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The FBI concedes to releasing the Al-Hijjii in this context. The discussion of Christensen's article below makes it apparent that the Al-Hijjii are the subject of this brief.

**Briefing Title:** Al-Hijjii Family

**Date:** 4/30/2014

**Briefer:** Jackie Maguire

**Commissioner Attendees:** Hoffman, Meese and Roemer

**Staff/FBI Attendees:** Gannon, Grewe, Pirko, Keena, Callahan

**Briefing Slides:** Browardbulldog.org Article, FBI [redacted] White Paper; Rapid Start Leads, Follow up Interviews, Tampa Case File [redacted] Interviews, FDLE Report

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b7C -1

**MFR:** Keena and Pirko

**Headers:**

- Request for Information
- Overview of Article and FBI Actions
- FBI Findings
- Opening EC 4/16/2002
- Information Management Databases
- Gaps/Possible Issues/Recommendations

Revealing the focus of this specific document reveals the level of the FBI's investigative focus on these third parties. The complete extent of the FBI's focus has not been revealed. Releasing this information would result in further negative inferences, defamation, and possible harrasing questions directed at these individuals. The public knowledge to be gained from releasing this information does not outweigh the significant privacy interests of these individuals and justify the serious disruption of their lives release could entail.

The FBI has not disclosed its investigative interest in these individuals. Releasing them in this context would show an investigative connection to the most heinous act of terrorism on American soil. Releasing their names in this context would result in negative inferences, defamation, possible harrasing inquiries, and a marked disruption in their lives. The FBI has revealed its findings in this report. Releasing these names does not advance public understanding enough to justify disrupting these individuals' lives.

**Request for Information:**

- Roemer - What happened to and currently where are the three individuals [redacted]
- Grewe - How long had [redacted] been an agent when he wrote the EC?
- Roemer - What were the Tampa field office's responses to the article and the renewed interest in the case?

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**Overview of Article and FBI A**

Dan Christensen, editor and fo  
was new information that sho  
family. The article was also prop  
wasn't reported to Congress or mentioned in the 9/11 Commission Report.

Plaintiff argues that this FBI employee's name has already been publically disclosed; however, any public disclosure of this individual's name has not been made public officially by the FBI. Plaintiff presumes the identity of this individual based on his own investigative reporting. A release by the FBI in this context would be an official confirmation by the FBI of this individual's identity. This would undoubtedly result in negative publicity as he/she would be connected with reporting deemed faulty by the FBI, and harrasing questions that would seriously disrupt this individual's life and/or his/her ability to conduct official FBI business. Releasing this information in this context does not advance the public understanding of government operation enough to justify disrupting this FBI's employee's life.

Based on the article, the FBI looked further into the case. Articles are still being written as this is an ongoing issue in Tampa.

Former Florida Senator, Bob Graham, continues to question the Al-Hijjii's ties to the 9/11 attack, even after the FBI had concluded that the family had no connection to the hijackers or knowledge of the 9/11 plot. Graham believes:

1. There was telephonic contact between the hijackers and the Al-Hijjii family
2. FBI has the gate records that show the hijackers coming into the housing community where the Al-Hijjii's resided. (FBI does not have those records, due to the lack of connection found to the hijackers)

Updated: 5/6/2014

The FBI concedes to releasing the Al-Hijjii in this context. This is the FBI's summary of information released in a public article.

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The FBI concurs that the information originally protected pursuant to Exemption 7D can be released here. However, the FBI should not release the third parties of investigative interest here. Revealing these names shows the nature and extent of the FBI's investigative interest in these subjects. Release here would result in negative inferences, defamation, possibly harrasing inquiries, and possible disruption of these individuals' lives. Releasing these individuals information does not advance public knowledge of government operations enough to justify considerable disruption of these individuals' lives.

Jackie met with Senate Select Committee on Intelligence staff members. FBI went through and its findings. She assumes everything is resolved so back; however Graham continues to question the FBI.

Within 2 weeks after 9/11, the FBI received 2 leads from a local postal inspector about the [redacted] [redacted] nail piling up, 1 lead from a neighbor stating that [redacted] was unfriendly and suddenly left the area and 1 lead stating no movement in the house. The FBI [redacted] [redacted] in April 2002.

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b7E -1, 2

Redaction of these third parties of investigative interest risks the same harms as described above.

Those types of leads are not unique to the FBI. The FBI gets calls like this all of the time and runs down all leads. It's not unusual to receive multiple calls on one individual or a group.

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[redacted]

[redacted] The interview summary EC was provided to Sen. Graham.

In April 2004, FBI agents [redacted]

[redacted]

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FBI Tampa released 2 press releases/general statements (2011 and 2012) regarding their findings that [redacted] had no connection to the hijackers.

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**FBI Findings:**

The FBI found no evidence that connected the family members mentioned in the article to any of the 9/11 hijackers, nor was any connection found between the family and the 9/11 plot. Through the PENTTBOM investigation, no evidence was found of contact between the hijackers and the family, to include [redacted] There was also no evidence the hijackers visited the family's residence.

b7E -1

According to the report, the hijackers visited the [redacted] and there was telephonic contact with the hijackers. The FBI found there is no evidence and no grounds that the family, or 2 & 3 degrees of separation, had any telephonic connection.

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[redacted] of the gated community, was mentioned in the article stating he had a gut feeling th [redacted] had something to do with the attacks. [redacted]

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[redacted] The FBI did not obtain the gate records from the [redacted] reason to believe there was a connection with the [redacted] reason to obtain the re [redacted]

Plaintiff argues that this FBI employee's name has already been publically disclosed; however, any public disclosure of this individual's name has not been made public officially by the FBI. Plaintiff presumes the identity of this individual based on his own investigative reporting. A release by the FBI in this context would be an official confirmation by the FBI of this individual's identity. This would undoubtedly result in negative publicity as he/she would be connected with reporting deemed faulty by the FBI, and harrasing questions that would seriously disrupt this individual's life and/or his/her ability to conduct official FBI business. Releasing this information in this context does not advance the public understanding of government operation enough to justify disrupting this FBI's employee's life.

FBI has determined that it should not release the third parties of investigative interest here. Revealing these names in this context would be an official acknowledgement of the nature and extent of the FBI's investigative interest in these subjects. Release here would result in negative inferences, defamation, possibly harrasing inquiries and possible disruption of these individuals' lives. Releasing these individuals information does not advance public knowledge of government operations enough to justify considerable disruption of these individuals' lives.

Plaintiff argues that this FBI employee's name has already been publically disclosed; however, any public disclosure of this individual's name has not been made public officially by the FBI. Plaintiff presumes the identity of this individual based on his own investigative reporting. A release by the FBI in this context would be an official confirmation by the FBI of this individual's identity. This would undoubtedly result in negative publicity as he/she would be connected with reporting deemed faulty by the FBI, and harrasing questions that would seriously disrupt this individual's life and/or his/her ability to conduct official FBI business. Releasing this information in this context does not advance the public understanding of government operation enough to justify disrupting this FBI's employee's life.

case. They interviewed the family members when they returned to th [redacted] contact information. However, Tampa did not have the derogatory needed to bump the investigation up to a [redacted] Other than the badly written [redacted] opening EC b [redacted] Tampa did everything correctly.

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b7E -2

There is no actual documentation of searches and work done to rule out connections. Jackie wrote the white paper provided. She also personall [redacted]

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**Opening EC 4/16/2002:**

On 4/16/2002 FBI agent [redacted] requested a [redacted] be opened on the [redacted] His opening EC stated that investigation revealed many connections between the [redacted] and the hijackers. Jackie stated this was a bad statement. It was overly speculative and there was no basis for the statement. The EC stated the family fled unexpectedly. It also stated [redacted] had connections with the [redacted] [redacted] however there was no connection with the [redacted]

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b7C -1, 2  
b7E -2

The FBI concedes to releasing this information originally redacted pursuant to Exemption 7D

The EC stated the family left suddenly; however further investigation from Florida Department of Law Enforcement indicated all clothing had been removed from the residence. Although suspicious, no evidence of foul play was found.

The opening EC concluded [redacted]

b7E -1, 3

This EC was shown to Senator Graham. Graham called [redacted] to discuss; however they never actually spoke.

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b7C -2

**Information Management Databases:**

Prior to 9/11, the FBI was using the leading tracking information management system, Rapid Start. It was a form of documenting information/leads that came in. The information is very helpful if future derogatory information is presented. If derogatory information is later

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presented or found, the FBI can go back and possibly find value in the information previously entered in Rapid Start.

After 9/11, ORION was used. The Operational Response and Investigative Online Network (ORION) is the FBI's crisis management system. ORION provides case management and related information processing capabilities to support Federal, State, Local and Tribal law enforcement personnel in coordinated response to crises at special events or critical incidents. ORION was recently deployed over to Alexandria, VA police through the law enforcement online network.

To avoid future EC lead issues, the FBI now uses Sentinel. The lead screen automatically pops up for the agent.

Gaps/Possible Issues/Recommendations:

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