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By post

Our ref     ASM/CG4/01141322

Dear Sirs

### **Complete 911 Timeline: bin Laden Family, Saudi Arabia, Bush ("the Article")**

We act for Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz.

It has come to our client's attention that the Article is available on [www.cooperativeresearch.org](http://www.cooperativeresearch.org). It contains seriously defamatory statements about Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz, which are very damaging to him. The Article is wrong and highly defamatory about Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz in several respects, which we detail below:

1.     *"A Saudi Government audit shows that five of Saudi Arabia's billionaires had been giving tens of millions of dollars to al-Qaeda. The audit shows that these businessmen transferred money from the National Commercial Bank to accounts of Islamic charities in London and banks in New York that serves as fronts for bin Laden. \$3 million was diverted from a Saudi pension fund"*

Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz does not have, nor has he ever had, any involvement or association with the sponsoring of al-Qaeda, nor has he ever knowingly financed terrorism of any description and vehemently denies this. Neither the United Nations, EU, United States, nor any other Government has ever indicated that he is involved in the supporting of terrorism on any report or list. We note that the source for this allegation is an article in *The USA Today* published on 29 October 1999 entitled "*Saudi money aiding bin Laden*". *The USA Today* has now printed a correction in relation to this article and confirmed that "*it has not been able to locate any record of such an audit and has no reason to believe that one was conducted...*". *The USA Today* also confirmed that it had no reason to believe that Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz was placed under house arrest. It also stated in the correction that the article contained "*errors*" and that the "*story's assertions had been widely reported and subsequently retracted by others*". We attach a copy of this correction for ease of reference. As you should be aware, Jack Kelley is the reporter who was recently found by *The USA Today* to have fabricated several high-profile stories. Furthermore, senior executives of NCB are on record of having "*vehemently denied*" that there was any audit of

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NCB that revealed payments to al-Qaeda. The story appeared in the 28 October 2001 edition of *The Chicago Tribune*, in which an NCB Executive said *"I can tell you absolutely, categorically there is no such audit... That never took place"*. Additionally, a formal correction published in *The Washington Post* on 3 March 2002 stated *"A representative of Mahfouz also denied... that an audit at the Saudi bank, at which he was the director, showed links to charities controlled by bin Laden"*.

2. *"Together and separately, al-Amoudi and bin Mahfouz... are later included in a secret United Nations list of finances funding al-Qaeda"*

*"A secret report to the United Nations by French investigator Jean-Charles Brisard names seven prominent Saudi financiers of terror; the number matches the seven Saudis mentioned in the Post article, though it's not known if all the names are the same. The Saudis mentioned by Brisard are: Khalid bin Mahfouz..."*

*"Delta Oil has been one of the main financial partners in a controversial oil pipeline designed to go through Afghanistan. The company has been financially controlled by Khalid bin Mahfouz, and is connected to Mohammed Hussein al-Amoudi. Both men are on a secret United Nations list of al-Qaeda financiers, and bin Mahfouz is bin Laden's brother-in-law"*.

*"The Boston Herald notes that Saudi businessman Khalid bin Mahfouz... and Mohammed Hussein al-Amoudi ... have not had their accounts frozen (and they still have not, until the present day...) despite evidence that they gave money to bin Laden"*.

- 2.1 To the best of our knowledge, the United Nations (UN) has never published any report citing Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz in any context whatsoever as a sponsor of terrorism. The report you are no doubt actually referring to, is a report that Jean-Charles Brisard submitted to the UN. In fact Mr Brisard claimed that he was commissioned by the President of the UN Security Council to prepare a report on terrorism financing. This is in reality completely false. The then President of the UN Security Council, Alfonso Valdiveso, has confirmed in a letter dated 12 March 2004 to us, that he personally never met or spoke with Mr Brisard. He stated that it is *"completely false that I, in my capacity as President of the Security Council or as President of the 1267 (Terrorism) Committee or in any capacity within that Organization commissioned him on a personal or official basis to write a report on terrorism. He [Jean-Charles Brisard] had no role whatsoever with the United Nations Security Council during the period in which I occupied the Presidency"*. Alfonso Valdiveso has also confirmed that Mr Brisard's report was unsolicited, that he does not believe it was taken seriously by anyone at the UN or that the UN took any step or action as a result of being sent the report. He added that *"Mr Brisard's conduct and attitude is totally deceitful and marked by the intention to mislead"*.

Furthermore, the al-Qaeda Taliban Sanctions Committee established by the UN Security Council pursuant to UN Resolution 1267 (1999) has since confirmed that the status of the report was as follows:

