

## Blunder puts FBI suspects on internet

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Last updated: 11:20 PM BST 05/10/2001

A CONFIDENTIAL FBI list of 370 people suspected of helping Osama bin Laden's terrorist network has leaked out.

The names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail, and social security codes of the suspects were posted on the internet by Finland's Financial Supervision Authority (RATA).

When the error was spotted, the website was shut down. The list was put together by the FBI and European counter-terrorism agencies for use in tracking down the bank accounts, assets, and money flows of the al-Qa'eda network.

It contains the names of terrorists involved in the attacks of September 11, sympathisers and those suspected of providing conduits for terrorist finance.

The FBI provided the names to financial regulators this week in Europe with a request for a "cross-reference" audit that would generate new leads and open up the money trail.

The European part of the operation is being coordinated by the European Central Bank and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. The FBI has only released the names of the 19 hijackers who took part in the attacks and is reportedly furious over the breach of security.

The 22-page document includes a few suspects with British connections. One has a Polish name and is listed as living in London. The other is Djamel Beghal, an Algerian accused of plotting to blow up the American embassy in Paris, currently in the custody of the French police.

Well-known to MI5 as a leader of the ultra-radical Takfir-wal-Hijra movement, linked to the Finsbury Park mosque, he is listed as living in Rose Street, Leicester.

The name of Lotfi Raissi, the Algerian pilot accused of training four of the hijack pilots, appears on the list along with his American social security number and his former address and telephone number in Phoenix, Arizona.

Raissi was [arrested at his home](#) near Slough, Berks, last month. He is being held in Belmarsh prison, south London, while the US authorities seek his extradition.

Also listed is Zacarias Moussaoui, 33, a French Algerian, who lived in Brixton, south London, for four years. He was allegedly the 20th hijacker, who should have been on the airliner that crashed in Pittsburgh.

Moussaoui was arrested in Minnesota in August after arousing suspicion when he attended a flying school but showed no interest in landing or take off procedures.

Another British connection on the list is Mahmood Modasser, who is said to have been born in Britain. His current address is listed as being in Pennsylvania.

Most of the suspects are citizens of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the other oil rich Gulf states, with a smattering from all over the Muslim world, including Africa and the Indian subcontinent.

Typically in their late twenties or thirties, many now live in the United States, heavily concentrated in Florida and to a lesser extent across the Sunbelt states of Texas, Arizona, and California.

Another group is based in and around Hamburg, Germany. It includes Mohamed Atta, alleged to have been the leader of the attacks on September 11. He is listed with eight aliases and multiple addresses on both sides of the Atlantic. The document has "possibly deceased" against his name.

The overall picture belies claims that Britain served as a major base of operations for the al-Qa'eda network. Some names stick out - two Frenchmen called Jerome and David, apparently brothers, from Chambéry in the Alps; an Israeli called Alona and an Irish-born Muslim known as Freddy.

Like any police intelligence file, it is based on hearsay and unverified leads, and should have been kept strictly confidential to protect those falsely accused. It is far from clear whether the telephone numbers or email addresses are reliable.

A random call to a suspect in Vero Beach, Florida, was answered by the receptionist of a commercial law firm, who angrily slammed down the receiver. One of Mohamed Atta's numbers proved to be the switchboard of the Cabrini Medical Center in Manhattan, New York.

The Finnish data protection commissioner has launched an inquiry to determine whether the leak of suspects' names and personal details is a violation of the country's privacy laws, according to the Helsingin Sanomat newspaper.

Story from Telegraph News:  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/1358670/Blunder-puts-FBI-suspects-on-internet.html>

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