

MFRO4020485
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CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Telephonic interview of Yajaira Ruiz

Date: June 22, 2004

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Marco A. Cordero

Team Number: 1A

Participants – Commission: Marco A. Cordero and Quinn John Tamm

Participants – Non-Commission: Yajaira Ruiz

9/11 Personal Privacy

On June 22, 2004, Marco A. Cordero and Quinn John Tamm contacted Yajaira Ruiz, born [redacted] in Los Angeles, California at telephone number [redacted]. Ruiz advised that she had recently moved [redacted] California with her husband named Saber Frika (PH).

Cordero advised Ruiz that [redacted] assigned to the 9-11 commission. Cordero advised that he was calling on behalf of the 9-11 commission and was interested in her relationship with Nawaf Al-Hazmi, Mohdar Abdullah, Khalid Al-Midhar, Omar Bakarbashat and Iyed Kreiwesh. During this phone call, Ruiz advised that she had

[redacted]

Ruiz advised that she worked at the Texaco gas station for approximately two years and quit only because the gas station was sold in 2001. She advised that she did not interact much with Nawaf Al-Hazmi because she worked inside the gas station as a clerk and bookkeeper while Al-Hazmi worked outside washing cars.

Ruiz advised that she worked with Mohdar Abdullah, but on a very limited basis as he usually replaced her when her shift ended, i.e. they worked separate shifts. Ruiz described Mohdar Abdullah as a nice guy, someone who appeared to be harmless and naïve, "a simple guy who went to school". Ruiz did not feel she knew Abdullah very well but advised that she did not find Mohdar Abdullah to exaggerate or lie. She could not and would not believe that Mohdar Abdullah was involved in any terrorist activities. Ruiz could not describe Mohdar Abdullah's relationship with Al-Hazmi or Khalid Al-Midhar as she was not familiar with either relationship. Ruiz advised that she never met Al-Midhar.

Ruiz advised that she did not know Omar Bakarbashat very well as he worked at the carwash and she rarely interacted with him. Ruiz advised that she did not notice a

change in behavior in either Bakarbashat or Mohdar Abdullah prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001. When asked whether she believed either one, i.e. Abdullah or Bakarbashat, knew of the attacks before September 11, 2001, she advised that she did not.

When asked about her relationship with Iyed Khreiwesh, Ruiz advised that she was very fond of Khreiwesh because he helped her find Islam. She described her relationship with Khreiwesh as one shared between siblings, describing him as a brother. When asked whether she ever traveled to Los Angeles with Khreiwesh, Ruiz advised that she traveled once to Anaheim, California with Khreiwesh, his wife and their children to celebrate Ramadan with Khreiwesh's brother. Ruiz advised that she got to know Khreiwesh and his family very well; she considers herself as part of their family.

Ruiz advised that she did not travel with Khreiwesh to Los Angeles at any other time for any other purpose. Ruiz denied ever being married to Khreiwesh in an Islamic ceremony in Los Angeles. When told that Mohdar Abdullah had reported that she had married Khreiwesh in an Islamic wedding in Los Angeles where he served as a witness, she remained quiet for several moments and advised that she did not know why Mohdar Abdullah would make that statement. Ruiz denied knowing or ever meeting Qualid Benomrane and/or Imam Al-Thumairy. Ruiz did not know whether Mohdar Abdullah and Khreiwesh had traveled to Los Angeles together at any time.

Ruiz advised that she did not fear either Mohdar Abdullah or Omar Bakarbashat, she did not believe that either one posed a danger to anyone. Ruiz did not know whether Mohdar Abdullah traveled to Los Angeles to pick up Nawaf Al-Hazmi and Khalid Al-Midhar upon their arrival to the U.S. in January 2000.

Cordero asked Ruiz whether she would be willing to take a polygraph regarding her responses to the questions pertaining to Khreiwesh and she advised that she would not.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Telephonic interview of Yajaira Ruiz

Date: June 24, 2004

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Marco A. Cordero

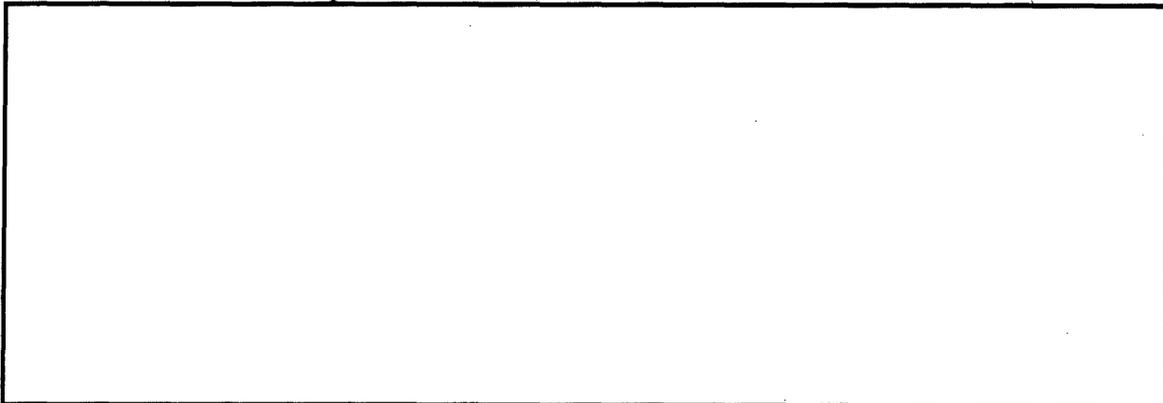
9/11 Personal Privacy

Team Number: 1A

Participants – Commission: Marco A. Cordero and Quinn John Tamm.

Participants – Non-Commission: Yajaira Ruiz

On June 24, 2004, Marco A. Cordero contacted Yajaira Ruiz at telephone number [redacted] to ask some follow up questions regarding their initial telephonic conversation which took place on June 22, 2004. Cordero asked Ruiz whether she could



At this time Cordero advised her that he had recently received information from several people who described her relationship with Khreiwesh as one that was very intimate and close and that he (Cordero) had received a copy of an apartment rental application in which she and Khreiwesh had described themselves as “new weds” which was signed on September 21, 2000. Ruiz remained silent for a moment and advised that they had referred themselves as newly weds for the sole purpose of renting an apartment together because she needed Khreiwesh’s help in obtaining an apartment. Cordero attempted to convey to her that the commission’s interest was not in her relationship with Khreiwesh but in the individuals reported to have served as witnesses in their Islamic ceremony. Ruiz remained quiet for some time and then advised that she did not marry Khreiwesh at any time in Los Angeles and again advised that she did not know Imam Al-Thumairy or Qualid Benomrane. She reiterated that she did not know why Mohdar Abdullah would make a statement alleging that he was a witness to a wedding between Khreiwesh and Ruiz.

Ruiz advised that she paid for the apartment rental, Khreiwesh never paid the rent.