Was the Defendant Guilty of Terrorism?

United States v. Mohammed Zaki Amawi, *579 F. Supp. 2d 923 (N.D. Ohio 2008)*

The government charged that the defendant [Mohammed Zaki Amawi] agreed with Marwan El-Hindi and Wassim Mazloum to provide material support for terrorism and kill and maim Americans overseas. Much of the government's evidence—especially evidence of the conspiratorial agreement and certain acts undertaken in furtherance of that agreement—was obtained by an undercover informant, Darren Griffin.

The F.B.I. hired Griffin, a former D.E.A. undercover informant, to go into the Toledo community to try to uncover terroristic plots and activities. He became active in a Toledo, Ohio, mosque attended by the defendants. Prior to Griffin's activities, the defendants were not acquainted with one another, though they may have been aware that [the others] were members of the mosque. Griffin, a former U.S. Army Special Forces soldier, held himself out to be a radical convert to Islam. He talked about the need for *jihad* and to resist the American campaign in Iraq and American policies elsewhere. He promoted himself as being able to provide *jihadist* training.

The defendants succumbed to his efforts to encourage them to agree to obtain training with the prospect of either going to Iraq to fight with the insurgents against American forces or themselves becoming trainers of others for the same purpose. To some extent, some training was given to those who went to a firing range and shot pistols.

In addition, the government proved other actions directly related to the desire to become trained *jihadists*. Among these were watching and discussing