

TEI # 08/03
EXTENSION # 06

AMENDED INVESTIGATIVE STATEMENT

**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK**

May 27, 2009

From: Intelligence Collection Coordinator and Intelligence Analysis Coordinator

To: Commanding Officer, Intelligence Division

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO EXTEND THE TERRORISM ENTERPRISE INVESTIGATION CONCERNING TABLIGHI JAMAAT AND THE NORTH AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS OF TABLIGHI JAMAAT LOCATED AT MASJID AL FALAH, 42-12 NATIONAL STREET, CORONA, QUEENS; AND OTHER LOCATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS AFFILIATED WITH TABLIGHI JAMAAT

1. Pursuant to the modified Handschu Guidelines, the undersigned requests that the Intelligence Division be authorized to extend the existing Terrorism Enterprise Investigation. This Terrorism Enterprise Investigation has revealed facts and circumstances that reasonably indicate that individuals associated with Tablighi Jamaat have engaged in, are engaged in, or are planning to engage in terrorism or in providing material support to persons and groups engaged in, or planning to engage in, terrorism or other unlawful conduct. Consequently, responsible handling of the information currently known requires an extension of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation. The requested extension is necessary so that accurate and reliable information may be obtained regarding any plans on the part of members of, or persons associated with, the subject organizations to engage in terrorism or other unlawful conduct. Such information may also be utilized by the Department to gather sufficient evidence to maximize the potential for successful prosecution of legal proceedings concerning individuals associated with the subject organizations, and to facilitate the efficient deployment of police resources to ensure public safety and security.

2. Tablighi Jamaat is an international Islamist proselytizing movement whose North American headquarters are located at The Islamic Center Masjid Al Falah ("Masjid Al Falah") located at 42-12 National Street, Corona, Queens, New York. The other subjects of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigative are individuals and locations which, during the course of an official investigation, have been determined to be affiliated with Tablighi Jamaat (meaning they

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either host visiting Jamaats, send Jamaats comprised of their congregants to do local neighborhood outreach, or send Jamaats elsewhere to perform outreach in other locations). The existing Terrorism Enterprise Investigation (TEI # 08/03) was authorized on April 18, 2003, and has been extended six times, with the last extension having been approved on May 12, 2009. **At the May 12, 2009 Handschu Committee Meeting approving the sixth extension of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation, it was decided that a recommendation should be made at the next meeting of the Committee regarding whether or not to discontinue the practice, first adopted for the fifth extension of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation, of including in the Investigative Statement, an appendix of locations believed to be affiliated with Tablighi Jamaat. Such consideration was given, and it was decided to recommend that the Investigative Statement for the sixth extension of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation be amended for the purpose of removing the appendix – a change reflected herein. In addition, there have been several editorial changes, including the elimination of previous paragraphs G, Q, and T.**

3. The factors justifying the extension of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation are as follows:

- A. The facts and circumstances reported in the prior Investigative Statements concerning this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation provided a reasonable indication that some members of, or persons associated with, the subject organizations were engaged in, or planning to engage in, unlawful conduct, including the provision of material support to organizations and individuals engaged in terrorism or other unlawful conduct, and are incorporated by reference herein. These facts and circumstances included that (i) Tablighi Jamaat has served as a recruiting ground for terrorists, and has included among its membership John Walker Lindh (also known as “American Taliban”), the Lackawanna Six (who were convicted of providing material support to Al Qaeda), the Portland Seven (who were convicted of aiding or attempting to join Al Qaeda), Mohammed Siddique Khan and Shehzad Tanweer (two of the suicide bombers from the July 7, 2005 London transit attacks that killed 52 civilians), Richard Reid (also known as the would-be “shoe bomber”) and fourteen men arrested in Barcelona in January 2008 for allegedly plotting to attack the Barcelona transit system; (ii) Al-Qaeda and affiliated groups are suspected of using Tablighi Jamaat membership as cover while traveling in order to appear as legitimate visitors; (iii) a significant number of foreign nationals associated with Tablighi Jamaat or claiming membership in Tablighi Jamaat have traveled to the United States from madrasas in South Africa and Pakistan that are reported to be used as recruitment and/or training grounds for terrorism; (iv) in December 2003, Suhail Teli, son of Masjid Al Falah member Dr. Iqbal Teli, was stopped by United States Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) and found to be in possession of an address book which included the names of 25 individuals associated with Al-Qaeda; (v) Tablighi Jamaat, through its affiliated mosques, recruits young Muslims to go on local and international trips called Jamaats during which they may be indoctrinated with Islamist ideologies that condone or encourage religiously motivated violence.

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- B. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that individuals associated with Masjid Al Falah, including its leadership, did prepare, distribute and utilize false Pakistani passports and other false identification documents to facilitate the illegal entry of aliens into both the United States and Pakistan. The Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation further indicated that since April 2006, individuals associated with Masjid Al Falah delivered false Pakistani and U.S. passports and social security cards to individuals in Manhattan and Brooklyn on at least four different occasions. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation also indicated that on May 30, 2006, Adil Tareen, who is a subject of investigation by a law enforcement agency other than the NYPD, promised to arrange for Hafiz Abu Bakr (a.k.a. Mohamed Ramzan, a congregant of Al Falah and a member of Tablighi Jamaat) to be granted U.S. Citizenship in exchange for \$50,000. **Bakr's citizenship application is pending, however he maintains valid Legal Permanent Resident status, and has a Green Card. Tarreen is a U.S. citizen, and upon current information available remains under investigation by an agency other than the NYPD. .**
- C. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that Fazlur-Rahman Azmi, a member of Tablighi Jamaat who is affiliated with the Madrasa Arabia Islamia (aka Darul Uloom Azaadville) in South Africa and who was denied admission to the United States on suspicion of links to terrorism on October 20, 2006, had visited the Darul Uloom madrasa located at 87-74 150th Street, Queens, New York in April 2006; Suhail Teli, one of the leaders of Masjid Al Falah, serves as the Director of the Darul Uloom madrasa in Queens. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation further indicated that in July 2006, Haroon Abassommar Saheb, a member of Tablighi Jamaat who is affiliated with Darul Uloom In'amiyah, in Camperdown, South Africa and who is the deputy Amir of the Jamiatul Ulama Transvall, a body of Muslim theologians in South Africa that has promoted Deobandi thought, and whose website includes statements by, among others, Abdullah Azzam, the spiritual leader of Al Qaeda, lectured at or was scheduled to lecture at the following Tablighi Jamaat affiliated mosques in the New York City area: the Darul Islah mosque in Teaneck, NJ; the Darul Uloom madrasa in Queens, New York; Masjid Baqi in Bethpage, NY; Masjid Hamza in Valley Stream, NY, and the Flushing Muslim Center in Flushing, NY. Information obtained further indicated that Haroon Abassommar Saheb is the brother-in-law and cousin of Habib Gardee, who is known to a law enforcement agency other than the NYPD as a member of Tablighi Jamaat and who has traveled to South Africa, and is associated with Masjid As-Saffat in Trenton, New Jersey.
- D. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that on the evening of January 19, 2006 (i) five individuals on a Jamaat from South Africa were

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driven from Masjid Al Falah, the acknowledged North American Headquarters for Tablighi Jamaat, to view a number of New York locations, including four bridges, Ground Zero, Times Square, the 42nd Street Public Library, the United Nations, a Hyatt hotel, and a Synagogue on 55th street; and (ii) one of individuals was taking written notes on all of these sites, including information about the route traveled, the timing between destinations, and the structure of the bridges observed during the trip.

- E. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation further indicated that at two o'clock in the morning on September 29, 2006, two members of Tablighi Jamaat, one on a Jamaat from South Africa, **and the other, Mufti Muhammad Naeem, alleged to be head of a radical madrasa in Pakistan**, were driven from Masjid Al Falah to various New York City locations, including a night club and the Jacob Javits Center. Information further indicated that the locations had been selected prior to the trip, and that observational notes from the evening were faxed to South Africa in the course of the evening from a fax machine in an anonymous deli instead of faxing them upon the group's return to Masjid Al Falah. **Information obtained since the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates representatives of Tablighi Jamaat continue to facilitate travel to the United States by visiting South African members of Tablighi Jamaat, and who are linked to locations in South Africa suspected of having ties to terrorism.**
- F. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation and obtained from a law enforcement agency other than the NYPD indicated that certain members of the leadership of Masjid Al Falah are directly linked to the Darul Uloom Al Madania madrasa, located at 365 Best Street, Buffalo, New York, and Masjid Zakariyya, located at 182 Sobieski Street, Buffalo, New York. Darul Uloom Al Madania and Masjid Zakariyya, both headed by Mohammad Ibrahim Memon, have been identified by CBP as having ties to the Darul Uloom madrasa in Azaadville, South Africa. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation and obtained from CBP further indicated that Mohammad Kashif Cheema, a recruiter for Tablighi Jamaat was a member of the above-referenced group that drove from Masjid Al Falah to observe various New York City sites on January 19, 2006, including Ground Zero and a Synagogue, and was in possession of a business card for Dr. M. Ismail Memon, founder of Darul Uloom Al Madania and Masjid Zakariyya in Buffalo.
- G. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that the members of Tablighi Jamaat have associated with members of Sipah-e-Sahaba (SSP) (a subject of TEI# 11/03), a Pakistani Sunni sectarian group that follows Deobandi Islam and is reported to have carried out a number of terrorist attacks aimed at practitioners of Shi'a Islam in Pakistan. Information obtained in the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that as of December 20, 2006, Mohammad Zubair Yaqub, a self-proclaimed member of SSP (i) regularly

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participates in Jamaats organized by Masjid Al Falah that are led by an alleged SSP leader Mufti Muneer Akhoon of Westchester Muslim Center (subject of TEI# 02/04); and (ii) shares residence with and is possibly related to Mohammad Yaqub, a reported president of the Muhammadi Mosque located at 681 Elmont Road in Elmont, a location that has been frequently visited by local and foreign Jamaats organized by Masjid Al Falah.

- H. Information reported in the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that multiple members of the congregation of Masjid Zakariyya, including Mian Ahmad, Farid Bhana, and Abdulmuqeet Choudhury, are on terrorist watch lists, and their travel is monitored by law enforcement agencies other than the NYPD. Information further indicated that Mian Ahmad, a congregant at Masjid Zakariyya, was and may still be a member of Jamaat al-Fuqra (also known as Muslims of America), which group is the subject of TEI # 14/03; Mian Ahmad lived for some time on a compound belonging to Jamaat Al-Fuqra in Hancock, New York. Information obtained since the fifth extension of this investigation indicates that TJ affiliate Mohammad Mansoor Memon has been on the terrorist watch list since May 12, 2008.
- I. Information obtained since the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates that Mohammad Mansoor Memon is the registered joint owner of two weapons (a .45 cal. and a .357 cal revolver) with his brother, Mohammad Ibrahim Memon, who additionally owns a third .22 cal. revolver. TJ affiliate Muhammad Sadruzzaman, who led a Jamaat from Masjid Zakariyya to Masjid Al Huda in Lackawanna, is on the Terror Watch List, and is listed as a possible terrorist organization member. He is an associate of Abdulmuqeet Choudhury, also on the Terror Watch List, who attends Masjid Zakariyya and went on a February 2008 jamaat to Lackawanna.
- J. Information reported in the investigative statement for the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that in July 2007, a Jamaat was held at the Islamic Association of Long Island, 10 Park Hill Road, Selden, New York, at which (i) Mohammed Zubair Yaqub, a supporter of the Sipah-e-Sahaba (a subject of TEI # 11/03), stated that because Tablighi Jamaat was being watched by the FBI, they were intentionally seeking out smaller venues outside of New York City because the police in those areas would not be aware of their presence; (ii) Mohammad Yaqub, the father of Mohammad Zubair Yaqub, is the president of Muhammadi Mosque, 681 Elmont Road, Elmont, New York, is an active recruiter for and promoter of Tablighi Jamaat, and was present at the Jamaat; (iii) members of the Jamaat including Mohammed Zubair Yaqub made statements to the effect that the women at Lal Masjid (the Red Mosque, then under control of radical Islamists and under siege by Pakistani government forces) were being sent by the Pakistani government to the US military to be used as prostitutes, that he would give his life and kill President Musharraf himself if it would free Pakistan, and that the US was responsible for the assault on Lal Masjid and they would "have their revenge."
- K. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that in October 2006, **Abdul Rashid (aka Abdallah Rasheed), an explosives expert from Rawalpindi,**

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Pakistan with a degree in Civil Engineering related to road and building construction, and originally the representative of Tablighi Jamaat at Masjid Noor Shahd in Brooklyn and a close associate of Sheikh Luqman and Dr. Iqbal Teli of Masjid Al Falah, (i) taught Amnas Paracha, the son of Hafiz Zia Paracha, the head Imam of Masjid Al Falah, how to generate an explosion by setting fire to lighters behind Amnas' house. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation also indicated on October 5, 2006, Amnas Paracha expressed concerns about Abdul Rashid and referred to him as "Osama bin Laden."

- L. Information obtained since the fifth extension of the Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates that (i) Abdul Rashid continues to participate in Tablighi Jamaat activities at Masjid Al-Falah and (ii) in July 2008, Rashid announced at Masjid Al-Falah what he referred to as a "new rule" for every group participating in three day Jamaats - that before going home after completion of a Jamaat, all groups must report their activities to Masjid Al-Falah, "no matter the time."
- M. **Information obtained since the fifth extension of the Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates that TJ members from Makki Masjid have stated that "they report to TJ headquarters of Al Falah" and participate in domestic and international Jamaats with Al Falah congregants.**
- N. Information reported in the fourth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that in August of 2007, Rashid led a Jamaat from the New York City area to the United Kingdom, and in November of 2007, a Jamaat from the New York City area to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Information obtained since the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates Rashid, who has a permanent residence in the United States, continues to travel extensively utilizing a network of international and domestic contacts. In 2008 he (i) recruited participants for Jamaats in South America and Africa; (ii) went on a 40 day Jamaat to Canada; (iii) for the period from November 2008 until January 2009 traveled within Saudi Arabia (to Hajj) and Pakistan (specifically Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Talagan-Multan). In January 2009, Abdul Rashid again traveled to Canada for an Ijtema in Montreal.
- O. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicated that at Darul Islah, located at 320 Fabry Terrace in Teaneck, NJ, (i) Salafi ideologue Kashiff Khan, subject of TEI # 05/08, said while speaking at Darul Islah in July 2007 that Tablighi Jamaat was the path to the hearts and minds of Muslims and should therefore be encouraged; (ii) Darul Islah dispatched a member of its congregation to Albany, NY, in December of 2007 in order to start a new chapter of Tablighi Jamaat in that city; and (iii) Darul Islah was visited by Haroon Abassommar Saheb, one of the aforementioned Tablighi Jamaat members from South Africa, during his speaking tour in July of 2006. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation further indicated that Haroon Abassommat Saheb's cousin and brother in law, Habib Gardee, is associated

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with Masjid As Saffat, 25 Oxford Street, Trenton, New Jersey. Information reported in the Investigative Statement for the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation also indicated that most of the congregants at the Muslim Center of Middlesex County, located at 1000 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, New Jersey, are members of Tablighi Jamaat, and Tablighi Jamaat gatherings take place at this location on a regular basis. Information obtained since the fifth extension of the captioned Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates that Masjid Al Furqan (located at 76-20 Glenmore Avenue, Ozone Park, NY) and the Bangladeshi Muslim Center (located at 105 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, NY) sent members of their congregations on a Jamaat to Trinidad in 2008.

- P. Information obtained since the fifth extension of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates the following: Tablighi Jamaat, through its affiliated mosques, most notably Masjid Al Falah, has hosted international jamaats from, inter alia, France, Sri Lanka, England, South Africa, and Morocco. In July 2008, the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset New Jersey was the location of a three day Ijtema, attended by individual jamaats from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, England, Somalia, and Canada; domestic attendees included, among others, jamaats from Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Florida. An estimated 5000-6000 people attended the event over the course for the three days. In addition, information obtained since the fifth extension of this Terrorism Enterprise Investigation indicates that Tablighi Jamaat members have participated in a number of international jamaats: representatives from Makki Masjid departed in June 2008, for a 40 day jamaat to Saudi Arabia and then Pakistan; Al Falah sent a Jamaat to India and Nepal in August/September 2008, as well as a 40 day Jamaat to Venezuela in October 2008, which included prominent Al Falah congregant Dr. Iqbal Teli and two others; Makki Masjid sponsored the above-noted jamaat to Montreal in January 2009, which TJ subjects Abdul Rashid and Syed Riaz attended; Sheikh "JD Zubair," an associate of Abdul Rashid, attended an Ijtema in India in March 2009, reportedly to be followed by a four month jamaat in Pakistan; Mohammad Ibrahim Memon traveled to South Africa and Mozambique in June 2008 (purportedly to attend a madrasa graduation).
- Q. The undersigned conclude that the foregoing information reasonably indicates that (i) individuals who are associated with the subject organizations have engaged in, are engaged in, or are planning to engage in unlawful conduct, including terrorism, recruiting individuals to participate in terrorist activities and/or providing material support to terrorist organizations; (ii) funds have been and are being solicited at the subject organizations for individuals and/or organizations engaged in, or planning to engage in, terrorism or other unlawful activities; or (iii) individuals engaged in or planning to engage in unlawful conduct, including terrorism and providing material support to terrorists, are using the subject organizations as venues for their unlawful activities.
- R. Responsible handling of the information currently known requires the extension of the Terrorism Enterprise Investigation concerning Tablighi Jamaat and associated locations.

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4. For your consideration.

Paul Ciorra
Deputy Inspector

Mitchell Silber
Director

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ACTION BY AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL

The request to amend the sixth Investigative Statement for Terrorism Enterprise Investigation # 08/03 is hereby:

- APPROVED
 DISAPPROVED

Assistant Chief Thomas Galati
Commanding Officer, Intelligence Division
Dated: May , 2009

FINAL ACTION
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER INTELLIGENCE

The request to amend the sixth Investigative Statement for Terrorism Enterprise Investigation # 08/03 is hereby:

- APPROVED
 DISAPPROVED

David Cohen
Deputy Commissioner Intelligence
Dated: May , 2009