

Savage's tips on paying for college

3-part series in Moneylife, starting on the back page of Career Network (Section C)



Sunday Sun-Times

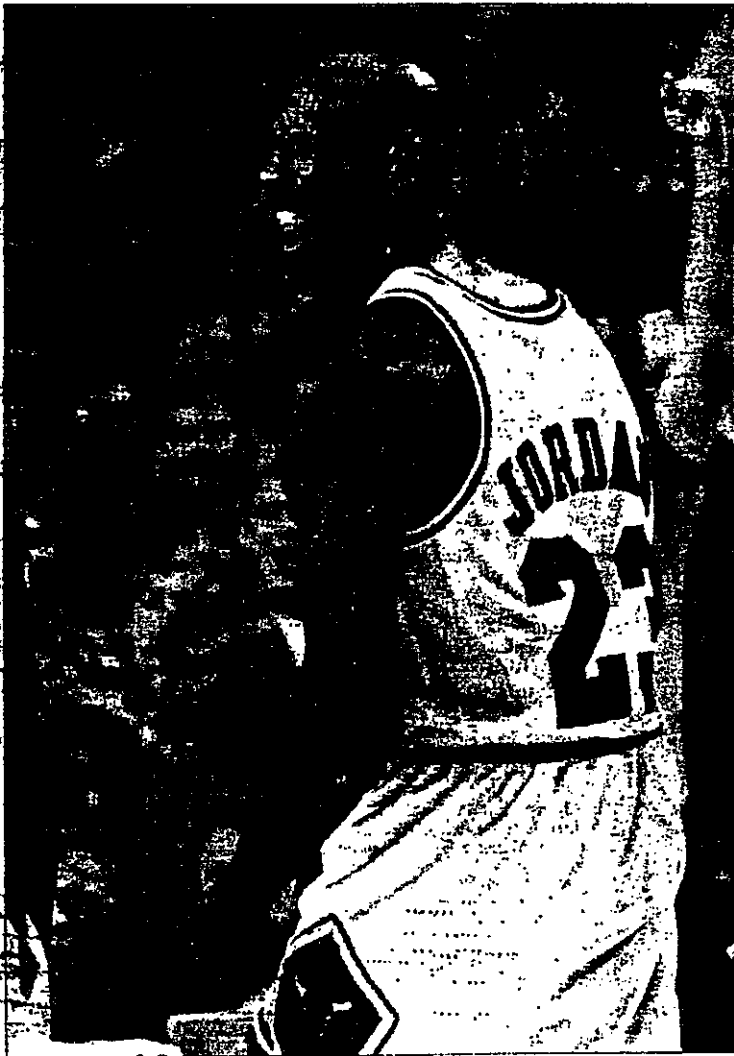
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SHOWERS Pages 2A, 51A

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1998

Late Sports Final

U-turn to Utah



JON SALL SUN-TIMES

Michael Jordan grimaces as his last-second shot misses Friday night, giving the Jazz an 83-81 victory at the United Center and sending the NBA finals back to Salt Lake City for Game 6 tonight at 8:30. Who's the favorite now? "We still have the advantage," said the Bulls' Scottie Pippen.

Our 20-page special Bulls playoff pullout follows Page 26A

How car salesman got tag as terrorist

Feds say trail led to suburbs

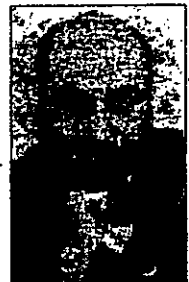
By CAM SIMPSON
FEDERAL COURT REPORTER

Judith Miller never had seen televised images like the ones she saw on Feb. 11, 1993.

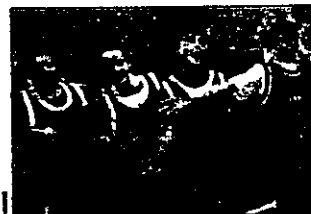
At the other end of the wires running from her closed-circuit monitor was a camera focused on an Arabic-speaking interrogator and his subject, Mohammad Salah, a slender, middle-age used-car salesman from Bridgeview.

They were deep inside the interrogation wing of a high-security prison in Israel's occupied West Bank. Salah had been arrested only two weeks earlier. "Bridgeview used-car salesman" would be forever replaced on Salah's public resume with what the U.S. government alleged last week: Top-

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Mohammad Salah
"Super-Innocent," he says



Kid parties become big productions

Pages 14A-15A

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Tracing trail of terrorism

Continued from previous page

level American military leader for the terrorist group Hamas.

"He was jaunty," Miller recalled last week from her desk at the New York Times, where she is a reporter. "I still remember him wagging his finger at this interrogator's face."

Unbeknownst to Salah, Miller was just down the hall, seeing and hearing for herself what the Israelis had claimed Salah was giving them during the previous two weeks: detailed information about an American support network, much of it based in Chicago, for Hamas.

That network surfaced again last week as federal authorities here seized \$1.4 million in cash and assets from the tools of an alleged money-laundering machine. It was designed and used, the government says, to "support a conspiracy involving international terrorist activities and domestic recruitment and training in support of such activities."

It is the first time the U.S. government has taken such action. It was instigated through civil proceedings. Salah and his associates, including the Quranic Literacy Institute, a non-profit religious group and alleged Hamas front in Oak Lawn, have not been charged with any crimes in the United States.

While in the works for years, the investigation into Salah, 45, and his alleged Hamas funding network intensified upon his release from an Israeli prison last November, sources said last week. Salah was incarcerated for five years and pleaded guilty to channeling funds to Hamas.

He received a hero's welcome at O'Hare International Airport, where he proclaimed that he was "super-innocent," though he already had been placed on the U.S. government's list of "specially designated terrorists" and his assets here had been frozen. The seeming bravado on American soil infuriated U.S. officials, sources said last week.

Law enforcement sources also said last week they confirmed that training operations for Hamas terrorists had been conducted in the Chicago area. And the FBI named, in a 37-page affidavit, a south suburban man suspected of being a Hamas terrorist. The FBI says Razick Saleh Abdel Razick, more commonly known as Abdel Razick, was a beneficiary of Salah's purported network.

In court papers, the FBI said bank and airline records show that Razick was just one of the suspected terrorists for whom Salah, also known by his code name "Abu Ahmed," provided international travel arrangements. With tickets purchased by Salah, the FBI alleged, Razick traveled to Syria, a known training ground and launching pad for terrorists, in September, 1992.

Although the FBI affidavit doesn't say it, sources familiar with the investigation say Razick remains in the Bridgeview-Oak Lawn area. The Chicago Sun-Times could not reach Razick after leaving messages for him at homes where acquaintances and friends said he was known to stay. Razick refused to cooperate with the FBI investigation, sources said.

Allegations about Hamas training operations staged in the Chicago area first surfaced in the early 1990s. The Israelis have said those allegations were confirmed with the June, 1993, arrest of Nasser Issa Jalal al-Hidmi, a Palestinian who was then

24 years old

Hidmi told the Israelis he was recruited by Hamas before he left Israel in 1989 to attend Kansas State University. He was told to call Salah, his American contact, the Israelis said, upon arrival. According to the Israelis, Hidmi confessed to being ordered by Salah to a training camp outside of Chicago in the summer of 1990, where he and up to 30 other participants were given code names. Hidmi said the men were trained in terrorist activities, including bomb assembly, the Israelis said.

Law enforcement sources here said last week they believed that camp, and probably others, existed in the Chicago area. They could not, however, verify its location. Authorities said the secret camps are impossible to infiltrate and often are like fog—rising in remote areas and disappearing in the sunlight.

Operatives trained near Chicago were either to be "used here or were to be sent for big, sensitive operations to Israel," said Yossef Badensky, a congressional terrorism expert who heads the House Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare. "If they want to do a spectacular operation... then they need to bring in someone clean from another country."

Badensky said Chicago and Detroit continue to be strong bases for Hamas and other terrorist groups. In addition to providing financial support, the two cities house a tiny number of terrorists in need of safe hiding, he alleged.

"It's easy to train in this country," said Yehudit Barsky, a senior research analyst on the Middle East desk of the Anti-Defamation League in New York. However, she said, the United States is more important to terrorist groups for other reasons. "Using the abilities we have in this country for free speech, they are able to raise money and keep the cause going."

The Quranic Institute has denied any impropriety. Its lawyer said the group's leaders deplore all violence. Both Salah and the institute plan to challenge the government's forfeiture action in federal court.

"Hamas and I have no knowledge or connection whatsoever to the money which was seized in the United States," Mousa Abu Marzook, the Hamas leader, said last week. Marzook was



SCOTT STEWART/SUN-TIMES

Tracie Ziyah, an American Muslim, speaks out in defense of Mohammad Salah during a rally in Salah's front yard in Bridgeview on Friday.

jailed in New York during a high-profile extradition battle with Israel before being released to Jordan last year. The FBI, however, alleges it connected more than \$752,800 from Marzook's bank accounts to Salah—some of it allegedly disbursed by Salah to sponsor terror in Israel.

In Arab-American enclaves in Bridgeview and Oak Lawn, supporters say Salah is being persecuted. Salah's niece Aminah Salah, speaking at a Friday rally in her uncle's frontyard, said her family has lived a nightmare for five years. The 21-year-old student also accused the U.S. government of intimidation. "The people in our neighborhood and our community are being harassed and intimidated by the FBI," she said.

Mohammad Salah, a naturalized U.S. citizen born May 30, 1953, in a refugee camp near Jerusalem, has recanted all of his statements to the Israelis, as well as his plea agreement. Salah has said he was tortured and coerced while in Israeli custody. The FBI, however, said it verified many of the financial details given in Salah's now-recanted statements.

Judith Miller, author of the book *God Has Ninety-Nine Names: Reporting From a Militant Middle East*, said she believes the recanted statements.

The Bridgeview man's arrest in Israel provided security officials there with their first solid evidence of an American support network for Hamas. Miller and others initially doubted the Israeli claims. "I said I would not believe them until I saw it [Salah speaking] for myself," Miller recalled.

In a turn of events she still describes as surreal, the Israelis, directed by former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, allowed Miller to watch Salah's Feb. 11, 1993, interrogation. Rabin, Miller said, was anxious to prove his case.

Only two weeks after his arrest, Salah was cool, Miller said.

"The man I saw seemed to be quite relaxed and not under any obvious pressure," she recalled. "This is not a man who seemed to be fearful for his life."

Contributing: Philip Franchine, the Jerusalem Post



RICHARD A. CHAPMAN/SUN-TIMES

This is the headquarters of the Quranic Literacy Institute in Oak Lawn. U.S. officials say it is a front for Hamas.

Weather



Today: Partly cloudy, with afternoon showers. Highs in the upper 70s, lows in the lower 60s.

Monday: Cloudy, with rain. Highs in the upper 70s, lows in the lower 60s. **Tuesday:** Mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 70s, lows in the upper 60s. **Wednesday:** Partly sunny and warmer. Highs in the lower 80s, lows in the upper 60s. Details on Page 51A.

Lotteries

For tickets dated Saturday, June 13, 1998

Illinois

MIDDAY Pick 3—210
MIDDAY Pick 4—7502
EVENING Pick 3—015
EVENING Pick 4—3013
Lotto—
02 13 25 29 46 47
Grand prize: \$2 million
Lotto replay on Page 24B

The Big Game

Grand prize: \$7 million

Indiana

Pick 3—618 Pick 4—7750
Lucky 5—18 22 25 33 38
Lotto—02 10 13 15 37 38
Lotto grand prize: \$5.5 million

Michigan

MIDDAY Daily 3—370
MIDDAY Daily 4—9501
EVENING Daily 3—326
EVENING Daily 4—3488
Lotto—07 12 38 40 41 43
Lotto grand prize: \$5.3 million

Wisconsin

Pick 3—304 Pick 4—8626
Super Cash—
12 13 14 18 24 29
Megabucks—
04 19 35 39 41 45
Jackpot: 1.2 million

Powerball

03 08 08 23 23
Powerball No. 11
Jackpot: \$24 million

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Sunday Sun-Times Vol. 42, No. 24 *1998
USPS 103-940 is published weekly by
Chicago Sun-Times Inc., 401 N. Wabash Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60611. Home delivery prices and
mail subscription rates available upon request.
Newsstand price \$1.50, outside Chicago area,
\$1.75. Periodical postage paid at Chicago, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to
Sunday Sun-Times, 401 N. Wabash Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60611.

Publisher
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Sunday Sun-Times is published by Chicago
Sun-Times Inc., Co-Chairman, Conrad M.
Black and F. David Rader.

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