this issue, and he -- it was published for public knowledge in the magazine, and they write it in the magazine.

MS. HUDSON: Your Honor, I would object to that answer as nonresponsive and move to strike.

THE COURT: It will be stricken.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Do you still have the magazine?
A. No. I do not keep any papers. I don't have it.
Q. During your proffer interview you admitted that the documents that have your signature in the file were signed by you; is that correct?
A. Every document that has my signature on it is my name --
my signature.
Q. But during your proffer interview in May of 2007, you said that those pieces of paper that you signed were blank when you signed them; isn't that correct?
A. Some of them, yes.
Q. You said in your proffer that you signed blank pieces of paper and someone else wrote in the rest of the text on the document later; is that right?
A. Some of them, yes.
Q. But in your proffer, you didn't say some of them, did you?
A. Because I didn't understand what exactly you are meaning by your questions at that time.
Q. That interview lasted more than two hours, didn't it?
A. I really don't know. You probably know better than I do.
Q. Maybe even three hours?
A. I do not know.
Q. The -- that proffer interview was your opportunity to tell the Government your side of the story; is that correct?
A. I was sure that whatever I said in that meeting was correct because I'm very correct. I don't hide anything. I'm forward. And there are no secrets that I should keep from anybody.

The question, for example, what's your name?

That's my name. William.
Q. During the interview, you told us that you saw your attorney's name in the file; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And during the proffer interview, you said your attorney's name was Youssif Yaquob Al-Barwari, didn't you? A. (In English) Al-Barwari is a family name because he came from that village, Al-Barwari.

THE WITNESS: Family name, Al-Barwari.
A. (In English) But his full name is Youssif Al-Barwari Yakarub al-Diru.

THE WITNESS: This is what refers to his clan or his tribe or where anybody comes from. That's Al-Barwari. His father was an officer in the British army at the time. A. (In English) In Habbaniya. BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. You never told us that his name was al-Diru, did you?
A. It's like when you ask me what's my name, I say,
"William Shaoul." And you say, "Why didn't you write William Shaoul Benjamin?" Things like that.
Q. During the proffer interview, you never told us that it was your attorney who is introduced you to Abd-al-Salam, did you?
A. No one asked me about that.
Q. Isn't it true that you didn't decide to make that
attorney the focus of your story until after your proffered interview?
A. I don't understand the question.
Q. You've testified a great deal here in court about your attorney, who you now call Youssif al-Diru. Isn't it true that all you said in your proffered interview about him was that you saw his name in the file?
A. At that time I didn't realize or expect it that this person would be a source of Iraqi intelligence. I had no idea.
Q. So that's altered your -- the way that you present your story; is that correct?
A. I was surprised actually and shocked when I leafed through the file and I saw his name in that connection. And I was very surprised. And we call him Abu Ghazwan at times also.
Q. You testified in court that you saw documents from your file on television before you were indicted in March of 2006; is that correct?
A. Which television?
Q. Assyrian television.
A. I saw it in Assyrian Justice TV. Not Assyrian TV.
Q. You never mentioned that in your proffer interview, did you?
A. I think my attorney has a videotape of all these
documentation that was shown on the TV.
Q. But you didn't mention that in your proffer interview, did you?
A. I wasn't sure -- absolutely sure of the names.
Q. Regarding your testimony about times when you left Iraq,
is it your testimony that every time you would leave Iraq during the period 1992 to 2001 you would drive from Baghdad to Trabiel?
A. No.
Q. Were there other ways that you would leave Iraq during that period?
A. Well, you would either take a taxi or go in a communal type of taxi.
Q. All right. But you would go by car?
A. Yes. A public transportation type of a vehicle that it would have an escort -- an armed escort with it.
Q. And the drive from Baghdad to Trabiel, that's about a five-hour Drive; is that correct?
A. More.
Q. More than five hours each way?
A. Yes. More than five hours.
Q. And it's your testimony -- is it your testimony that every time you left the country Abd-al-Salam would drive with you to Trabiel?
A. Whenever we had sums of money which we wanted to take
out of the country, yes. He would accompany me to the border. And he even accompanied my daughter. I wasn't there. I asked my attorney for assistance, and he said, "Okay I'm going to send Abd-al-Salam with her," because as you may know this is the Road of Death, as it's called. Q. What was Abd-al-Salam's job, as far as you knew? A. As far as -- as far as $I$ know, he was an official at the directorate of immigration and customs -- of residency and customs and passports.
Q. He's a customs agent?

THE INTERPRETER: Passports.
I'm sorry. Your question?
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. He was a clerk in the customs office?
A. No. No.
Q. In the passport office?
A. Yes. The passport office and the residency.
Q. In your testimony yesterday, you talked about your -a little about your employment when you were living in Iraq. Isn't it true that you worked for the Australian embassy in Iraq in 1978?
A. It was in 1978, yes.
Q. What were the dates that you worked for the Australian embassy in Iraq?
A. From 1978 until the end of 1979.
Q. Now, you talked about that in your proffer interview; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And you said that you had to be interviewed before you got that job; is that correct?
A. Every Iraqi national would like to work or wishes to work in a foreign embassy in Iraq as to be interviewed and get the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iraq.
Q. And you also said in your proffer interview that after the interview you saw things that made you believe that the person who interviewed you was with the Iraqi Intelligence Service; is that correct?
A. I didn't say those words. I just said I had a suspicion that he was because he visited me later at the club.
Q. Didn't you say that you suspect he was working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service because he gave you one name and you later learned that he used a different name on a different occasion?
A. This is a compound -- compounded question, but -- but -I didn't tell you that he worked in the intelligence office. I just told you that he sort of misled me by using different names.
Q. But you suspected he worked for the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
A. No. My suspicion is this is not a straightforward fellow because he misled me. In my job as a manager of the club, he should have been more respectable and been more honest and forward with me. But he gave me a name, then other people visited him and they -- other people came. They called him with a different name, and I was very surprised. He gave one name, and then he was called by another name. Q. Well, is it your testimony, as you said in your proffer session, that you suspected that this man who interviewed you was with the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
A. I did not say that, but I felt -- I was sure that this guy is from the security.
Q. What was your job at the Australian embassy in Iraq?
A. I was an administration official.
Q. What -- what did you do as an administration official?
A. It was an administrative job, but outside the proper administrative section of the embassy. My role was, for example, if there was repairs that needed to be done, I would give the workers to do repair. I would contract with them, bring them over, any repairs and things like that.

To clarify, I did not say that my job was outside the embassy. It was inside the embassy, within the embassy, and my duties were, you know, to take care of any repair works, bring the workers in, et cetera. And there it is called local employees.
Q. Now, isn't it true that you were in a position that if you had been working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service you could have been valuable to them?
A. This is probably your opinion or your feeling, but we were the lowest people in their perspective.
Q. You were inside the Australian embassy in Iraq; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. You were overseeing repairs to the building; is that right?
A. Yes. Administrative type of work.
Q. You were in a position where if you had wanted to plant a listening device you could have done that; is that correct?
A. No one has asked me to do this, and I would never do such a thing. Because I had the intention to emigrate to Australia, and I had even filled out a form for immigration to Australia.
Q. Now, you also worked for the Venezuelan embassy; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you have to interview for that job?
A. Well, the second time it would be a very simple type of interview because we had already been working in a foreign embassy; so you just go to the administrator of foreign affairs, submit your name, and you get the agreement to work
because you already have a file established with them. Q. Isn't it true that you already, at that time, had a file with the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
A. I don't know for myself personally. But I'm sure that everyone -- every Iraqi that worked in the foreign embassies would have a file -- not in the intelligence Iraqi intelligence, but with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Q. Isn't it true that the Iraqi Intelligence Service would not have allowed you to take that job unless you were working for them?

MR. BLATT: Objection. Speculation.
THE COURT: He may answer if he has knowledge.
THE WITNESS: Can you repeat the question, please.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. I'll ask a different question.

You testified yesterday that you were tortured and interrogated by officials or police in Iraq in 1979; is that correct?
A. I don't recall the exact date, but they had, you know, my car -- car was burned up. There was a bomb in my car, and I was inside it.
Q. And that was during the time -- that was after you had interviewed for and received the job working inside the Venezuelan embassy in Baghdad; is that correct?
A. I was an employee at the Australian embassy at that
time.
Q. At the Australian embassy?

THE COURT: Strike that.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. And your testimony was that the police supposedly
interrogated you about Assyrian opposition groups, groups opposed to Saddam Hussein; is that correct?
A. When -- when -- when $I$ was inside my car and the bomb exploded, instead of taking me to the hospital for treatment, they took me to the national security -- general security directorate, and I was interrogated and stayed there for two months and four days, and I was tortured every day on a daily basis to provide information about the party which I had established, the Assyrian party.
Q. And that happened at the same period of time that you were working for Saddam Hussein's government in a sensitive position in the Venezuelan embassy; is that correct?

MR. BLATT: Objection. Your Honor, misstated the witness.

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MS. HUDSON: I'll restate that.
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BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. That happened at the same time you were working for the government of Saddam Hussein in the embassy -- a foreign embassy in Baghdad?
A. At that time Saddam Hussein was not the head of the
state. It was Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr who was the head of the state.
Q. In 1979?
A. Yes, I believe so.
Q. You don't think Saddam Hussein was in power in 1979?
A. Frankly, I don't recall exactly.
Q. Now, you were supposedly interrogated by the general state security; is that right?
A. Yes. After the accident -- after the incident.
Q. And was that the same directorate general of security that wrote Exhibit 1 -- Defense Exhibit 1, which I will put on the overhead?
A. What's the question again, please?
Q. This refers to -- or this is a document of the directorate general of security; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And those are the people who interrogated you; is that right?
A. Which -- which -- it's not the person who signed this
document. He didn't -- he didn't.
Q. Well, were you interrogated by persons with the directorate general of security?
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. And that's the same directorate general of security who wrote this to your insurance company to help you file a
claim; is that right?
A. After they found out that $I$ was innocent of actually putting the bomb in my own car because at first they accused me that I had planted the bomb in my car. They -- they issued me with this letter to facilitate repair of my car because it was insured. But nothing was done physically to me to cure me. I -- I already have numbness here in this area.

THE COURT: In which area?
THE WITNESS: (In English) This area here.
THE COURT: Indicating the right side of your neck?
THE WITNESS: Yes.
THE COURT: Go ahead.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. So they thought you planted the bomb in your own car?
A. They said Kurds may have done it.
Q. Didn't you just testify that they thought you had planted the bomb in your own car?
A. Well, that's what they implied, but I think they were trying to get out of the fact that they were the ones who planted the bomb in my car. They wanted to get out of there. Q. You're aware, aren't you, that it has been widely believed in the Assyrian community that you did plant that bomb in your own car?
A. This is -- I think this is the belief of the government.
Q. And isn't it true that it's widely believed that you planted the bomb in your own car to make it appear that you were anti-Saddam Hussein, anti-Iraqi government?
A. This is not true. Is it logical for somebody to blow himself up just for the sake of Saddam Hussein, the criminal? Q. Your car blew up; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And it's your testimony that were you injured.
A. Yes.
Q. And the evidence you have of the car bombing doesn't mention anything about any injuries to you, does it? A. This is a country which the state authorities control all the citizens. And the thing they wanted to offer me -for example, they issued me this kind of letter. I thanked -- I thanked them for it. It's not for just to repair my car, but to make it well known to the honorable jury, to you, to the Court, to the Honorable Judge how the Christians -- the Assyrian Christians were being treated there. And to whom should I complain about the treatment? Q. Isn't it true that your story about the car bomb helped you to try and infiltrate Assyrian opposition groups? A. To tell you -- to be honest with you, within the Assyrian community the Assyrian people, nobody would be against another Assyrian on this level. Where -- we are a small community. If you give me the name of an Assyrian
person outside the United States, anywhere in the world, I probably would know him or his family or his mother's name or father's name because we're such a small, close community, and they would know us too. We were suffering injustice; so how would we cause injustice to our own self?
Q. I would like to direct your attention to your testimony yesterday about Tobia Giwargis.

Do you know that individual?
A. Yes.
Q. And you assisted him in visiting Iraq in 1998; is that correct?
A. I didn't urge him to go, but I tried -- I attempted to help him.
Q. You would take a look, please --
A. There's another person with the same name as me, William Giwargis. He's the one who helped him.
Q. Would you take a look, please, at Exhibit 2, Page 1754.
A. Yes.
Q. Do you have that page in front of you?
A. Yes.
Q. This is a document that you wrote; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And it's addressed to the comrade in charge; correct?
A. This is the phrase we use a lot. It's the same as "to whom it may concern" practically. That's what we use a lot
in -- there.
Q. Now, the Baath party is a socialist party; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And in the --
A. It was, it was.
Q. And in the Baath party, they use the term "comrade" a lot, do they not?
A. Yes.
Q. You testified yesterday that you sent this letter to your lawyer; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. And you sent that because you wanted the lawyer to find out whether there was a prohibition against Tobia Giwargis returning to Iraq; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, you wrote that in 1997; is that correct?
A. Yes. '97.
Q. And according to another document of that same exhibit, which I have on the overhead, Mr. Giwargis actually did go to Iraq in September of 1998; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Or at least flew to Oman?
A. (No audible response.)
Q. And is it your understanding that Mr. Giwargis did go to

Iraq on that occasion?
A. I wrote -- I wrote to my attorney to facilitate for him participation or to go to the Babel or Babelian festival. As far as the dates when he flew -- when he went there, I'm not sure about that. I don't know. Because Mr. William Giwargis, he was in charge of all these kind of trips here in the U.S.
Q. Was there a reason -- if you sent this letter to your attorney, was there a reason that you addressed it to the comrade in charge instead of your attorney's name?
A. There's a cover to this letter. The cover has a name to the attorney. He would be taking this letter to the Ministry of Information and Culture to invite expatriates to come and participate in the Babelian -- Babel festival. And the man responsible for organizing this festival was Manir Bashiel, who is a Kaldanian.
Q. Take a look at Page 1743.

You wrote that document; is that correct?
A. Can I see it in Arabic, please?
Q. Certainly.
A. Yes.
Q. That's your signature?
A. Yes. The signature is not complete, but it is my signature.
Q. If you want to look at the original or the most original
document we have, it's in Exhibit 2, Page 1743.
A. (In English) No. It's okay.
THE WITNESS: No. It's okay.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Now, you wrote this letter on October 10, 1999; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And in it you stated that Mr. Tobia Giwargis came to Baghdad with George Maragoluf; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. So he had already come to the Babel festival; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And you wrote this letter attaching a magazine in which Mr. Tobia Giwargis had written some articles; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. Who did you send that letter to?
A. The first page would be addressed to my attorney, Youssif al-Diru, and he would take this letter to the Ministry of Culture and Information and show them that Mr. Tobia Giwargis had come to Iraq. He's an Assyrian. He had a magazine in which he published articles on the festival which he hopes to attend. There's an addition. Mr. Tobia can -- he wasn't allowed to enter Iraq from -- since 1960 -(In English) The political situation, it was
against at that time the kingdom --
THE WITNESS: At that time we had -- it was a
kingdom in Iraq, and he was against the regime at that time. He left for Iran, and --

MS. HUDSON: Your Honor, I would ask to strike this answer. It appears to be nonresponsive.

THE COURT: It will be stricken.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Mr. Benjamin, you sent this magazine after Mr. Giwargis had already gone to Baghdad; is that correct?
A. When he came back from his trip he gave me a copy of the magazine and he told me to send it to Youssif al-Diru and to some other -- he gave me about five issues, and he told me to send them to friends.
Q. So you decided to send this to your attorney to forward to whom?
A. To show it -- to show it to the Ministry of Culture and Information. That's the Ministry that invited these people to come over.
Q. Isn't it true that you were sending this document to people who were interested in trying to use Mr. Giwargis to promote the image of Iraq?
A. The is a very honorable man. He is the age of my father. And we wanted good for him, his welfare. MS. HUDSON: Your Honor, I would ask that that
answer also be stricken as nonresponsive.
THE COURT: It will be stricken.
Try to answer the question, please.
THE WITNESS: Can you repeat the question. MS. HUDSON: I will ask another one.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Would you please take a look at Exhibit 2, page -- the document that starts on Page 1750.

You wrote that document, didn't you?
A. Yes.
Q. That document is addressed to the Honorable Dear Brother Abu Khalid; correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Which Abu Khalid were you sending this letter to?
A. A lot of Abu Khalids. The name "Khalid" is a name -the name of the son of Jamal Abu Abdul Nasser. Even Houssini Mubarak -- his name is Khalid. It's a common and very well known name in the Arab world.

MS. HUDSON: I would ask to strike that answer as nonresponsive.

THE COURT: It will be stricken.
Ask it again.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Mr. Benjamin, which Abu Khalid did you send this letter to?
A. I don't recall.
Q. Wasn't it --
A. Sorry?
Q. -- it the Abu Khalid who was working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
A. I don't think so. I don't believe so.
Q. You wrote in this letter eight years ago, "The media coverage about our country in America is almost nonexistent." You were talking about Iraq when you said "our country."
Is that right?
A. Can I see the Arabic text, please?
Q. Yes.
A. Yes. Okay.
Q. "Our country" there refers to Iraq; is that right?
A. It could either mean at times Iraq, per se, or the Assyrians.
Q. And you also wrote, "As for the media networks, that belonged to members of the Iraqi community from Arabs, Kurds, Turkish, and Assyrians -- they're all opposing our country."
"Our country" refers to Iraq, doesn't it, in that sentence?
A. These are letters between the friends. This Abu Khalid could be my cousin. I'm not sure.
Q. You also --
A. I'm writing general -- general time of things.
Q. You think you might have written this to your cousin?
A. Yes, could be.
Q. Well, you wrote, "During my last visit to Baghdad last year I consulted with you about Tobia Ibrahim's wish to visit his family and relatives in Iraq without objections on your part. I informed him and arranged with him to come to Baghdad."
A. Yeah.
Q. Was your cousin in a position to grant permission for Tobia Giwargis to come to Iraq?
A. He has a position, but not that high position. But this is a general -- general talk.
Q. Doesn't it appear unlikely that you wrote this letter to your cousin?
A. We talk about these things in general and more than this, more than what appears here.

MS. HUDSON: Ask that that answer be stricken as nonresponsive.

THE COURT: If you desire, certainly.
MR. BLATT: I think it should remain, your Honor.
It was responsive to the question.
MS. HUDSON: I'll leave it --
THE COURT: It will stand.
MS. HUDSON: -- but I will reask the question.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Doesn't it appear unlikely that you wrote this letter to your cousin?
A. My cousin is a member of the same party that I had set up; so we would communicate between ourselves.
Q. On Page 2, which is Page 1751 --
A. Yes.
Q. -- you wrote, "I, personally, support the idea of inviting them because as journalists they influence many people by informing them the truth about their mother country."
"Their mother country," you were referring to Iraq?
A. (In English) Yes.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Would you look please at Exhibit 5, and I would direct your attention to Page 1889.
A. Yes.
Q. You wrote that, didn't you?
A. Yes.
Q. And I believe it was your testimony --

This is another document addressed to "Comrade in charge."
Isn't that correct?
A. Yes. We always use that expression to any friend --
with any friend, especially if you don't know his name. Q. And I believe you testified yesterday that you wrote this document -- you were asked to write this document by some police who came to your club; is that right?
A. I didn't say a police. I said there were two officials who came.
Q. Two officials?
A. Yes.
Q. What -- who were those officials?
A. They just said we are officials. And we wanted -- we have some questions for you. Because all the Christian clubs pertain to the Government, and I was a manager of the club. Q. And you answered their questions about John Yukhanna; is that right?
A. In fact, I answered more than they asked me because he is an Assyrian and I wanted to help him.
Q. Did you tell these officials that John Yukhanna claims -- first of all, you told them that he was a -- strike that.

First of all, you told them that he was a United States citizen; is that correct?
A. No. They knew that he was. They already knew.
Q. Well, why did you write that in this letter?
A. They asked me to write down what they were dictating to me. I would like to give an idea to the jury and to members
of the -- and all persons here, we, as Christians in Iraq -MS. HUDSON: Your Honor, I would ask that -- that the witness be instructed to simply answer the question and not to make the speech he appears to be about to make.

THE COURT: Would you please try to answer the question that's put to you, Mr. Benjamin. THE WITNESS: Can you please repeat it. BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. I'll rephrase my question.

Is this document, as written, what was dictated to you by the officials who came to the club?
A. Yes.
Q. Is this document, as written -- does it contain
information that you gave to the officials who came to the club in response to their questions?
A. As a manager of the club, I would bring the register, which has all that information in it. They would read it, and they would tell me, please copy all that information on a piece of paper.
Q. Did the register at the club have the information that John Yukhanna had a secret group of approximately 160 persons in America working to break the morale of the Bet-Nahrain Party?
A. It was not written, but it doesn't appear in the register. But when he was at the club, and he would sit with
his friend and he would start drinking, he would talk about this. And with me also he would mention this subject.
Q. So this is information that you told the officials who came; is that right?
A. That -- that would be actually done in his favor because he -- he had been or he was being accused at that time of kidnapping a girl in Iraq, and he married her later on. Q. Mr. Benjamin --
A. I did that to help him.
Q. Excuse me. My question is it is this -- is that information that you told the officials who came to the club? A. Yes.
Q. And after you told it to them, they then dictated to you what you had to write on this piece of paper?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you have any objection to writing this information down?
A. Well, you can judge from the writing that $I$ was in a nervous state when $I$ was writing it. I wasn't happy. Q. You felt that this information was going to help Mr. Yukhanna; is that correct?
A. Hundred percent.
Q. But you didn't want to have to write it down; is that correct?
A. Well, I mean, when I wrote it, I was actually ordered.

And they ordered me in a very stern voice, in a very severe voice, "write it down."

So I was not being very happy or relaxed when I wrote it.
Q. Did you also tell the officials that John Yukhanna of America wants to join the party here or establish a contact in the U.S.?
A. The truth is what $I$ wrote in this letter was -- was -was in his favor to allow him to leave the country because he had a U.S. citizenship. As an Assyrian I had to help him in every way and means possible.
Q. So you wrote this letter to help John Yukhanna leave Iraq? Is that your testimony?
A. He was not allowed. He was prohibited from traveling. The same day when this officials came to me I had -- I had invited John Yukhanna and his wife to stay at my house for two days to protect them -- to give them protection.
(In English) You can ask.
THE WITNESS: You can ask.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Mr. Benjamin, did you write this document voluntarily?
A. No.
Q. You were forced to write it?
A. Yes.
Q. And you wrote it to help John Yukhanna?
A. Yes.
Q. So you didn't want to help him, but you were forced to; is that right?
A. I didn't know at that time what his problem was, what problem he was in.
Q. So you wanted to help him?
A. Of course. He's an Assyrian, from us.
Q. And you wanted to help him come to Iraq?
A. No. I only saw him in Iraq, and he -- he said, "I've come over here to get married," and we gave him a welcome party.
Q. Isn't it true that you wrote that document back in approximately 1980 or '81?
A. I believe that the date is on the document.
Q. Well, it's not on the --

THE COURT: Well, strike that.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. It does not appear on the translation.

THE COURT: Strike that. MS. HUDSON: Sorry.

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Do you see it on the Arabic version, which is --
A. Can -- can you show it -- publish it for us, please. Can you scroll it down.

Furthermore, yes. Further up. I think there's
another copy. There's another page.
Up, please scroll it. More.
There is no date. But -- but as soon as I wrote this document, they took it from me.
Q. Well, do you recall that this incident occurred while you were president of the Sinhari Club in Baghdad?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you recall that this occurred in approximately 1980 or '81?
A. Yes.
Q. Isn't it true that you were working for the Iraqi

Intelligence Service as early as 1980 or '81?
A. I have never or at all worked for them or with them. As far as I know, as far as the way I think, I have never worked for them.
Q. Take a look at this document. It's Page 1888. THE COURT: Of what exhibit? MS. HUDSON: Of Exhibit 5. THE WITNESS: Yes. What?

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. That's a document of the Iraqi Intelligence Service, isn't it?
A. Can we see the Arabic text? Yes.
Q. And that document begins, "After meeting our Assyrian agent, who works for the Assyrian club Sinhari, he provided us with the following information."

That Assyrian agent who works for the Sinhari Club, that's you; is that right?
A. I was a director of the board of the Sinhari Club.
Q. Isn't this the information you provided about John Yukhanna?
A. The -- this official had come to my place, and they asked me this information -- for this information, yes. These are the information I gave them. Not those, but the other ones. I'd like to know what is this.
Q. This is a document from John Yukhanna's file of the Iraqi Intelligence Service.
A. I don't know.
Q. I'd like to direct your attention to Exhibit 1, Page 13. THE COURT: Let's hold that. We'll take a midmorning recess at this time, about 15 minutes.

Everyone, please rise for the jury.
(Whereupon, at 11:06 a.m. the jury exited the courtroom.)

THE COURT: You may step down, Mr. Benjamin. Please be seated. We're outside the presence of the jury.

Any matters that any counsel wish to raise at this
time?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
MS. HUDSON: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: Well, let me ask you, Ms. Hudson, how much more do you have of this witness?

MS. HUDSON: I really am almost finished, your
Honor.
THE COURT: We'll take 15 minutes.
THE CLERK: This Court is in recess.
(Whereupon, from 11:07 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. a break was taken.)

THE CLERK: Please remain seated and come to order.
This Court is again in session.
THE COURT: Again, we're outside the presence of the jury.

And any matters that any counsel wish to raise?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
MS. HUDSON: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. We'll bring the jury back.
THE CLERK: Please rise.
(Whereupon, at 11:30 a.m. the jury entered the courtroom.)

THE COURT: Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen.
Mr. Benjamin, once more, would you repeat your name for the record and spell your last name.

THE DEFENDANT: William Shaoul Gorial Benjamin. $B-e-n-j-a-m-i-n, \quad B e n j a m i n$.

THE COURT: And you understand that you are still under oath?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
THE COURT: Go ahead, please, Ms. Hudson.
MS. HUDSON: Thank you, your Honor.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Mr. Benjamin, I would like to direct your attention to Exhibit 1, Page 13.

Do you have that document in front of you?
A. Yes.
Q. You've previously testified that you wrote that document; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And that document pertains to your desire to correct the information on your Iraqi citizenship certificate; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. That document is addressed to Mr. Abu Ahmad; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. And that was the same Abu Ahmad that we saw on the previous documents in your file as the person that you indicated you believed was a customs officer?
A. Yes.
Q. And you wrote here in this document, "Allah is my witness. I have worked very devotedly for the party and the division."

What party had you worked very devotedly for?
A. Can I see the Arabic text, please.

Can you please arrange this.
A little lower. A little more down. A little
further down please. It's not here. You go up a little please.
Q. Up?
A. Can you raise it, yes. A little further up. Yes.
Q. Would you like me to restate the question?
A. Yes.
Q. You wrote, "Allah is my witness. I have worked very devotedly for the party and the division."

Weren't you referring to the Baath party when you wrote that?
A. At that time the Baath party was in power.
Q. So you were referring to the Baath party; is that correct?
A. Yes. Decorate the letter.
Q. That's a yes?
A. Yes.
Q. You wrote, "I have worked very devotedly," meaning the

Baath party?
A. Yes.
Q. The party of Saddam Hussein?
A. No. It's the Baath party.
Q. That was the party of Saddam Hussein?
A. He's not the founder of the party. Michel Alfaq is the founder of the party.
Q. But that was his party?
A. He was a member of the party, yes.
Q. That was his government, isn't that right it?

THE INTERPRETER: Excuse me?
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. And you wrote that you worked very devotedly for the division.

What division had you worked very devotedly for?
A. I was an employee for the transportation division, the public transportation division.
Q. In what year?
A. From 1960 to approximately 1930.
Q. You're mentioning that for the first time here today, aren't you?
A. No one has asked me about it.
Q. So it's your testimony that you weren't talking about the division of the Iraqi Intelligence Service that you had worked so devotedly for; is that right?
A. No. It's -- no.
Q. You were talking about your work 30 years earlier in public transportation; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. You testified yesterday that you had given your lawyer some documents related to this case, and those are the defense exhibits; is that correct?
A. I don't understand the question.
Q. You're familiar with the defense exhibits in this case?
A. Some of them, yes.
Q. Some of them?
A. I don't recall all of them.
Q. Didn't you give them to your lawyer?
A. This is the attorney's file.
Q. Did you give these -- the defense exhibits to your lawyer?
A. I didn't have this in my possession, this file. This is the attorney's file. It is in his possession.
Q. I'm going to show you the first page of Exhibit 3.
A. Yes. I'm sorry.
Q. Isn't that a document you gave your lawyer?
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. And the next page of Exhibit 3, isn't that a document that you gave your lawyer?
A. Yes.
Q. Is it your testimony that some of the documents in the defense exhibits are documents that you did not give your lawyer?
A. Whatever is here in this file is the one I gave to my attorney.
Q. And looking at the last page of Exhibit 3, is this a document that you gave your attorney?
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. That's an article from an Iraqi newspaper; is that right?
A. Yes. It's a sport newspaper.
Q. An Iraqi sport newspaper? Is that an Iraqi newspaper in Iraq?
A. What's the name of this newspaper?
Q. I would ask you the same question.

Do you know what newspaper this is from?
A. Is there any other text? I mean, can you show us more of this, please.
Q. I just have the one page. If you have the defense exhibit book, you can take a look. It's the last page of Exhibit 3.

Do you see any indication of what newspaper that was from?
A. It's more probable a regular newspaper, the daily.

I believe it's called Al-Ta'akhi newspaper, and this is the
sports section of it where they wrote articles about sports. Q. Is that a newspaper that's published in Iraq?
A. Yes.
Q. And do you see a date here that appears to be 1996?

It's not a date of the article, but it's a date on a page.
A. Yes.

Is this the one you mean on the lecture -- yes, 1996.
Q. Is this an interview -- is this an article -- a report of an interview with you in approximately $1996 ?$
A. Yeah. I mean these interviews would be held. But when they are published, it depends on when they have a space for it, when they think it is appropriate to publish it.
Q. Do you remember when you did this interview for this article?
A. No. Frankly, no.
Q. Now, that's a picture of you, isn't it?
A. Yes.
Q. On the defense exhibit.

And it appears to be the same photo that's on
Page 11 of your file, which is Exhibit 1; is that correct? A. Yes.
Q. In this article, the article at -- if you look at the beginning of the article, it quotes you as saying that you were a soccer player for the Assyrian team; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And that's a correct quote, isn't it?
A. Yes.
Q. And the article also quotes you as saying that you named your daughter Nahrain after two rivers in Iraq; isn't that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And that's a correct quote?
A. Yes.
Q. And doesn't this article also quote you as saying, "There is no real democracy in America."
A. Well, they -- they would interview the person, but what they wrote down is not exactly what the person has said to them. They would add to it or subtract from it.
Q. So you're saying you never said that, that there is no real democracy in America?
A. No.

MS. HUDSON: I have nothing further, your Honor. THE COURT: Redirect, Mr. Blatt?

## REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Mr. Benjamin, in reference to the money that you had in Iraq, what has happened to it?
A. I have no idea of what happened to them because in the last few years there have been a lot of robberies, burnings.
Q. To your knowledge, that -- does the bank that held that money -- does it still exist?
A. Frankly, I don't know, but there have been so many changes in Iraq in the last few years.
Q. In reference to your real estate, what has happened to that?
A. I have no -- I get information about it, but as far as -- my knowledge is that all unoccupied properties have been taken over by the militias, the different militias. Q. Do you think at this time that you'll ever receive anything from your money or properties again?
A. No. I lost everything.

THE WITNESS: No. I lost everything.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. When you had the exchanges of money, when you gave the money to the Abd-al-Salam and the other handler, you signed some receipts.

What did you think was going to happen to those receipts after you signed them?
A. My main concern at the time was just to get out.
Q. But I'm asking you --
A. I didn't care about the receipts, what happened to them.
Q. But what did you think was going to happen to the receipts? You signed these receipts. What did you think the Government was going to do with them? Abd-al-Salam?
A. Well, Abd-al-Salam should -- or would be receiving moneys in exchange for these receipts.
Q. Did you think that was going to happen?
A. What $I$ saw from the files, yes. That's what happened, it seems.
Q. In your experience with the Government, was there a lot of corruption?
A. Yes. They stole all the banks. Nothing remained.
Q. When the Assistant U.S. Attorney was asking you
questions concerning your naturalization process, you
indicated that you didn't tell or write down that you had gone on these trips to Iraq.

Do you recall that, sir?
A. Yes.
Q. Was that a mistake?
A. At the time I believed Iraq was my country. And I had no intention of not stating it, but that it was my country. Q. When you took the oath as a citizen, did you turn in your passport at that time that indicated the trips to Iraq? A. Yes.
Q. Did you ever think at the time that you were talking about or writing concerning the trips to Iraq you were doing anything wrong?
A. No.
Q. Did you think you were doing something wrong if you
didn't say you were working as a messenger boy in America? You didn't disclose that?
A. When I filled out these forms and I had recently arrived to this country -- my English was very poor at that time. And I filled them out personally, so....
Q. After you came to this country, how long did it take you to obtain a green card?
A. I obtained the green card in less than a month.
Q. Were you waiting to obtain the green card to return to Iraq?
A. Yes. I wanted to go back.
Q. Why did you want to go back after you had left?
A. When -- when -- when I left Iraq, I did it in a very semi-secret way so that nobody or very few people would know my intentions. So when I was able to go back to Iraq I wanted to see, first of all, my daughter, see her children, see her situation; and, secondly, to see if I can -- what happened to my money in the bank and my properties.
Q. Were you able to move your daughter to your house?
A. Yes. As soon as I arrived, I made her move into my house.
Q. And any time during the first trip were you able to obtain any money from your bank or properties or equipment to get out of Iraq?
A. I tried. I attempted to, but I could not. I was not
able to.
Q. When had you the proffer session with the Assistant U.S. Attorney, did you have the information in reference to Exhibit 4 that your attorney was working as a source for the IIS?
A. No.
Q. Isn't it a fact that you received that information through me in September of last year when we received that information from the Assistant U.S. Attorney?

THE COURT: Well, just a minute. That's leading. BY MR. BLATT:
Q. When did you become aware of that information concerning your attorney acting as a source for the IIS?
A. I knew that I became aware of that from the document which my attorney gave to me.
Q. And was that after the proffer session?
A. Before.
Q. Well, do you remember receiving something from your attorney concerning the file where your attorney in Baghdad received money?
A. I saw it in the file.
Q. After that, did you have an opportunity to look at an exhibit -- that was Exhibit Number 4 -- where it indicates your lawyer was acting as an IIS source? Did you observe that after the proffer session?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Asked and answered. THE COURT: He may answer it again.

THE WITNESS: Can I continue?
THE COURT: Go ahead.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Did you observe it after the proffer session?
A. Yes.
Q. In your testimony you talked about various men, and they each seem to have a variety of names.
A. Yes.
Q. Could you explain the Iraqi custom of how all these names are used through an individual's life.
A. Let's -- let's take myself as an example, an Iraqi Christian. My name is William.
(In English) My daughter, first daughter -BY MR. BLATT:
Q. In Arabic use the interpreter, please.

THE COURT: Again, I ask you not to attempt to instruct the witness.

MR. BLATT: I apologize.
THE COURT: I have noticed throughout the trial that the witness goes back and forth between Arabic and English. And I've determined that -- for the jury to determine whether or not they would wish to have him only speak in one language or the other; and, therefore, he may
continue to do as he's doing.
MR. BLATT: Yes, your Honor.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. You may -- I'm sorry. Please continue.
A. Can you repeat the question, please.
Q. Could you explain, based upon your knowledge, the Iraqi custom of men having different names during different times of their life.
A. Yes. A person before he gets -- before he's married has a name, his real name. After he's married, if he has a daughter, first daughter, they -- they would call him Abu. And then -- then the name of the daughter. Abu means the father of. If it's a boy, then it would be the father of the boy name.

If he has an -- if he has a -- if his first child is a daughter or a girl, then the second is a boy, then the boy would have precedence, and he would be called after his boy's name and not the girl's name.
Q. Is it common for men to have a number of names throughout their lifetime in Iraq?
A. Of course, yes. As far as I am concerned, for example, Abu Nahrain, my first daughter, Abu Sinhari my son.

And so on.
Q. In reference to Mr. Tobia Giwargis, this was a friend of yours, am I correct?
A. He was a supporter when $I$ was a member of the soccer team.
Q. Did you want anything negative to happen to him when he went to Iraq?
A. Do you mean when he went back?
Q. When he went back to Iraq.
A. Yes. I didn't want to.
Q. And to your knowledge, did he have a serious crime
alleged against him before he went back to Iraq?
A. He told me -- frankly, he told me that, all the story.
Q. To your knowledge, did he have a death sentence against him before he went back to Iraq?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you have a discussion with him about this?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you write letters on his behalf so he could have a safe visit?
A. Yes.
Q. And did he request you to write these letters?
A. Not only from me. He asked other people also to write such letters. He ordered people to help him so he could go and visit his brother.
Q. After he came back from Iraq did you have an opportunity to talk to him?
A. No.
Q. Did you ever see him again after he came back from Iraq?
A. I didn't know when he left and when he came back, what dates he left and what dates he came back.
Q. But did he come back to America and did you see him again?
A. No.
Q. Have you spoken to him since this time since you've been indicted in this case?
A. No.
Q. Do you have knowledge that he lives in California?
A. I believe -- I believe he lives out either in Modesto or Turlock, maybe.
Q. Did you hear his name as a prosecution witness in this case?

MS. HUDSON: Objection.
MR. BLATT: What's the nature of the --
THE COURT: Just a minute.
MS. HUDSON: Irrelevant, your Honor.
THE COURT: Sustained.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. If he was brought here by the prosecution, would he relate, to your knowledge, that he asked you for assistance?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Calls for speculation.
Calls for hearsay. Lack of foundation.
THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Do you want him to come here?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. In reference to Exhibit 2 -- Exhibit 2, Page 1754, do you recall writing this letter? Is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And to your knowledge --
A. Can you show me the Arabic text, please.
Q. 1375?
A. Yes.
Q. Is this your letter?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you recall who you wrote it to?
A. I sent it to my attorney, Youssif al-Diru.
Q. Did you have any knowledge until Mr. Sargon testified in the Government's case that your attorney had been turned in the early '80s to work with the IIS?
A. No.
Q. In reference to Exhibit 2, Page 1750, I'll show you the Arabic. In reference to who it's addressed to --
A. Can you lower it, please.
Q. Can you see who it's addressed to, sir?
A. To Abu Hollett.
Q. To the best of your recollection, was this letter mailed to this person or to your attorney?
A. No. It was sent to the attorney, for him to give it to the person.
Q. And who is this Abu Hollett?
A. He used to work in the customs.
Q. Is he any connection to the other individual whom you transferred the money to?
A. It's his friend.
Q. How did you know this person?
A. I had this office for facilitating the -- the clearance -- custom clearance of items, and he would help him -- him being in the customs, he would help me in this process.
Q. In reference to Abu Khalid -- is that a common name in Iraq?
A. Yes, a lot of people use the term Abu Khalid.
Q. Why?
A. It's in reference of in respect of Jamal Abdul Nasser, whose son was called Khalid.
Q. Showing you Exhibit 4, 1798, I'm going to turn it for the Arabic version.
Do you see that, sir?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you see the part of the sentence there -- I believe it's the third paragraph -- where it talks about your lawyer? A. Yes.
Q. Did you have that information before you saw the Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the proffer session?
A. No.
Q. In reference to John Malki Yukhanna -- this is in reference to Exhibit Number 5. I'm showing you Exhibit 5, Page 1888, in English.

Do you see where it's indicated re meeting with confidante, and then afterwards that's encircled. And then after meeting our Assyrian agent --

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        Do you see that encircled?
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A. Yes.
Q. I'm now showing you in Arabic.

Do you see the two circled parts in the top of the page, Page 14 -- Page 1888?
A. Yes.
Q. In reference to Exhibit 5.
A. Yes.
Q. On the second sentence to the top, where I'm pointing, do you see that word? Where it's circled?
A. Yes.
Q. What does that word mean?
A. Confidante.
Q. And do you see the exact same word circled again in the third sentence?
A. Yes. Our confidante.
Q. It doesn't say our agent. It says "our confidante"; is that correct?

THE COURT: Again, you're leading. If you ask -your witness --

MR. BLATT: I didn't hear an objection, your Honor. THE COURT: -- if something is correct.

MR. BLATT: All right. I'm sorry.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Is what is circled there the same word that is on the first line, second line?
A. Yes.
Q. Do they both say "confidante"?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, in reference to Mr. Yukhanna, this particular incident happened in the early '80s; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Was he a friend of yours?
A. He was -- he was -- he was a friend, say, of the family. They knew him.
Q. Was he in trouble?
A. Big one.
Q. Did you help him? That could be yes or no.

THE COURT: No. Again --
THE WITNESS: Yes.
THE COURT: -- you don't tell a witness how to
answer. Just ask your question. MR. BLATT: Yes, your Honor. THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. How was he in trouble?
A. According to what he told me, he had kidnapped a woman or a girl. He was afraid. So he came to the club, my club. He asked for my help. I invited him and the girl he was supposed to get married to to my house. They remained with me for two days. Then he did his necessary paperwork, and then left.
Q. Did you ever turn him in to the officials?
A. No. On the contrary. I took him. I invited him and kept him at my house to protect him.
Q. Do you want him to testify in this case?
A. If the Court wants him, yes. Why not.
Q. And in reference to the report that you wrote, why do you think that -- what was your purpose in writing that report at that time?
A. It's not a report. I was asked questions. They asked after him. They asked about him, and I attempted to protect him through what $I$ wrote in that letter.
Q. There were negative things in that letter about him -THE COURT: Well, just a minute. MR. BLATT: I'll rephrase it.

THE COURT: It's not a question.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. When you wrote that letter, was he staying in your house?
A. No. He came -- within less than two weeks he came to my home.
Q. Why did you write the letter?
A. As a manager of the club, I was being asked by officials of the arterial ministry.
Q. Were you afraid?
A. Of course.
Q. Were you afraid enough to turn him in?
A. No. It would be impossible for me -- to them -- I tried to help to assist him.
Q. Did you have any knowledge afterwards that he signed an oath to become an IIS agent?
A. No, I don't.

MR. BLATT: May I have a moment, your Honor.
THE COURT: Of course.
MR. BLATT: I'm going to try and finish.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Sir, I'm showing you Exhibit 1, Page 13. I have it in red here where it says, "Allah is my witness. I have worked very devotedly for the party and division."

Do you see that section?
A. Yes.
Q. And then it goes on to state, "But the only thing that makes me always feel slighter is that on the citizen certificate."
A. Yes.
Q. Now, turning the page, sir, what you read in English -do you see anything in Arabic on the next page?
A. Can you ask the question again, please.
Q. What I just explained to you in English, do you see similar words in Arabic on the next page?
A. Yes.
Q. Where are they?
A. I don't understand. I'm not understanding that question.
Q. I'm going to change the page, sir, to the English, where it says, "Allah is my witness. I have worked very devotedly for the party and the division."
A. Can you show me the Arabic now.
Q. I want to turn the page to see if you can find that sentence, those words in Arabic on the next page.

MS. HUDSON: Objection, your Honor. Counsel has already stipulated to the accuracy of the translations. THE COURT: Sustained. MR. BLATT: Well, he has not -- your Honor, may we approach then.

THE COURT: Not at this time.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Do you see those words on the back of the page? MS. HUDSON: Same objection, your Honor.

MR. BLATT: It's not the same question, your Honor.
THE COURT: You may answer it.
MR. BLATT: Thank you.
THE COURT: Strike "thank you."
THE WITNESS: No.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Do you see any word "Allah" on the back of that page?
A. Yes.
Q. Where is it connected to?

MS. HUDSON: Same objection, your Honor.
THE WITNESS: What I am talking about --
THE COURT: You may have a continuing objection.
It's overruled. Let's just get this over with, please.
THE WITNESS: Allah is my witness to what I'm saying.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. In reference to your work in Iraq, could you briefly describe your work in the trans- -- well, from the transportation department to the time you left, could you briefly describe your work history.
A. After I retired from the transportation department,
public, I worked at the Australian embassy; at the Venezuelan embassy, both times as a local employee; then I started contracting, general contracting because life became -- life became more expensive in Iraq and -- with a large family. So I started the free enterprises so I would earn more income. Then I opened -- I set up a commercial office, and I also worked as a general contractor and then worked in the customs -- at customs as a custom clearance agent private. There were a lot of foreign companies working in Iraq at that time. Until I finalized the paperwork to be able to make my way to America.
Q. You talked about other fellow Assyrians. While in America, what was your feelings toward Assyrians in this country?
A. When -- when I was a student in the university we formed an underground student movement. We had -- we had very high ideal -- thoughts about the Assyrians in America, and we wanted to work with them, to cooperate with them. I formed an underground Assyrian party, which was -- which was a very dangerous enterprise because if they had taken or captured anybody, they would have been finished. They were all from the university students.
Q. Excuse me. My question to you, sir, is while were you in this country, what were your feelings toward Iraqi Assyrians?
A. If -- if you look at me as a person who formed or established an Assyrian party back then, what do you think my feelings would be for them here?
Q. I'm asking you the question, sir.
A. It's a very friendly, brotherly feeling.

THE COURT: Do you have anything further?
MR. BLATT: One moment, please, your Honor.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. In reference to the party that you founded and participated in in Iraq and America, are some of those members of your party now members of the Iraqi parliament?
A. Yes.
Q. How many?
A. We have one minister, and the rest -- they occupy higher positions in the Iraqi Government's structure.
Q. Did that happen after the fall of Saddam Hussein?
A. Of course.
Q. Thank you.

MR. BLATT: Nothing further.
THE COURT: Is there to be any recross?
MS. HUDSON: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: Thank you, sir.
You are excused.
Do you have any furthers witnesses?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you rest?
MR. BLATT: Yes, your Honor.
THE COURT: Thank you.
Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to ask that you go out for the lunch and recess and return at 1:30. And we'll have the final arguments at that time.

Everyone, please rise for the jury.
(Whereupon, at 12:21 p.m. the jury exited the courtroom.)

THE COURT: Please be seated. I'm sorry. I was being presumptuous. I assumed that there was to be no rebuttal.

MS. HUDSON: Your Honor, we would like to briefly recall Mr. Sargon. I apologize.

THE COURT: For what purpose?
MS. HUDSON: The defendant testified that he had worked in foreign embassies in Baghdad, and I believe the witness would state that he is familiar with the use of Iraqi employees at foreign embassies in Baghdad and that only persons who were working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service would be allowed to hold those positions.

THE COURT: Very well. All right. 1:30.
THE CLERK: This Court is in recess.
(Whereupon, from 12:23 p.m. to 12:36 p.m., a break was taken.)
(Out of the presence of the jury.)
THE CLERK: Please remain seated and come to order. This Court is again in session.

THE COURT: We're outside the presence of the jury.
I understand the Government is requesting two witnesses. Who is the second witness?

MS. HEINZ: Your Honor, the second witness will be Roland Lyons. I would -- the Government would ask him just two questions about whether or not citizenship and immigration services accept foreign passports.

THE COURT: All right.
Also, I received a supplemental proposed instruction from Government.

Have you seen it, Mr. Blatt?
MR. BLATT: Yes, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right.
MR. BLATT: No objection, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Let me ask if there are any defense motions before we move to rebuttal.

Are there any?
MR. BLATT: Except for the exhibit list, nothing.
THE COURT: You have some motion regarding the
exhibit list?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Let's bring the jury back
now.

THE CLERK: Please rise.
(Whereupon, at 1:38 p.m. the jury entered the courtroom.)

THE COURT: Please be seated.

And good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.
Ladies and gentlemen, I was being presumptuous when

I said to you after lunch we would move to the closing
arguments. As I told you at the beginning of the case, while the defense does not have to put on any evidence at all but they have a right to do so if they choose so, in the same fashion the Government does not have to put on a rebuttal case but it has a right to do so if it chooses to, and the Government does choose to do so.

So you may call your first witness.
MS. HEINZ: Yes, your Honor.
At this time the Government calls Roland Lyons.
THE COURT: Very well.
Mr. Lyons, would you return to the witness stand, sir, and have a seat.

Please repeat your name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: Roland Edward Lyons. Last name is $\mathrm{L}-\mathrm{y}-\mathrm{o}-\mathrm{n}-\mathrm{S}$.

THE COURT: And you understand you are still under
oath in this matter.
THE WITNESS: Yes, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, Ms. Heinz.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. HEINZ:
Q. Mr. Lyons, at the oath of allegiance ceremonies do the applicants turn in their foreign passports?
A. No, they do not.
Q. And does Citizenship and Immigration Service ever accept foreign passports?
A. No, we do not. We have no authority to accept documents from a foreign government.

MS. HEINZ: I have no further questions, your
Honor.
THE COURT: Any questions?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You are excused.
THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.
THE COURT: You may call your next witness.
MS. HUDSON: Thank you, your Honor.
The Government calls Mr. Sargon.
THE COURT: You may return to the witness stand, sir.

> Please be seated.

Please repeat your nickname and spell it for the
record, please.
THE WITNESS: My name is Sargon, S-a-r-g-o-n. THE COURT: And do you understand you are still under oath in this case?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
MR. SARGON,
called as a rebuttal witness by counsel for the Government having been previously duly sworn, testified as follows: THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, Ms. Hudson. MS. HUDSON: Thank you, your Honor.

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Mr. Sargon, are you familiar with the relationship between the Iraqi Intelligence Service and foreign embassies in Baghdad prior to 2003?
A. Yes.
Q. What is that familiarity or knowledge based on?

MR. BLATT: Objection. Excuse me. Objection. Limitation should be '79 to ' 80 when he was working at the embassy, not the entire time.

THE COURT: Well, you can go into that if you care to.

MR. BLATT: Thank you.
THE COURT: If you would care to change your
question, you may do so.
MS. HUDSON: I'll leave the question as it is, your Honor.

Thank you.
THE COURT: Overruled.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. What is your familiarity based on?
A. Well, I previously worked in the anti-spying general department, which had the symbol $M-5$, and the job of such agency is to follow up with activities of foreigners and foreign entities in Iraq.

And usually embassies have the foreign intelligence services or stations. Therefore, we consider embassies as one of the most important of the anti-spying services.
Q. During what period of time were you in that position?
A. From middle of '79 until '89.
Q. Based on your experience, would the staff working at a foreign embassy in Baghdad consist entirely of foreigners, or did some Iraqis work at foreign embassies at Baghdad?

MR. BLATT: Objection. Compound.
THE COURT: Sustained.
Please rephrase it.
BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Would -- based on your experience, would the staff working at a foreign embassy in Baghdad include some Iraqi
citizens?
A. Yes.
Q. Did the Iraqi Intelligence Service control which Iraqis were allowed to work at foreign embassies in Baghdad?
A. Yes.
Q. In order to get a job as an Iraqi working at a foreign embassy in Baghdad, did that person have to be working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
A. Well, I think probably your question should be a little bit corrected. Not -- not necessarily that he was working with the Iraq Intelligence before getting the position, but in general, any person who would work in a foreign embassy should get the approval of the Iraqi Intelligence, and the Iraqi Intelligence would gather information and meet with him and would ask him for cooperation.
Q. Now, would this apply to all jobs that an Iraqi might do at a foreign embassy in Baghdad?
A. Yes.
Q. Would that include even low-level positions?
A. Yes.
Q. Would that include, for example, a cleaning woman at a foreign embassy in Baghdad?
A. Yes.
Q. What would the Iraqi Intelligence Service do regarding cleaning ladies working at foreign embassies in Baghdad?
A. Well, the cleaning lady could go into any of the embassies' rooms, and she can give us full -- full and complete description of the rooms and workers inside the rooms, and she could get any pieces of papers or shredded pieces of drafts that were thrown already in a trash can. So we used to ask them to collect them and bring them to us.
Q. In your experience, did Iraqis who were working at foreign embassies in Baghdad know that they were working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
A. Yes.
Q. In your experience, would it be possible for an Iraqi to be hired to be in charge of building maintenance at a foreign embassy in Baghdad if he was not cooperating with the Iraqi Intelligence Service?

THE COURT: You're going to have to change that characterization. Almost anything is possible. BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Would it be the practice of the Iraqi Intelligence Service to allow an Iraqi who was not cooperating with the Iraqi Intelligence Service to take a position in building maintenance at a foreign embassy in Baghdad?
A. Well, this issue, as I recall, till the beginning of the '90s wasn't allowed at all. Well, after '91 such things became more flexible. So not to put a lot of pressure on our citizens -- and also we started using more technology or
technical services to monitor these embassies.
Q. With respect to the period of time from approximately 1979 through 1990, was it the policy of the Iraqi Intelligence Service not to allow an Iraqi to work in building maintenance at a foreign embassy in Baghdad if that Iraqi was not at that time cooperating with the Iraqi Intelligence Service?
A. No, they wouldn't allow. MS. HUDSON: Nothing further. THE COURT: Cross-examination?

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Mr. Sargon, before coming here today, did you have an opportunity to speak to the U.S. Attorneys about your testimony?
A. Yes.
Q. Did they ask you specific questions in reference to your knowledge concern canning Iraqi citizens who had worked in foreign embassies in Iraq?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you ever relate this information before they asked you these questions?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Vague as to --
THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Did you ever have any discussions with the U.S. Attorney or the FBI about the information you testified to prior to your last conversation with the U.S. Attorney's about that? A. It was general questions, and it wasn't detailed as such.
Q. Have you been paid any additional monies for coming here today?
A. I did not receive anything besides what should be paid for a witness. Today it was five hundred some dollars. I -I don't know how much. And before that it was $\$ 486$, I believe.
Q. How did you get up to $\$ 112,000$ then?
A. I think -- I think we have discussed that matter before, and we talked about it in details; and we said that it included treatment, travel, food, and other services for the last four or five years.
Q. So you are continuing to be paid as you testify in this case?
A. Well, this is not true. This wasn't discussed, and it wasn't on my mind at all.
Q. But you are going to request additional payment for your testimony for today?
A. I never requested anything.
Q. It's volunteered to you; is that correct, sir? They
offer you the money for your testimony?
A. No payments were made for the testimony.
Q. Why did you say you were getting $\$ 500$ for testimony today then?
A. Well, this is -- actually has been decided according to the American law. And you asked me; I answered.
Q. So there's an American law that you get paid $\$ 500$ a day for your testimony?
A. I received it from the bank, and I don't know the details.
Q. Going back to the questions the U.S. Attorney asked you, when an individual is going to work at a foreign embassy who is an Iraqi citizen and has agreed to cooperate with the IIS, wouldn't there be a file made up on that person at that time? A. Yes.
Q. So, in other words, if an individual works there -- let me rephrase it.

And every person that works for the IIS and then works for an embassy, you would put together a file on them in reference to information that they would give?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you ever -- were you ever asked to check whether there was an administrative or Intelligence file in reference to Mr. Benjamin concerning any work he did in reference to foreign embassies in Iraq?
A. I do not recall that $I$ saw such things in the file.
Q. If Mr. Benjamin was working for the IIS and spying on -in a foreign embassy in Iraq, you have no doubt there would be a file on him; is that correct?
A. Should be a file, yes.
Q. And if that person continued to cooperate from that 1979-80 period to '93, wouldn't there be information in that file as to contacts who IIS made with that person while that person was living in Iraq?
A. Yes. But let me tell you something here. Approximately about 70 to 80 percent of the Iraqi Intelligence files were destroyed in 1991.
Q. How were they destroyed in '91?
A. When we invaded Kuwait. And after that there was a war against Iraq. Did you forget the second Gulf War?
Q. I apologize, sir, for forgetting.

Did you forget who won that war?
MS. HUDSON: Objection.
THE COURT: Strike that. Let's get something else
if you have it.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. You don't like Americans very much, do you?

MS. HUDSON: Objection.
THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Well, do you like Americans, sir?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Argumentative.
MR. BLATT: Goes to his credibility, your Honor.
THE COURT: Overruled.
You may answer.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Do you like Americans, sir?
A. I don't have any problem with the American people.
Q. Even after two wars?
A. Yes.
Q. Even after you turned in your brother Intelligence officers?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Argumentative.
THE COURT: Sustained.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Did you have a problem with Venezuela in 1979?
A. I never.
Q. Well, were you conducting --
A. I have never been to Venezuela.
Q. Well, were you conducting any Intelligence operations, to your knowledge, in the country of Venezuela?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Vague as to "you."
THE INTERPRETER: May the interpreter ask --

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. In 1979 to 1989, while you were working in your Intelligence unit --

THE WITNESS: Could you please repeat the whole question.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. In 1979 to 1989, while you were working in your Intelligence unit, were you aware of any Intelligence activities in reference to the country of Venezuela?
A. No.
Q. And in reference to 1979 to 1989, were you aware of any Intelligence activities against the country of Australia?
A. No.
Q. If you don't have any Intelligence activities against Venezuela or Australia, why would the IIS get involved in reference to a cleaning lady that you would have to join your organization?
A. Well, I -- I think the question you are asking has some wrong information. You are asking me if I had any activities or informations regarding these embassies, and I -- and I -I answered you because I never worked in these domains or these countries. But if you are asking me, you know, what do I know, then I'll -- I'll answer you.
Q. Were you conducting Intelligence against the country of Venezuela in 1979 and 1980?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Vague as to "you."
THE COURT: Sustained.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Was your -- to your knowledge, was your country conducting Intelligence operations against the country of Venezuela in 1979 or 1989?
A. All embassies without any exception should be watched by officers.
Q. In reference to a file that would be made up for the cleaning lady who joined the IIS in reference to an embassy, would there be two files made up at that time?
A. Well, this system of two files appeared after 1988, to be honest with you. Well, that was after we created a couple of systems. The first one is told how to deal with informations, and the other one is called --

THE INTERPRETER: And I am sorry. May the interpreter ask?

THE WITNESS: Okay. How to deal with sources. BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Would the administrative file have a reference number to the Intelligence file?
A. It would -- they would carry the same number, but we write on this one "Administrative," on that one "Intelligence."
Q. Would the Administrative and Intelligence files be kept
together?
A. No.
Q. Where would the Intelligence file be kept?
A. The Intelligence file would be always close to the officer because, you know, they would reference it on a daily basis, while the Administrative -- only when he would need it.
Q. Only when he would need to pay money perhaps?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. The testimony is
cumulative. Beyond the scope.
THE COURT: It's overruled.
You may answer.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Would he use the Administrative file when he needed to pay money?
A. No, not only this. When the source is getting trained, when he goes under auditing or under examinations, many -many things that are related to the administrative file. Q. Were you ever asked by the Government or the FBI to look for the Intelligence file of Mr. Benjamin?
A. No.
Q. Do you have any idea, if it did exist, where it might be?
A. I don't know. I don't know.
Q. Is there such a thing in an Intelligence file as an oath
to the IIS relating that they are an agent and they pledged their allegiance to the IIS?
A. No. We don't have such oath.
Q. You've never seen that before, have you?
A. We don't have an oath for a source.
Q. Do you have perhaps not an oath but some other declaration that a person indicates that they're going to pledge their allegiance to the IIS?
A. Yes.
Q. What is that?
A. He would say that, "I," such and such person, "I pledge to work for the Intelligence service and to be truthful and honest with the Intelligence service, and I will not work for any enemy Intelligence services."

Well, these are the three -- the three main things. I'm not aware now of the details.
Q. Showing you Exhibit 5, 1447.

Could you look at the monitor, sir. It might save you time.
A. (No audible response.)
Q. Does that look like such a declaration?
A. Yes.
Q. And is this the type of declaration that's put into both an Administrative and Intelligence file for an agent that is knowingly working for the IIS?
A. Yes.
Q. Thank you.

Nothing further.
THE COURT: Thank you.
Any redirect?

## REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. HUDSON:
Q. Mr. Sargon, has anyone told you what your testimony should be here today?
A. No. Never.
Q. Has anyone told you that you will get paid if you testify in a certain way here today?
A. Never. No.
Q. Is the fact that you are getting paid a consulting fee affecting your testimony here today?
A. Could you repeat the question, please.
Q. Is your testimony here today affected by the fact that you are being paid for your time?
A. No.

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MS. HUDSON: Nothing further.
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THE COURT: Anything else?

## RECROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Is there any department of the Iraq Intelligence division that you have not worked in?

MS. HUDSON: Your Honor, beyond the scope of redirect.

THE COURT: Sustained.
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. You said you were getting paid as a consultant. Was part of the consultant fee paid as you were released from jail in Iraq?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Cumulative. Beyond the scope. Irrelevant.

THE COURT: It's overruled.
You may answer.
MR. BLATT: Thank you, your Honor.
THE WITNESS: Could you please repeat the question. BY MR. BLATT:
Q. You said you were being paid as a consultant in reference to your testimony today?
A. I didn't say I would be paid; I said I was paid.
Q. Were you paid after you left the jail in Iraq?
A. I think we talked about all these details before.

MR. BLATT: Could the Court instruct the witness to answer, please.

THE COURT: Try to answer the question, please.
THE WITNESS: We talked and we -- we said that I
got compensation like $\$ 112,000, \$ 116,000$ for the period between 2003 up to date. That was for treatment and travel
expenses and lodging hotels and food and services of -- for analyzing the information we are talking about.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. Was part of your understanding of this consultation that you would be released from the American Iraqi prison so you would cooperate with the FBI?
A. No. I knew I was going to be released from jail because there was nothing against me. There -- there was no court warrant or anything of that nature for any case.
Q. And there was no file on you either, was there? There was no Administrative or Intelligence file on you that was ever found?
A. Which file and where? With who --

THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry.
THE WITNESS: With who?
BY MR. BLATT:
Q. You told the FBI your credentials concerning Iraqi Intelligence; correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you ask them to verify your credentials with any other Iraqi Intelligence officers?
A. Well, that's their job.
Q. They never did, did they?

MS. HUDSON: Objection. Calls for speculation.
THE COURT: Sustained.

## MS. HUDSON: Lack of foundation.

BY MR. BLATT:
Q. To your knowledge, did they ever investigate the truthfulness of what you told them you really were and did in Iraq?
A. I am certain that they investigated and made sure of that.
Q. Did they tell you they investigated you?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you give them some names of who to contact?
A. No. Never.
Q. Why didn't you?
A. Why should I give them a name for information while the whole country of Iraq was under their control, under their supervision, and they know other officers?

Well, if I ought to ask about you, for example, I'll tell you, "Well, give me names to go ask about you."

You will say -- you'll say go ask your wife, and your wife will say good things about you.
Q. Perhaps. I don't know about that. It depends on the day.

Do you want to continue?
A. If -- if I want to investigate and make sure of some information, I should go to an impartial party. And, you know, so this impartial party wouldn't give me, you know, any
vague information or fake information. And, actually, I shouldn't ask only one source. I should ask more than one source so I reach the truth. Well, that's how Intelligence, you know, work. If you said that, you have worked in Intelligence services.
Q. One last question.

Why are you so afraid to use your real name? MS. HUDSON: Objection. THE COURT: Sustained. MR. BLATT: Nothing further, your Honor. THE COURT: Any further of this witness? MS. HUDSON: No, your Honor. THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You are excused now. Does the Government rest? MS. HUDSON: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we have some matters of law that we do have to take care of. I would like to have the closing arguments and the instructions all at the same time, and we're not going to have enough time here this afternoon to do that.

So I'm going to let you go home now, and tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock we'll have the final arguments. You'll hear from the Government, and you'll hear from the defense, and then you'll hear from the Government a second time.

The Government as the prosecutors in this case get two bites at the apple as it were, and they'll open and they'll close the arguments.

After both sides have finished their arguments, then I will give you some final instructions. Which then you must apply to the law to that law to the facts only you would have found.

Please put everything aside. You've heard all of the evidence now. Make sure that you don't talk about this with anyone. Don't let anything about it come to your attention, but if something does mistakenly, please let me know. Don't talk to any of your fellow jurors about it at all. We'll see you at 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Everyone, please rise for the jury. (Whereupon, at $2: 17$ p.m. , the jury exited the courtroom..)

THE COURT: Please be seated. We're outside the presence of the jury.

Are there any motions of any kind?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right.
We'll take 10 minutes, and then we'll go over the instructions. Make sure that you have your exhibits in order. The clerk will be in here in just a moment. You can
do that during this recess, and we'll take 10 or 15 minutes. (Whereupon, from 2:18 p.m. to time, a break was taken.)
(Out of the presence of the jury.)
THE CLERK: Please remain seated and come to order.
This Court is again in session.
THE COURT: We're again outside the presence of the jury, and this is the time to go over the instructions. Fairly simple of a job since we have a joint set.

MR. BLATT: Excuse me, your Honor?
THE COURT: Yes.
MR. BLATT: In reference to the exhibits, I thought I would make a motion to admit the exhibits. I was --

THE COURT: Yes. I had assumed that there would be no objection to the ones that you had mentioned.

MR. BLATT: Well, I think there will be, your Honor, but I'm asking.

THE COURT: There will be?
MR. BLATT: One through -- at least there's an objection I believe by the U.S. Attorney.

I've requested that the Exhibits 1 through 7 be admitted with the exception -- the part that was requested to be deleted which I deleted and number ten.

THE COURT: All right. Is there some objection? I didn't hear any objection.

MS. HUDSON: No, I don't think so, your Honor. MR. BLATT: Oh, I'm sorry, your Honor.

THE COURT: So they will come in.
MR. BLATT: Thank you, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Let's go through these proposed instructions. The first one which is based on O'Malley's 10.1 and 13.04 -- these are general instructions at the beginning of a criminal trial -- "the indictment is not evidence" and all. We've done that.

MS. HEINZ: Yes.
THE COURT: Joint two which is based on the Ninth Circuit model 2.9 is covered by other instructions later. Same thing is true of Ninth Circuit model 1.13 A, use of interpreter in court.

Actually these first four have alphabetical
designations. A, has already been given, $B$ and $C$ are covered by others, D which is a special and protective measures concerning witness -- that's also been given.

Joint 1 through -- let's see. 1 through 18 will be given as requested. 19 also a joint -- well, they're all joint except the supplemental.

19, "evidence received in the case stipulations judicial notice and inferences permitted" -- the Court didn't take judicial notice of anything; so it will be given without the judicial notice portion.

20 through 27 will be given as requested.
26, on or about will be modified for plural dates.
28 transcript of recording in foreign language will
be given without the last paragraph. That last paragraph is the Government and defendant have presented different language translations et cetera. So that be not be given.

29, 30,31 and 32 will all be given as requested.
I take it 33 is withdrawn effective defendant's failure to testify since he did testify. So that will not be given.

34 charts and summaries -- were there any charts and summaries? I don't recall any.

MS. HEINZ: I think the Government has decided not to use any in closing arguments. So we don't need that anymore.

THE COURT: Very well.
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: So that will not be given either.
35 about regard to the verdict form, that will be given as requested. And I just have one copy now, but I didn't receive a proposed verdict form from either side. So we're presenting one to you.

And there's no objection to the Government's supplemental instruction. Both the Government and the defendant have the right to compel witnesses at trial.

The -- and federal rules of civil procedure 17 that will be given.

And there were a few that neither side asked for in joint or otherwise that will be given.

And when I mention these numbers, unless I otherwise indicate, I'm speaking of O'Malley.

1103 objections and rulings; 1104 Court's comments to counsel; 1105 Court's questions to witnesses; 1506 impeachment inconsistent statements offer conduct; and 1706 motive explained -- those will all be given.

Any comments first of all from the Government -MS. HEINZ: No.

THE COURT: -- with regard to the instructions?
MS. HEINZ: The Government is fine with the instructions, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Blatt?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Let me inquire as to how much time the Government is requesting for its closing arguments total.

MS. HUDSON: Total approximately an hour and a half, your Honor.

THE COURT: You may have an hour. You can use it any way you choose.

You may have up to an hour.

MR. BLATT: Thank you, your Honor.
THE COURT: I have received the redacted second superseding indictment. Have you seen it, Mr. Blatt?

MR. BLATT: Yes, your Honor.
THE COURT: There should be a renumbering, however: 5 becomes 3; 8 becomes 4; 11 becomes 5; 12 is 6; 13 is 7; and 15 is 8. Renumbered -- this copy that I have which will be going into the jury.

Any comments?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Both sides had an opportunity to review the jury verdict form?

MR. BLATT: Yes, your Honor.
THE COURT: Any problems?
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: The Government?
MS. HUDSON: It seems to be fine, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Fine. Anything else from either side?

MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
MS. HUDSON: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: Does either side intend to use any type of demonstrative charts or anything of that sort during the closing?

MS. HUDSON: I think just the -- the Elmo or --

THE COURT: Oh, of course.
MR. BLATT: No, your Honor.
THE COURT: Any items that have been received into evidence -- just remember that the court instructs and you argue. So while you might want to indicate what you think the Court might be instructing regarding, please don't just read from the instructions themselves. You'll have copies of them.

## All right.

MR. BLATT: Thank you, your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
MS. HEINZ: Thank you, your Honor.
THE COURT: 9:00 o'clock tomorrow then.
THE CLERK: Court is adjourned.
(Whereupon, at 4:42 p.m., the proceeding concluded.)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ) STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

I, LEANDRA AMBER, OFFICIAL FEDERAL COURT REPORTER, REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER, IN AND FOR THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 753, TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF THE STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED PROCEEDINGS HELD IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER AND THAT THE TRANSCRIPT PAGE FORMAT IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DATE: $\qquad$

LEANDRA AMBER, CSR 12070, RPR FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER


| 50:2, 50:4, 69:9, 70:1, | alphabetical [1] - | Arabic [19]-5:18, | attempt [1]-63:18 | 38:9, 39:10, 42:4, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 72:16, 75:8, 93:1, $93: 24$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 101:15 } \\ & \text { ALSO }_{[1]}-2: 21 \end{aligned}$ | 5:21, 17:17, 17:21, | attempted [3] - | 42:8, 49:6, 62:19, |
| 93:24 <br> Agent ${ }_{[1]}$ - 8:14 | ALSO [1] - 2:21 <br> altered ${ }_{[1]}$ - 24:11 | 37:19, 41:12, 48:22, <br> 49:24, 53:6, 63:17, | $\begin{gathered} 35: 12,61: 25,71: 21 \\ \text { attend [4] - 18:11, } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 77: 17,77: 19,81: 16, \\ & 82: 18,82: 19,82: 25, \end{aligned}$ |
| AGENT [2]-2:23, | AMBER [3] - 1:22, | 63:22, 67:8, 67:20, | 18:22, 19:4, 38:23 | 83:4, 83:7, 83:17, |
| 2:23 | 106:6, 106:21 | 68:20, 69:12, 73:7, | attention [8]-4:21, | 83:22, 83:25, 84:8, |
| ago [1] - 41:7 <br> agree [1] - 17:18 | $\begin{gathered} \text { America [13]-6:4, } \\ 15: 19,41: 8,45: 22 \text {, } \end{gathered}$ | 73:10, 73:18, 73:20 ARABIC [2]-2:21, | $\begin{aligned} & 5: 16,12: 2,35: 6, \\ & 43: 17,50: 16,52: 9, \end{aligned}$ | 84:13, 84:21, 85:5 <br> Bakr [2] - 13:22, 32:1 |
| agreed [1] - 87:13 | 47:6, 58:11, 58:16, | 2:22 | 99:11 | bank [4]-59:1, $\text { 61:18, 61:23, } 87: 9$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { agreement }[1] \text { - } \\ & 29: 25 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 61:1, 66:4, 75:11, } \\ & 75: 13,75: 17,76: 10 \end{aligned}$ | Arabs [1] - 41:19 ARAKELIAN [3] | $\begin{array}{r} \text { attorney [24]-8:9, } \\ \text { 15:3, 16:16, 23:22, } \end{array}$ | 61:18, 61:23, 87:9 banks [1] - 60:8 |
| ahead [5] - 33:13, | AMERICA [2] - 1:4, | 2:15, 2:16, 2:16 | 24:1, 24:5, 24:25 | Barwari [6]-23:6, |
| 52:6, 63:4, 80:3, | 2:3 | area [5]-16:12 | 26:3, 37:2, 37:9, $37 \cdot 12,38: 18,39: 15$, | 23:7, 23:8, $23: 9$, $23: 10,23: 13$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 81:10 } \\ & \text { Ahmad [15] - 7:21, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { American [7] - 5:17, } \\ & \text { 12:23, 12:24, 87:6, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 16: 14,33: 8,33: 9 \\ & 33: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 37: 12,38: 18,39: 15, \\ & 56: 5,56: 7,62: 4, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 23:10, 23:13 } \\ & \text { based }[6]-64: 6, \end{aligned}$ |
| 9:14, 9:25, 10:21, | 87:7, 89:9, 96:5 | argue [1] - 105:5 | 62:13, 62:15, 62:19, | 81:18, 82:7, 82:24 |
| 11:12, 11:19, 13:19, | Americans [3] | Argumentative [2] - | 67:14, 67:16, 67:25, | 101:6, 101:11 |
| $13: 21,13: 25,14: 3$ | $88: 22,89: 2,89: 8$ | $89: 3,89: 14$ | 68:1 | Based [1]-82:17 |
| $52: 23$ | AND [3] - 106:7, | $77: 6,79: 9,98: 1$ | $8: 17,60: 9,62: 3,62: 9,$ | basis [2] - 31:13, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ahmed [2] - 13:22, } \\ & 32: 1 \end{aligned}$ | 106:10, 106:12 | $\begin{aligned} & 98: 22,99: 3,99: 4, \\ & 102: 14,103: 20 \end{aligned}$ | 86:2, 87:11, 100:20 attorney's [5]-23:3, | $\begin{aligned} & 92: 6 \\ & \text { became }[4]-62 \text { : } \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { aims }[1]-18: 19^{\text {al }_{[19]}-11: 6,11: 18,} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1:23, 2:7, 4:1, 106:3 } \\ \text { answer [21]-9:5, } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{armed}_{[1]}-25: 16 \\ & \text { army }[1]-23: 14 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 23:6, 37:10, 55:14, } \\ & 55: 18 \end{aligned}$ | $75: 3,75: 4,84: 24$ <br> become [2] - 62:12, |
| 13:20, 13:22, 14:1, | 16:7, 21:1, 21:17 | arrange [1] - 53:7 | ATTORNEY'S [1] | 72:16 |
| 23:11, 23:17, 23:22, | 30:12, 39:6, 40:1 | arranged [1] - 42:7 | 2:4 | becomes [3] - 104:6 |
| 24:5, 25:23, 26:4, | 40:3, 40:19, 42:18, | arrived [2]-61:3, | Attorney's [1] - 86:4 | beginning [4] - |
| 26:6, 32:1, 38:19, | 45:3, 45:5, 63:2, 71:1, | 61:20 | Attorneys [2]-69:2, | 57:24, 79:9, 84:22, |
| 39:12, 59:16, 59:25, | 74:6, 89:6, 90:23, | arterial [1] - 72:9 | 85:14 | 101:8 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 60: 1,67: 14 \\ & \mathbf{A l}_{[10]}-16: 12, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 92: 12,95: 11,95: 21, \\ & 95: 22 \end{aligned}$ | article [9]-56:9, <br> 57:5, 57:9, 57:15, | attorneys [1] - 8:24 <br> audible [2]-36:24, | begins [1]-50:1 <br> BEHALF [2]-2:3, |
| 23:6, 23:7, 23:8, 23:9, | answered [5] - | $57: 23,57: 24,58: 4,$ | 93:20 | 2:10 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 23:10, 23:13, 56:25 } \\ \text { al-Bakr [2] - 13:22, } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 44: 13,44: 15,63: 1, \\ & 87: 6,90: 21 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 58: 10 \\ & \quad \text { articles }[3]-38: 1 \end{aligned}$ | auditing [1] - 92:17 AUSA [2] - 2:5, 2:5 | behalf $[1]$ - $65: 16$ <br> behind $[2]-6: 4,6: 7$ |
| 32:1 | anti [4]-34:3, 82:8, | 38:22, 57:1 | Australia [4]-29:16, | belief $[1]-33: 25$ |
| Al-Barwari [6]-23:6, | 82:14 | aside [1] - 99:8 | 29:17, 90:12, 90:15 | belonged $[1]-41: 19$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 23: 7,23: 8,23: 9, \\ & 23: 10,23: 13 \end{aligned}$ | anti-Iraqi [1]-34:3 | assist $[1]-72: 14$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Australian }[7] \text { - } \\ 26: 20,26: 23,28: 1 \end{gathered}$ | Benjamin [21]-5:2, <br> 5:4, 5:5, 5:6, 6:3, 8:2, |
| $\begin{array}{r} \text { al-Diru [6] - 23:11, } \\ \text { 23:17, 24:5, 38:19, } \end{array}$ | $34: 3$ | 26:3, 66:22 | 29:6, 30:25, 31:2, | $23: 20,39: 9,40: 24$ <br> 45:6, 46:8, 47:21, |
| $39: 12,67: 14$ | $82: 8,82: 14$ | 8:17, 60:9, 62:2, 62:9, | authorities [1] - | $50: 22,51: 24,52: 1,$ |
| Al-Ta'akhi [1] - 56:25 <br> Al-Wahda [3] - | $\begin{gathered} \text { apologize }[4]- \\ \text { 15:12, } 63: 20,77: 14, \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 69:2 } \\ & \text { assisted }[1]-35: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 34: 12 \\ \text { authority }[1]-80: 11 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 52: 2,52: 9,58: 22, \\ & 87: 24,88: 2,92: 20 \end{aligned}$ |
| 16:12, 16:13 | 88:16 | assumed [2] - 77:11, | aware [6]-33:22, | BENJAMIN [4] - |
| Alfaq [1] - $54: 6$ | appear [7] - 16:22, | 100:14 | $62: 12,62: 14,90: 8,$ | 1:10, 2:10, 3:3, 52:2 |
| alias [1] - 9:25 | 17:18, 34:2, 42:14, | Assyrian [28] |  | best [1] - 67:24 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Allah }[6]-53: 2, \\ 53: 15,72: 23,73: 16, \end{gathered}$ | $43: 2,45: 24,48: 18$ <br> appeared [3] - 9:10 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 12:13, 12:16, 14:18, } \\ & \text { 14:22, 15:4, 24:21, } \end{aligned}$ | B | $\begin{gathered} \text { Bet }[13]-12: 16, \\ 12: 20,13: 7,14: 21, \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 74:11, } 74: 18 \\ & \text { alleged }[1]-65: 9 \\ & \text { allegiance }[3]-80: 6, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 21:3, 91:12 } \\ & \text { APPEARING }{ }_{[1]} \\ & \text { 2:21 } \end{aligned}$ | 24:22, 31:6, 31:14, 33:23, 34:18, 34:21, 34:23, 34:24, 34:25, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { B-e-n-j-a-m-i-n[1]- } \\ & 5: 5 \end{aligned}$ | 18:12, 18:13, 18:15, 19:8, 19:12, 19:21, 21:4, 21:5, 45:22 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 93:2, } 93: 8 \\ & \text { allow }[4]-47: 9, \end{aligned}$ | apple [1] - 99:2 <br> applicants [1] - 80:7 | $\begin{aligned} & 38: 21,44: 16,47: 10 \\ & 48: 7,50: 1,50: 2,50: 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Baath [8]-13:8, } \\ 36: 2,36: 7,53: 17, \end{gathered}$ | Bet-Nahrain [12] 12:16, 12:20, 13:7, |
| 84:19, 85:4, 85:8 | apply [2]-83:16, | 57:25, 69:9, 75:19, | 53:19, 53:20, 54:1, $54: 4$ | 14:21, 18:12, 18:13, |
| allowed [6]-30:9, | 99:6 | 76:2 | Babel [3]-37:3 | 18:15, 19:12, 19:21, |
| $38: 24,47: 14,77: 21$ 83:4, 84:23 | approach [1]-73:25 appropriate [1]- | Assyrians [8] 18:13, 19:19, 41:17 | $37: 14,38: 11$ | $21: 4,21: 5,45: 22$ <br> Bet-Nahrain's [1] - |
| almost [2] - 41:8, | $57: 13$ | 41:20, 75:12, 75:13, | Babelian [2] - 37:3, 37:14 | 19:8 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 51: 6 \\ & \text { Almost }{ }_{[1]}-84: 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { approval }_{[1]}-83: 13 \\ & \text { Arab }_{[1]}-40: 18 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 75:17, } 75: 25 \\ & \text { attaching }[1]-38: 14 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Baghdad [25]-25:7, } \\ & 25: 17,30: 24,31: 24, \end{aligned}$ | better [1] - 22:15 <br> between [6] - 18:4, |









| 37:1 |  | 85:2, 88:7, 95:24 | 5 | 62:25, 63:6, 69:2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| original [2] - 37:25 otherwise | ```part [8] - 14:22, 17:15, 18:6, 42:7, 68:23, 95:6, 96:4, 100:22 participate [1] - 37:14 participated [1] - 76:10 participation [1] - 37:3 particular [2] - 19:8, 70:14 parts [1]-69:13 Party [5]-12:17, 13:7, 19:13, 19:21, 45:23 party [39]-12:21, 12:23, 13:2, 14:21, 18:16, 19:8, 19:10, 19:19, 20:19, 31:13, 31:14, 36:2, 36:7, 43:4, 47:6, 48:11, 53:3, 53:5, 53:16, 53:17, 53:19, 53:20, 54:1, 54:3, 54:4, 54:5, 54:6, 54:7, 54:8, 54:9, 72:24, 73:17, 75:19, 76:2, 76:9, 76:11, 97:24, 97:25 passport [3]-26:16, 26:17, 60:19 passports [4]-26:9, 78:10, 80:7, 80:10 Passports [1] - 26:11 paternal [1]-20:11 pay \({ }^{[2]}-92: 8,92: 15\) payment [1] - 86:22 payments [1]-87:2 pencil [2]-10:16, 12:7 pending [2]-20:14, 20:15``` <br> PENTHOUSE ${ }_{[1]}$ - <br> 2:12 <br> people [16] - 9:10, <br> 13:23, 18:4, 28:5, <br> 29:5, 32:17, 34:23, <br> 39:18, 39:21, 43:10, <br> 61:14, 65:20, 65:21, <br> 68:15, 89:9 <br> per [1]-41:16 <br> percent [2]-46:22, <br> 88:11 <br> Perhaps [1] - 97:20 <br> perhaps [2] - 92:8, <br> 93:6 <br> period [7]-25:7, <br> 25:11, 31:15, 82:15, | 18: | 29:1, 29:12, 31:17 $42: 10,42: 12,82: 1$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { pro } \\ \text { 24:6 } \end{gathered}$ |
| 103:4, |  |  |  |  |
| ought [1] - 97:16 ourselves [1] - 43:5 |  | 27: | $\begin{aligned} & \text { positions [3] - 76:15, } \\ & 77: 21,83: 19 \end{aligned}$ | $47: 1$ |
| outlets [1] - 20:19 |  |  | possession [2] - | 36: |
| Outside [1] - 4:4 |  | 101 | 55: | $\text { e[1] - } 39$ |
|  |  | 24:9, 27:12, 32:19, 35:1, 35:15, 52:24, $58 \cdot 12,58 \cdot 13,64 \cdot 9$ | 84:11, 84:16 power [2] - 32:5, | properties [5] -19:21, 59:8, 59:1 |
| 50:23, 51:14, |  |  |  |  |
| 99:18, 100:7 <br> overhead [2] - 32:1 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 58: 12,58: 13,64: 9 \\ & 67: 25,68: 2,68: 8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 53:19 } \\ & \text { practically }[1] \text { - } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 61:18, } 61: 23 \\ & \text { proposed }[3]- \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 36:20 } \\ & \text { overruled } \end{aligned}$ |  | 87:14, 87:18, 88 | 35:25 <br> practice [1] - 84:18 precedence [1] - | 78:12, 101:6, 102:21 <br> prosecution [2] - <br> 66:13, 66:21 |
| 74:17, 92:11, 95 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 88: 8,88: 9,93: 7, \\ & 93: 11 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { precedence [1] - } \\ & 64: 17 \end{aligned}$ | prosecutors [1] 99:1 |
| 82:5, 89:5 overseeing | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 45:23 } \\ & \text { party }[39]-12: 21, \end{aligned}$ | 93:11 <br> personal [1] - 20:24 <br> personally [3] - 30:4, | precise [1]-18:2 <br> presence [9]-4:4 | 99:1 protect [3]-47:17, |
| own [7] - 21:5, 33:3, | $\begin{aligned} & 18: 16,19: 8,19: 10 \\ & 19: 19, ~ 20: 19 \\ & 31: 13 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 43:8, 61:5 } \\ & \text { persons [5] - 19:7, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4: 8,50: 23,51: 14, \\ & 78: 1,78: 4,99: 19 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 71: 14,71: 21 \\ & \text { protection }[1]- \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 33: 15,33: 18,33: 24, \\ & 34: 2,35: 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 19:19, 20:19, 31:13, } \\ & 31: 14,36: 2,36: 7, \end{aligned}$ | persons [5] - 19:7, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 78:1, 78:4, 99:19, } \\ & \text { 100:4, 100:7 } \end{aligned}$ | protection [1] - $47: 17$ |
|  | 43:4, 47:6, 48:11, | 77:20 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 100:4, 100:7 } \\ & \text { present }[2]-8: 11, \end{aligned}$ | protective [1] - |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 53: 3,53: 5,53: 16, \\ & 53: 17,53: 19,53: 20, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { perspective }[1] \text { - } \\ & 29: 5 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 101:17 } \\ & \text { proud }[1]-13: 24 \end{aligned}$ |
| P. |  | pertain [1] - 44:12 <br> pertains [1]-52:16 | presenting [1] - 102:22 | proud [1]-13:24 <br> provide [2]-14:17, |
| 79 |  | pertains [1] - 52:16 <br> photo [1]-57:20 | 102:22 <br> president [2]-13:23, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 31:13 } \\ & \text { provided [2] - 50:2, } \end{aligned}$ |
| 105:15 |  | phrase [1] - 35:24 physically [1]-33:6 Pibi [4]-6:18, 6:24, | $49: 6$ | $50: 7$ |
| PAGE [1] - 106:12 Page $[22]$ - 10:8, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 97:24, 97:25 } \\ & \text { passport }[3]-26: 16, \end{aligned}$ |  | PRESIDING ${ }_{[1]}-1: 3$ |  |
| 10:11, 17:5, 17: | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 26:17, 60:19 } \\ & \text { passports [4]-26:9, } \end{aligned}$ | $6: 25,7: 17$ | presumptuous [2] - | $75: 1$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 17: 20,35: 17,37: 17, \\ & 38: 1,40: 8,43: 6, \\ & 43: 17,49: 16,50: 16, \end{aligned}$ | $78: 10,80: 7,80: 10$ | picture [1] - 57:17 <br> piece [2]-45:19, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 77:11, 79:7 } \\ & \text { previous [1] - 52:24 } \end{aligned}$ | publicly [2]-12:25, |
| 52:10, 57:21, 67:4, | Passports [1] -26:11 | 46:14 pieces [4]-22:3 | previously $[5]-12: 9$, $14: 13,52: 13,81: 8$ | 13:3 publish [2]-48:23, |
| 67:19, $69: 6,69: 14$, 72.22 |  | 22:6, 84:4, 84:5 | 82:8 | 57:13 published [4] - |
| 72:22 page [24]-10:14 | paternal [1] - 20:11 <br> pay ${ }_{[2]}-92: 8,92: 15$ | $\text { place }[1]-50:$ | prison [1] - 96:5 |  |
| 10:16, 12:6, 15:18 | payment [1] - 86:22 <br> payments [1]-87:2 | intiff [1] - 1 | private [1] - 75:8 | 21:14, 38:22, 57:2, <br> 57:12 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 17:7, 35:19, 38:18 } \\ & 40: 7,49: 1,55: 19, \end{aligned}$ | payments [1]-87:2 <br> pencil [2]-10:16, | PLAINTIFF [1]-2:3 <br> plant [2]-29:12, | probable [1]-56:24 <br> problem [4] - 48:4, | purpose [2] - 71:18, |
| 55:23, 56:6, 56:19, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 12:7 } \\ & \text { pending }[2]-20: 14, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 33:23 } \\ & \text { planted }[5]-33: 4, \end{aligned}$ | $48: 5,89: 9,89: 1$ | PURSUANT [1] - |
| 56:20, 57:5, 69:14 $73 \cdot 6,73 \cdot 7$ 73:10 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 20:15 } \\ & \text { PENTHOUSE }[1] \text { - } \end{aligned}$ |  | 104:14 | 106:9 |
| 73:15, 73:19, 73:20, |  | $\begin{aligned} & 33: 15,33: 18,33: 21, \\ & 34: 2 \end{aligned}$ | procedure [1] | $\text { put }[9]-18: 2,32: 11,$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 74:3, } 74: 11 \\ & \text { paid }[13]-86: 7,86: 9 \end{aligned}$ | ```2:12 people [16] - 9:10, 13:23, 18:4, 28:5,``` | $\begin{aligned} & \text { player }[1]-57: 25 \\ & \text { pledge }[2]-93: 8 \text {, } \\ & 93: 11 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 103:1 } \\ & \text { proceeding }[1] \text { - } \\ & \text { 105:15 } \\ & \text { PROCEEDINGS }[2] \text { - } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 45: 6,79: 10,79: 12, \\ & 84: 24,87: 19,93: 23, \\ & 99: 8 \\ & \text { putting }[1]-33: 3 \end{aligned}$ |
| 86:18, 87:7, 94:11, | 29:5, 32:17, 34:23, | $93: 11$ |  |  |
| 94:14, 94:18, 95:5, |  | pledged ${ }_{[1]}-93: 1$ |  |  |
| 95:6, $95: 15,95: 17$, $95: 18$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { plural }_{[1]}-102: 2 \\ & \text { point }[1]-18: 2 \end{aligned}$ | 1:16, 106:11 <br> process [2] - 60:10, |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 68: 15,89: 9 \\ & \text { per }[1]-41: 16 \\ & \text { percent }[2]-46: 22, \end{aligned}$ | point [1]-18:2 <br> pointing [1] - 69:18 | 68:12 | $\begin{gathered} \text { questions [14] - } \\ \text { 22:13, 44:11, 44:13, } \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 22:7, } 45: 19,46: 14 \\ \text { papers [2]-21:21, } \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 31: 5,44: 4,44: 5 \\ & \text { policy }[1]-85: 3 \\ & \text { political }[3]-19: 18, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -106: 7 \\ & \quad \text { proffer }[19]-11: 13, \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 84:4 paperwork [2] - | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 88:11 } \\ & \text { Perhaps }[1]-97: 20 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { proffer [19] - 11:13, } \\ 11: 14,21: 22,22: 2, \end{gathered}$ | 78:9, 80:13, 80:15, 85:17, 85:22, 86:5, |
| 71:10, 75:10 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 93:6 } \\ & \text { period }[7]-25: 7 \text {, } \\ & \text { 25:11, } 31: 15,82: 15 \text {, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 20:2, } 38: 25 \\ & \text { politics }[2]-18: 19 \\ & \text { poor }[1]-61: 4 \\ & \text { portion }[1]-101: 25 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 22:6, 22:10, 22:19, } \\ & 23: 5,23: 21,24: 23, \\ & 25: 2,27: 1,27: 10, \\ & 28: 8,62: 2,62: 16, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 87:11, 103:8 } \\ & \text { quote }[3]-58: 2, \\ & 58: 8,58: 10 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| parliament [1] - |  |  |  |  |



| ```86:16, 93:14, 96:1, 98:5 session [10] - 4:6, 28:9, 51:13, 62:2, 62:16, 62:25, 63:6, 69:2, 78:3, 100:6 set \([3]-43: 4,75: 6\), 100:9 Several [1]-11:4 severe [1] - 47:1 Shamon [2]-13:17, 20:11 Shaoul [4]-5:4, 23:19, 23:20, 52:1 SHAOUL [3]-1:10, 2:10, 3:3 shocked [1] - 24:13 shop [1] - 16:13 show [10]-10:8, 38:20, 39:17, 48:23, 55:19, 56:17, 67:8, 67:19, 73:18 Showing [2] - 68:19, 93:17 showing [3] - 69:5, 69:12, 72:22 shown [1] - 25:1 shredded [1] - 84:4 side [6] - 22:20, 33:11, 102:21, 103:3, 104:19, 104:22 sides [2] - 99:4, 104:11 signature [6]-21:23, 21:25, 22:1, 37:22, 37:23, 37:24 signed [9] - 21:23, 22:3, 22:4, 22:6, 32:19, 59:16, 59:19, 59:24, 72:15 similar \({ }_{[1]}\) - 73:10 simple [2]-29:22, 100:9 simply [2] - 16:22, 45:3 Sinhari [5] - 49:6, 50:2, 50:4, 50:6, 64:22 sit [1] - 45:25 situation [2] - 38:25, 61:17 Six [2]-12:1, 12:4 six [1] \(-12: 3\) slighter [1]-73:3 small [2] - 34:25, 35:3 so... [1] - 61:5 soccer [2]-57:25, 65:1 socialist \([1]\) - \(36: 2\)``` | $\begin{aligned} & \text { someone }[3]-10: 18, \\ & \text { 10:23, 22:7 } \\ & \text { sometimes [1] - 11:7 } \\ & \text { son }[4]-13: 23, \\ & \text { 40:16, } 64: 22,68: 18 \\ & \text { soon }[2]-49: 3, \\ & 61: 20 \\ & \text { Sorry }[4]-16: 14, \\ & \text { 20:12, 41:3, 48:20 } \\ & \text { sorry }[10]-16: 9, \\ & 19: 5,26: 12,55: 20, \\ & 64: 4,70: 7,77: 10, \\ & \text { 91:16, 96:14, 101:2 } \\ & \text { sort }[2]-27: 22, \\ & \text { 104:23 } \\ & \text { source }[8]-24: 9, \\ & 62: 4,62: 13,62: 24, \\ & 92: 16,93: 5,98: 2, \\ & 98: 3 \\ & \text { sources }[1]-91: 18 \\ & \text { space }[1]-57: 12 \\ & \text { speaking }[1]-103: 6 \\ & \text { special }[1]-101: 17 \\ & \text { Special }[1]-8: 14 \\ & \text { specific }[1]-85: 17 \\ & \text { speculation }[2]- \\ & 66: 23,96: 24 \\ & \text { Speculation }[3]- \\ & 9: 1,9: 4,30: 11 \\ & \text { speech }[1]-45: 4 \\ & \text { spell }[5]-5: 3,7: 2, \\ & 51: 25,79: 21,80: 25 \\ & \text { spoken }[1]-66: 7 \\ & \text { sport }[2]-56: 11, \\ & 56: 12 \\ & \text { sports }[2]-57: 1 \\ & \text { spot }[1]-17: 20 \\ & \text { SPRING }[2]-1: 23, \\ & 2: 6 \\ & \text { spying }[3]-82: 8, \\ & 82: 14,88: 2 \\ & \text { ss }[1]-106: 3 \\ & \text { staff }[2]-82: 17, \\ & 82: 24 \\ & \text { stand }[5]-15: 13, \\ & 15: 17,42: 24,79: 19, \\ & 80: 22 \\ & \text { start }[1]-46: 1 \\ & \text { started }[3]-75: 2, \\ & 75: 5,84: 25 \\ & \text { starts }[1]-40: 8 \\ & \text { state }[7]-32: 1,32: 2, \\ & 32: 8,34: 12,46: 19, \\ & 73: 2,77: 18 \\ & \text { STATE }[1]-106: 4 \\ & \text { statements }[1]- \\ & 103: 9 \\ & \text { STATES }[6]-1: 1, \\ & 1: 4,2: 3,106: 7,106: 9, \\ & 106: 14 \end{aligned}$ | ```States [4]-12:14, 14:19, 35:1, 44:21 stating [1] - 60:17 stations [1] - 82:13 stay [1] - 47:16 stayed [3]-6:4, 6:7, 31:11 staying[1] - 72:3 STENOGRAPHICA LLY[1] - 106:11 step [1]-50:22 stern [1]-47:1 Stevie [1] - 6:23 still [7] - 5:6, 21:11, 21:20, 52:3, 59:2, 79:25, 81:3 stipulated [1] - 73:22 stipulations [1] - 101:22 stole [1] - 60:8 story [5]-22:20, 24:1, 24:12, 34:20, 65:10 straightforward [1] - 28:1 Street [1] - 16:12 STREET[2]-1:23, 2:6 street [1] - 16:14 stricken [6]-21:18, 39:7, 40:1, 40:2, 40:21, 42:18 Strike [4]-31:3, 48:19, 74:8, 88:19 strike [5] - 21:17, 39:5, 40:19, 44:18, 48:16 structure [1]-76:15 student [2]-75:15, 75:16 students [1] - 75:22 subject [1] - 46:2 submit [1] - 29:25 subtract [1]-58:14 suffering [1] - 35:4 SUITE [2]-2:12, 2:17 summaries [2] - 102:11, 102:12 sums [1]-25:25 superseding [1] - 104:3 supervision [1] - 97:15 supplemental [3] - 78:12, 101:21, 102:24 support [3]-19:15, 43:8 supporter [1] - 65:1 supposed [2] - 15:7,``` | ```71:9 supposedly [2] - 31:5, 32:7 surprised [3] - 24:13, 24:15, 28:6 suspect [1] - 27:16 suspected [2] - 27:24, 28:9 suspicion [2] - 27:14, 28:1 Sustained [11] - 66:19, 66:25, 73:23, 82:21, 85:24, 88:24, 89:15, 91:2, 95:3, 96:25, 98:9 sworn [1] - 81:8 symbol [1] - 82:9 system [1] - 91:12 systems [1] - 91:14```T <br> Ta'akhi $[1]-56: 25$ <br> talks $[1]-68: 24$ <br> taxi $[2]-25: 12,25: 13$ <br> team $[2]-57: 25$, <br> $65: 2$ <br> technical $[1]-85: 1$ <br> technology $[1]-$ <br> 84:25 <br> television $[3]-$ <br> 24:18, 24:20, 24:21 <br> ten $[1]-100: 23$ <br> term $[7]-5: 12,5: 16$, <br> $5: 18,13: 21,36: 7$, <br> $68: 15$ <br> TERRY $[1]-1: 3$ <br> testified $[14]-6: 3$, <br> $12: 9,14: 13,24: 4$, <br> $24: 17,30: 16,36: 10$, <br> $44: 2,52: 13,55: 5$, <br> $67: 15,77: 16,81: 8$, <br> $86: 3$ <br> testify $[7]-15: 8$, <br> $33: 17,71: 15,86: 18$, <br> $94: 12,102: 9$ <br> testimony $[33]-$ <br> $11: 5,11: 18,13: 14$, <br> $14: 17,15: 15,15: 17$, <br> $15: 22,16: 21,25: 5$, <br> $25: 6,25: 22,26: 18$, <br> $28: 8,31: 5,34: 8,35: 6$, <br> $43: 21,47: 13,54: 23$, <br> $56: 1,63: 8,85: 15$, <br> $86: 23,87: 1,87: 2$, <br> $87: 3,87: 8,92: 9,94: 8$, <br> $94: 15,94: 17,95: 16$ <br> text $[8]-17: 21,21: 4$, <br> $22: 7,41: 12,49: 24$, <br> $53: 6,56: 17,67: 8$ | thanked [2] - 34:15 <br> THAT [2]-106:9, <br> 106:12 <br> THE [207]-2:3, 2:10, 4:5, 4:7, 4:13, 4:15, 4:18, 5:4, 5:6, 5:8, <br> 5:11, 5:12, 5:14, 5:15, 5:22, 5:23, 5:24, 6:19, 7:2, 7:3, 7:7, 9:5, 9:7, 15:24, 16:4, 16:7, 16:8, 16:10, 16:25, 17:2, 18:9, 19:1, 19:7, 20:15, 21:9, 21:18, 23:9, 23:12, 26:11, 30:12, 30:13, 31:3, 33:9, 33:10, 33:11, 33:12, 33:13, 38:3, 39:2, 39:7, 40:2, 40:4, 40:21, 42:20, 42:24, 43:14, 45:5, 45:7, 47:19, 48:16, 48:19, 49:17, 49:19, 50:17, 50:22, 51:4, 51:8, 51:9, 51:12, 51:14, 51:19, 51:20, 51:23, 52:1, 52:3, 52:5, 52:6, 54:11, 58:19, 59:13, 62:10, 63:2, 63:3, 63:4, 63:18, 63:21, 66:17, 66:19, 66:25, 70:3, 70:6, 70:23, 70:24, 70:25, 71:3, 71:24, 72:1, 72:19, 73:23, 74:1, 74:6, 74:8, 74:9, 74:15, 74:16, 74:18, 76:6, 76:20, 76:22, 77:1, 77:3, 77:10, 77:15, 77:22, 77:23, 78:2, 78:4, 78:11, 78:16, 78:18, 78:22, 78:25, 79:2, 79:5, 79:18, 79:23, 79:25, 80:2, 80:3, 80:15, 80:17, 80:18, 80:19, 80:22, 81:2, 81:3, 81:5, 81:9, 81:22, 81:25, 82:5, 82:21, 84:15, 85:10, 85:24, 88:19, 88:24, 89:5, 89:15, 89:24, 90:4, 91:2, 91:16, 91:18, 92:11, 94:4, 94:21, 95:3, 95:10, 95:13, 95:22, 95:23, 96:14, 96:15, 96:25, 98:9, 98:11, 98:13, 98:16, 99:18, 99:22, 100:5, 100:7, 100:11, 100:14, 100:18, 100:24, 101:3, 101:5, 101:11, 102:16, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


wrote [46] - 12:9,
13:6, 17:24, 18:3,
19:16, 19:20, 20:18,
21:5, 22:7, 32:11,
32:25, 35:21, 36:17, 37:2, 37:18, 38:5,
38:14, 40:9, 41:7,
41:18, 42:4, 42:14,
43:2, 43:8, 43:19,
44:2, 46:25, 47:4,
47:8, 47:12, 47:25,
48:12, 49:3, 52:13,
53:2, 53:15, 53:18,
53:25, 54:13, 57:1,
58:13, 67:13, 71:17,
71:22, 72:3
$\mathbf{Y}$
Yakarub [1]-23:11
Yaquob [1]-23:6
year [3] - 42:5, 54:18,
62:8
years [5] - 41:7, 55:2,
58:25, 59:4, 86:17
yesterday [10] - 4:22,
5:12, 6:3, 15:8, 26:18,
30:16, 35:7, 36:10,
44:2, 55:5
Youssif [6] - 23:6,
23:10, 24:5, 38:19,
39:12, 67:14
Yukhanna [11] -
44:13, 44:17, 45:21,
46:21, 47:5, 47:12,
47:16, 47:25, 50:8,
69:4, 70:14
Yukhanna's [1] -
50:13
Yunan [1] - 19:3

