

St. Mary's University School of Law  
**CENTER FOR TERRORISM LAW**  
*RISK MITIGATION GROUP*

Houston – Potential Target



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Congress Has Designated the  
Top **Five** Terror Targets as:

- New York
- Los Angeles
- Chicago
- Washington D.C.
- **HOUSTON, TX**

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**HOUSTON:**

- Energy Capital of the U.S.

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Mangus Ranstorp, Director, Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, St. Andrew's University, Scotland

*"They choose **economic** targets because they want to shake the foundations of the societies they see as the enemy. There is an acute awareness of where to hit, where it hurts the most. There is an awareness of the benefits of targeting critical infrastructure."*

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Osama bin Laden

"[W]e are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy, Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah."

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or until you are forced to surrender.

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9 Potential Target Sets (FBI/DHS):

- Oil and Gas
- Transportation
- Communication
- Banking and Finance
- Government Services
- Water Supply
- Energy
- Other Key Critical and Symbolic Targets

**HOUSTON Has All 9 Target Sets**

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**Port of Houston:**

- Busiest U.S. Port in Terms of Tonnage
- #1 in foreign water borne commerce entering US
- Employs 287,000 Texans
- Generates \$11 B in revenues annually

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Highly Vulnerable Target

- 26 Miles Long
- 1000s of Trucks Enter Major Terminals Every Day
- Large Volume of Refineries and Storage Facilities
- The Transportation Hub for Energy Industry in Houston
- 49% of the Nations Refined Products Pass Through the Port of Houston

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Act of Terrorism or Disruption at the Port of Houston

*“Economically Catastrophic”*

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**Chemical Industry**

Congressional Research Service and environmental watchdog groups have designated:

3 U.S. urban areas as having large chemical plants with toxic and flammable chemicals close to major population centers:

- Los Angeles
- Northern New Jersey
- **HOUSTON**

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U.S. Senate Study on Homeland Security and Government Affairs:  
**"Terror Threat in U.S. Has Increased"**

Recent Terror Plots Averted in:

- New York – JFK Airport, Fuel Storage and Lines
- Fort Dix, N.J.
- Cherry Vale Mall, Illinois
- Georgia Tech

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Houston:

4<sup>th</sup> Largest Islamic Community in the U.S.

- Chicago
- Dearborn, MI
- New Jersey
- **Houston**



A Very Large Radical Islamic Network

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**AHMAD MOHAMMED AJAJ**




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Ahmad Mohammed Ajaj:

- Palestinian – Domino Pizza Delivery Man in Houston
- Pakistan Training Camp – 1992, Met Ramzi Yousef
- Serving Life in Prison - Role in WTC I

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Wadih El Hage, Arlington, TX

- Associate of UBL and Ramzi Yousef (WTC I)
- Serving Life for East African Embassy Bombings



Wadih El Hage

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HOUSTON "TALIBAN"



Kobe Diallo Williams



Shiraz Sayyed Qazi



Adnan Baber Mirza



Sayyed Muazz Shah

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**A1** Author, 9/1/2008

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### Radical Islam

- Metamorphosis from 9/11 to "Cyber-Jihad"
- Homegrown or "Grassroots" Jihadists
- Linkages are Difficult
- Focus has Shifted to Softer Targets, i.e. Madrid, London, Morocco

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### Sophisticated Campaign Propaganda Efforts

- Internet-based "virtual extremist *Madrassas*" / Training Camp Significant Factor in the Radicalization Process in the U.S.
  - On-line Media Outlets: *Al-Furquan Media, As-Sahab Media, Media Commission*
  - Tactical Decisions to Make Messages, *Fatwas*, Accessible in English
  - Jihadist Publications: *al-Tibyan Publications*
  - On-line Jihadist "Chat" Rooms

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### Hizballah – the "Party of God":

- A-team of Terrorists, Founded 1982
- Iranian/Syrian Proxy
- \$100 M Annum in Arms, Funding and Training
- Global Fundraising/Criminal Activity
- Imad Fayeز Mughniyah

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**Most Wanted Terrorists**

**IMAD FAYEZ MUGNIYAH**

**DESCRIPTION**

Date of Birth (est.)	1962	Race	Arabic
Place of Birth	Lebanon	Eyes	Dark
Height	5'7"	Hair	Black
Weight	155 to 180 pounds	Complexion	Light
Build	Slender	Scars/Marks	Lebanese
Language	Arabic		
Notes and Markers	Black beard		

**CAUTION**  
 Mugniyah is the official head of the terrorist organization, the former organization, Lebanese Hezbollah. He is thought to be in Lebanon.

**REWARD**  
 The Rewards for Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice, is offering a reward of up to \$1 million for information leading directly to the apprehension or conviction of Imad Fayez Mugniyah.

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### Hizballah in the US

- Significant Funding Raising and Operational Presence in U.S.
  - Criminal Activity – Counterfeiting, Credit Card Schemes, Import/Export Schemes, Bank Fraud, Money-laundering
- Cells Disrupted With Arrests, Seizures and Deportations
  - Houston
  - Detroit
  - New York
  - Los Angeles
  - Charlotte

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### Hizballah in Latin-America

- Improve Iran's strategic position vis-à-vis the U.S.
- Economic
- Damage Israel's Latin-American relationships
- Create intelligence and terrorism networks
- Spread radical Sh'ia ideology to non-Muslim communities
- Exploit's Human smuggling networks

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### Hizballah: The Iranian Connection

- State Sponsor of Terror
- Developing Nuclear Program
- Promotion and Support of a Radical Form of Sh'ia in the U.S.
- Imad Mughnia Assassination (2/2008)
- Palestinian "Connection"

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### The US Muslim Mind Set

(Pew Global Survey 2007)

- 8% of Muslim Americans Say Suicide Bombing Against Civilian Targets are Justified in the "Defense of Islam"
  - Under 30 years old in U.S. – 15%
- 16% - European Muslims
- 68% Muslim Americans Viewed Al-Qaeda as "Unfavorable"
  - 27% Failed to Provide an Opinion

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## Questions/Comments

*James G. Conway, Jr.*  
GLOBAL INTEL STRATEGIES  
Houston, Texas

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