

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

OUT-TELEGRAM

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: 11 November 2002

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Individuals Detained in Gambia

1. Three individuals associated with the prominent spiritual cleric Omar OTHIMAN @ Abu QATADA were detained in Banjul by the Gambian authorities on 8 November. Secret and reliable reporting had indicated that Jamil EL-BANNA @ Abu ANAS, Bishr AL RAWI and Wahab AL RAWI were travelling to Gambia to set up a groundnut oil factory.
 2. Abu ANAS (28/5/62) is a Jordanian Palestinian veteran of the Afghan-Soviet war and is assessed to be Abu QATADA's financier. Abu ANAS is in close contact with members of the GSPC and FIT and his home is reported to have been used by these groups as a meeting place.
 3. Bishr AL RAWI (23/12/67) is an Iraqi Islamist extremist who is a member of Abu QATADA's close circle of associates. He has previously come to our attention for his financial activities in connection with Abu ANAS. Bishr's enthusiasm for extreme sports has often brought him to the attention of the police. For example, he was seen driving away from the M4 flyover at Brentford in March 2001, which he and two other individuals had been seen climbing. He is also a qualified diver, a keen dinghy sailor and parachutist.
 4. Wahab AL RAWI, Bishr's brother, is a close associate of Abu ANAS. Secret and reliable reporting has indicated that Wahab was taking the lead in the plans for setting up the peanut oil factory. Further reporting has revealed that he travelled to Gambia on 28 October, in advance of Bishr and Abu ANAS.
 5. Bishr AL RAWI, Abu ANAS and a further individual Abdallah Ghazi EL JANOUDI attempted to travel to Gambia on 1 November. However, they were detained by members of the
- [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Anti-Terrorist Branch at Gatwick Airport under the Terrorism Act 2000. A search of their baggage revealed that they were carrying some form of suspicious home made electronic device. All three individuals were released on 4 November after it was assessed that the device was a commercially available battery charger that had been modified by Bishr AL RAWI in order to make it more powerful.

6. [REDACTED] EL JANOUDI (18/9/62), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He was born in Beirut and is now a naturalised British Citizen. Secret and reliable reporting has indicated that EL JANOUDI is a close associate of Bishr AL RAWI.

7. Bishr AL RAWI, Abu ANAS and EL JANOUDI returned to Gatwick on 8 November and departed for Gambia. Special Branch enquiries on the day revealed that a fourth individual, Ibrahim YOUSIF, had the same booking reference as the other three, indicating that he was travelling with them. YOUSIF removed himself from the aircraft before the gate closed, claiming that he was too ill to travel. Special Branch were notified and he was detained under the Terrorism Act 2000. During a police interview YOUSIF admitted that he was carrying a bag for the other three (a subsequent search of this bag had revealed numerous Qu'rans). YOUSIF was later released [REDACTED]

8. On arrival in Gambia on the evening of 8 November Bishr AL RAWI, Abu ANAS and EL JANOUDI were detained by the local authorities for questioning. Wahab AL RAWI and an individual called Omar OMARI [REDACTED] were also detained when they came to meet the other three at Banjul airport.

9. We are receiving updates from [REDACTED] regarding these detainees. We will forward any further relevant information in due course.

10. Regards,
[REDACTED]