VIA Chart: NY World Trade Center Bombing/"Day of Terror" Plot

Group Formation/ Organization

1981 - Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman stands trial for inciting the murder of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Rahman is acquitted, however, the assassination is blamed directly on his incendiary preaching.

Early 90's - Ibrahim A. Elgabrowny moves into his cousin El Said Nosair's apartment in Brooklyn.

1988 - Mohammed Salameh arrives in U.S. on tourist visa. Five months later, he applies for amnesty, even though he doesn't qualify. Three years later, INS denies application, but he then re-applies under a separate request.

1990 - Rahman departs Egypt, ostensibly on pilgrimage to Mecca. Goes instead to Sudan where he applies for and is given a tourist visa in a false name. Slips by State Department Watch list into U.S.

1990 - At the Brooklyn and NJ mosques, Rahman preaches to his followers who would play central roles in murders linked to the group as well as the WTC bombing and the follow-on plots against NY landmarks and key public figures. In addition to Elgabrowny and Salameh, these followers include Nidal Ayyad, Bilal Alkaisi, Abdo Haggag, Abdul Yasin, Eyad Ismail, Siddig Siddig Ali, Rodney Hampton-El, and Mahmud Abouhalima (who would emerge as the central figure in the WTC plot).

Sept 92 - Mohammad Ahmed Ajaj arrested trying to enter U.S. on false Svriss passport. His effects also contain manuals on how to build bombs. Ramzi Ahmed Yousef enters with sequential airline ticket number and multiple forged documents. Yousef asks for asylum, is given a hearing date, and released.

Group Intentions/ Propaganda

1990 - Rahman begins preaching at Masjid al-Salam Mosque in Jersey City where he advocates jihad against the enemies of Islam.

1992 - Rahman is preaching at Masjid al-Salam in Jersey City. His sermons regularly advocate violence against all Israeli sympathizers, particularly resident countries. His tapes are shipped back to Egypt and broadcast on a Hizbollah-controlled radio station.

1992 - Rahman also preaches at the Abu Bakr mosque in Brooklyn where he delivers the same message of jihad.

Group Finance/Logistics & Training

1989 - Several members of the NY/NJ group receive training from Ali Mohamed, indicted in 1998 as a member of Usama Bin Laden's organization.

1990 - Rahman stays with Mustafa Shalabi, an Egyptian electrical contractor in Brooklyn. The two men rival to raise money to help Mujahideen rebels in Afghanistan. Funds are secretly diverted to support Islamic groups (the Gama'a and EIJ) in Egypt. Focal point of the effort is the Alkifah Refugee Center in NJ.

1992/1993 - Salameh and Yousef share bank account. Salameh and Al-Kaisi share bank account. Credit cards are on dual names. Money is funneled into accounts from banks in Germany.

1993 - Group raises money via a "coupon" scam.

1990/1993 - Iran allegedly funnels money to Rahman via German banks.

1993 - Sudanese diplomats at UN allegedly offer to provide diplomatic plates for use on vehicle bombs targeting the UN building.

1992/1993 - Ayyad uses his access to explosive materials as a chemical engineer or order/obtain bomb making components. Salameh rents a storage area where components are stored and the bomb is assembled.

1993 - Siddig Ali leads the Day of Terror group and procures bomb components as well as an area to assemble the devices.

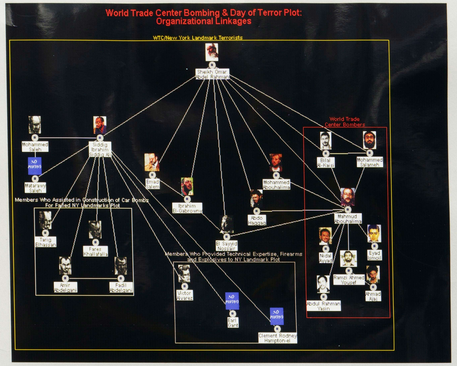
Demonstrated Group Activities

1990 - El Said Nosair is jailed for killing Rabbi Meir Kahane. Mahmud Abouhalima may be involved.

1 Mar 1990 - Shalabi is found murdered in his apartment, surrounded by books about explosives. Rahman is nowhere to be found. Mahmud Abouhalima and Abdo Haggag are chief suspects in murder case.

Target Selection and Surveillance

- Targets were selected at least six months in advance and were surveilled thoroughly.
- One group member once worked at a WTC facility as a security guard. A raid on another group member's apartment (after the incident) turned up floor plans for the facility.
- At least one "dry run" (driving a vehicle all the way to the delivery point in the underground garage) was conducted prior to the WTC attack.
- Evidence suggests the Sheikh Rahman approved the selection of targets and even suggested the targeting of a US military facility as part of the "Day of Terror."
- Targets selected were approved based upon their "symbolic" value relative to the radical Islamic views of the Blind Sheikh.



Group Pre-Incident M.O - WTC

1 — Early 80's - Ibrahim A. Elgabrowny moves into his cousin El Said Nosair's apartment in Brooklyn.

5 — 1988 - Mohammed Salameh arrives in U.S. on tourist visa. 5 months later, he applies for amnesty under SAW, even though he doesn't qualify. 3 years later, INS denies application, but he has re-applied elsewhere.

10 — 1989 -1990: Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali works as a security guard for Federal Home Loan Bank in the World Trade Center.

15 — 1990 - Rahman departs Egypt, ostensibly on pilgrimage to Mecca. Goes instead to Sudan where he applies for and is given a tourist visa in a false name. Slips by State Department Watch list into U.S.

20 — 1991 - During Gulf War, Mohammed Salameh's name appears on 185,000 name FBI list of possible Arab terrorists in U.S.

25 — Sept 92 - Mohammad Ahmed Ajaj arrested trying to enter U.S. on false Svriss passport. Ramzi Ahmed Yousef enters with a sequential airline ticket number. Customs does not pick him up.

30 — Late 92 - Salameh and Ramzi Ahmed Yousef briefly share an apartment.

35 — Jan 93 - Salameh and Yousef are involved in an accident. Yousef arranges wire of $2,400 from Germany, ostensibly to pay for injuries.

40 — Feb 15, 1993 - Nidal Ayyad and Mohammed Salameh rent a car together; surveill WTC.

45 — Mid Feb 93 - Account bearing joint names of Ayyad and Salameh receives funds from Dusseldorf, Germany. Account ostensibly set up for a wholesale candy business. Ayyad claimed that the business failed, resulting in withdrawal of funds.

50 — Mid Feb 93 - An Arab-looking male rents storage locker space at a local storage warehouse. The space was rented in the name "Kamal Ibrahim", a possible pseudonym for Salameh.

55 — 22 Feb. - Rahman last seen in NYC around beginning of Ramadan.

60 — Feb 23, 1993 - Ayyad and Salameh drive to Ryder Truck rental; Salameh rents van. Gives Ibrahim Elgabrowny's address as his own.

65 — Feb 23, 1993 - Ayyad acquires bomb materials and stores them at Salameh's warehouse. Bilal Al-Kaisi is seen outside warehouse.

70 — Feb 24, 1993 - Salameh and Yousef begin to manufacture bomb.

75 — Feb 25, 1993 - Calls received at Allied Signals for Ayyad from Salameh at the warehouse, requesting instructions for manufacturing the bomb.

80 — Feb 25, 1993 - Having used his position as a chemical engineer to place the order, Ayyad has several cylinders of compressed hydrogen gas are delivered, then loaded into the Ryder van.

85 — Feb 25, 1993- Salameh packs explosives in van - van is seen outside warehouse in afternoon.

90 — Feb 25, 1993 - Mahmud Abouhalima and Salameh are seen with Yousef gassing up van at night.

95 — Feb 26, 1993 - Eyad Ismoil Salameh picks up van, set timer on device, drives the van to the World Trade Center underground garage, and leave.

100 — Feb26, 1993 (approx. 12:30 p.m.) - Device detonates.

Group Pre-Incident M.O - Landmarks Bomb/ Assassination Plot

1 — 1990 - All suspects who will eventually be arrested, tried, and convicted in this plot are present at the Nosair trial along with: Elgabrowny, Salameh, and Abouhalima. All are followers of Rahman.

5 — 1991 - Emad Salem, a former Egyptian Army officer is recruited into the group by Elgabrowny. Unknown to the group however is the fact that Salem is an FBI informant tasked with watching the activities of Rahman and those connected with Nosair.

10 — May 7, 1993 - Siddig Ali meets with Salem to discuss placing car bomb in U.N. garage.

15 — May 18, 1993 - Siddig Ali tells Salem the FBI headquarters are also to be targeted.

20 — May 19, 1993 - Siddig Ali gives Salem $300 to rent a warehouse ("safehouse") where the bombs will be built.

25 — 27/28 May 1993 - Siddig Ali meets with Khalfatalla, Elhassan, Alvarez and Salem to test timing devices at warehouse.

30 — 30 May 1993 - Siddig Ali, Salem and Hampton-El meet to discuss other targets.

35 — 4 June 1993 - Siddig Ali and Salem met with Saleh.

40 — 22 June 1993 - Siddig Ali and Salem test explosives in Connecticut.

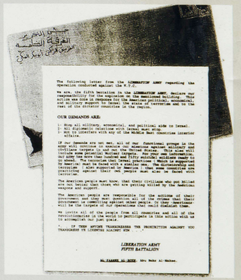
45 — 23 June 1993 - Alvarez and Salem try to buy illegal guns to support bombing plan.

50 — 19-27 June 1993 - Siddig Ali, Zaid, Khalfatalla, Elhassan and Alvarez mix the bomb materials.

55 — Two Sudanese diplomats at U.N. Building allegedly agree to provide diplomatic plates for the bomb-bearing car.

60 — 24 June 1993 - 8 men arrested in New York for conspiring to bomb Lincoln and Holland Tunnels, U.N. Building, and FBI Headquarters. Also included in plot were assassination attempts on Boutros-Ghali, Mubarak, D'Amato and Hikind.

Van similar to the one that carried the WTC explosive device.



WTC Bombing Claimer Letter Written and Sent By Ayyad