



**U. S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois*

*Patrick J. Fitzgerald  
United States Attorney*

*Federal Building  
219 South Dearborn Street, Fifth Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 353-5300*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY JULY 9, 2003

PRESS CONTACT:  
AUSA Victoria J. Peters (312)353-5319  
AUSA/PIO Randall Samborn (312) 353-5318

**SUBURBAN CHICAGO MAN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES OF  
ILLEGALLY ACTING AS AGENT OF IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN U.S.**

CHICAGO – A south suburban Oak Lawn man was arrested today by the FBI on federal charges of conspiracy and illegally acting in the United States as an unregistered agent of the former government of Iraq. The defendant, **Khaled Abdel-Latif Dumeisi**, was arrested this morning at his home, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Thomas J. Kneir, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The investigation is continuing, they said.

According to a criminal complaint, which was filed yesterday in Federal Court and unsealed following the arrest, Dumeisi's illegal conduct included: producing press identification cards for Iraqi intelligence officers; reporting to the Iraqi Intelligence Service (IIS) on individuals and entities in the United States who were in opposition to the former Iraqi government, including providing surreptitiously obtained telephone records of an Iraqi opposition leader; receiving financial support from the Iraqi government to facilitate his activities; and traveling to Iraq and receiving instruction in intelligence tradecraft from the IIS.

Among the evidence cited in the complaint is a dossier that was seized in April from an IIS safehouse in Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A preliminary translation indicates that the file contains IIS reports about the activities in the United States of an agent/asset code-named “Sirhan,” who allegedly is Dumeisi.

Federal law requires individuals -- other than a diplomatic or consular officer or attache -- who are acting as agents for foreign governments to register with the U.S. Attorney General. The complaint alleges that Dumeisi has never registered with the Justice Department as an agent of Iraq, and he was charged with failing to register and conspiracy to do so.

“While Khaled Dumeisi is not alleged to be an actual intelligence officer and is not charged with espionage, the charges are nonetheless serious,” Mr. Fitzgerald said. “Those who gather information in the United States about people living in America for the purpose of providing the information to hostile governments should understand that the FBI will pursue them vigorously and the government will bring charges in appropriate cases.”

Dumeisi, 60, of 4929 West 109<sup>th</sup> St., #304, Oak Lawn, also known as “Khaled Dumeisi,” “Abu Walid,” and “Sirhan,” was expected to have an initial court appearance later today before Magistrate Judge Edward Bobrick in U.S. District Court in Chicago. According to immigration records, Dumeisi has lived in the United States about 10 years and is a permanent resident alien who claims to be a Jordanian citizen born in Palestine. He applied for U.S. citizenship in December 2001 and his application was denied in November 2002 for failing to provide documents requested by immigration officials, according to the complaint.

The complaint also identifies Dumeisi as the registered agent and president of Around-the-World News, Inc., which he incorporated in Illinois on Aug. 24, 1998, to print and distribute periodicals in Arabic and English, both domestically and internationally. The company publishes Al-Mahjar, an Arabic language monthly, from an office at 6000 West 79<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 203, in Burbank.

According to the complaint, the IIS, or “General Intelligence,” known in Arabic as the Da’irat al-Mukhabbarat al-‘Amma, or the “Mukhabbarat,” was the foreign intelligence arm of the former government of Iraq. One of its primary missions in the United States was collecting information regarding the activities and whereabouts of members of the Iraqi opposition to the regime of Saddam Hussein. Dumeisi allegedly was recruited by IIS intelligence officers as an “agent” or “asset” to secretly obtain intelligence information. He is not alleged to have been an intelligence officer himself. In one instance, the complaint alleges, the IIS trained Dumeisi to use a pen with a hidden camera and microphone, which he later used to record an interview of an Iraqi opposition member.

Much of the information contained in a 31-page FBI affidavit regarding Dumeisi’s alleged activities was provided by four unnamed individuals who are cooperating with the FBI. One of them is described as an admitted former Iraqi intelligence officer who met Dumeisi approximately two years ago at the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations (IMUN), while the other three individuals worked closely with Dumeisi at various times in the publication of Al-Mahjar.

The FBI determined that Dumeisi interacted at the IMUN with at least four named individuals who were Iraqi intelligence officers, including one of whom was expelled by the State Department in June 2002 on suspicion of spying on the United States, according to the affidavit. In September 1999, Dumeisi told the FBI that he had regular contact, usually weekly, with the IMUN but claimed it was for journalistic

purposes on behalf of Al-Mahjar. On May 6, 2003, Dumeisi told FBI agents that he generally traveled to the IMUN twice a year, by invitation and at the IMUN's expense, to attend the celebration of Saddam Hussein's birthday and National Day. He also admitted knowing that Iraqi intelligence officers were stationed at Iraqi establishments and that he spent time eating and visiting with two intelligence officers stationed at the IMUN, the complaint alleges.

Dumeisi allegedly told one of the cooperating individuals that he received \$2,000 or \$3,000 from IMUN personnel to help them gather information on the Iraqi opposition in America; specifically what the opposition was doing, where they were concentrated, their strength and how dangerous they were. As part of his efforts, Dumeisi had to speak to people at the IMUN on a cellular telephone every Thursday at 1 p.m. During a consensual search of Dumeisi's residence on May 6, the FBI recovered a notepad sheet from the sleeve of a 1996 pocket calendar that had written in Arabic a rudimentary code system that Dumeisi used in connection with his intelligence activities, according to the affidavit. For example, the FBI believes that when faced with threats from the Iraqi opposition, Dumeisi reported them to the IIS by conveying the message that his car was inoperable.

The search of Dumeisi's residence also corroborated evidence that he made press identification cards that Iraqi intelligence officers could use to attend conferences and public gatherings to which they would not otherwise have access, because as foreign diplomats they were required to present their diplomatic identification, which would have identified them as employees of the Iraqi mission. Since 1991, IMUN diplomats have had their travel restricted within the five boroughs of New York City and were routinely prohibited from attending certain events.

During interviews with the FBI in late April and early May, a close friend of Dumeisi's said that she told him in early 2002 that she was romantically involved with a man who was a possible future president of Iraq. Subsequently, the woman, who was employed at an international long distance telephone service, gave Dumeisi a list of phone numbers called by the man she was involved with, and Dumeisi allegedly provided the information, along with bank account records, to the IMUN. The affidavit also states that the woman hosted the possible future Iraqi president in a trip to Chicago in March 2002 and that he delivered a lecture to 200 people about the opposition's efforts to overthrow the Hussein regime.

The government is being represented in this continuing investigation by Assistant U.S. Attorney Victoria J. Peters.

If convicted, acting as an unregistered foreign agent carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, and conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Note, however, that the Court, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and are not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.