

Memorandum



Subject: United States v. Jaelyn Delshaun Young NDMS Criminal No. 1:15-cr-00098-SA-DAS	Date: March 23, 2016
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To: Honorable Sharion Aycock United States District Judge Northern District of Mississippi Aberdeen, Mississippi	From: Felicia C. Adams United States Attorney Northern District of Mississippi Ethridge Professional Building 900 Jefferson Avenue Oxford, MS 38655-3608 By: Clay Joyner Assistant United States Attorney
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FACTUAL BASIS

Were this case to proceed to trial, the government would prove, via expert and lay witness testimony, as well as documentary, electronic and physical evidence, the following:

On October 15, 2004, the United States Secretary of State designated Al-Qa'ida in Iraq ("AQI"), then known as Jam'at al Tawhid wa'al-Jihad, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization ("FTO") under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224. On May 15, 2014, the Secretary of State amended the designation of al-Qa'ida in Iraq ("AQI") as a Foreign Terrorist Organization ("FTO") under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224 to add the alias Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant ("ISIL") as its primary name. The Secretary also added the following aliases to the designation: "the Islamic State

of Iraq and al-Sham,” “the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ad-Dawla al-Islamiyya fi al-'Iraq wa-sh-Sham (“Dawla” or “Dawlah”).” “Daesh,” “Dawla al Islamiya,” and “Al-Furqan Establishment for Media Production.” Although the group has never called itself “Al-Qaeda in Iraq (“AQI”),” this name has frequently been used to describe it during its history. I will use “ISIL” for the sake of simplicity in this factual basis. The government would prove that JAELYN DELSHAUN YOUNG conspired with Muhammad Oda Dakhllalla to join ISIL and provide material support to it in the form of personnel while knowing it was a foreign terrorist organization that had engaged in terrorist acts.

In May, 2015, the FBI identified a Twitter user supportive of ISIL who expressed a desire to travel to ISIL territory. The Twitter user of this account had also tweeted and retweeted links to ISIL propaganda including speeches made by ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The Twitter user was identified as then 19-year-old JAELYN DELSHAUN YOUNG and the FBI engaged in subsequent undercover interactions with YOUNG on internet and social media platforms. During these interactions, YOUNG identified herself as a recent convert and stated, regarding Dakhllalla’s family and the Starkville community, “the family members and members of the community do not support Dawlah:/ they think Dawlah doesn’t correctly use Shariah. I thought they were wrong so I look up the Laws myself and Alhamdulillah Dawlah is correct.” She also stated she was preparing for “hijrah,” a reference to journeying to the Islamic State and further stated, “I have hijrah partner and we are planning to leave before August.” She went on to say “[W]e just have to be careful because the NSA is launching new investigation programs and I dont want to be trapped here:(.” YOUNG then added that her travel partner was a “brother” and that she would have

to have “nikkah” (Islamic marriage) with him so that they could travel together without an escort. The partner was eventually identified as Dakhlalla.

In an interaction on June 1, 2015, YOUNG stated, “I need help crossing from Turkey to Syria with my hijrah partner.” YOUNG also expressed a readiness to swear allegiance to and join the Islamic State, stating “Alhamdulillah...we know this is the true Khalifa.” YOUNG then discussed what skills she and her partner possessed that would be useful, stating “I am skilled in math and chemistry and worked at an analytical lab here at my college campus. My partner is very good with like computer science/media. We learn very fast and would love to help with giving medical aid to the injury In sha Allah.”

On June 2, 2015, YOUNG discussed with an FBI Employee what Dakhlalla would do once they arrived in Syria, specifically would he be “media or Mujahideen.” YOUNG stated “He wants to help with media group and really wants to correct the falsehoods heard here. US has a thick cloud of falsehood and very little truth about Dawlah makes it through and if it does then usually the links are deleted (like on youtube and stuff).” She further stated that Dakhlalla “says a lot of Muslims are caught on their doubts of IS bc of what US media says and he wants to assure them the US media is all lies when regarding Dawlah. After he sees change in that, he wanted to join the Mujahideen Ukhti.”

Dakhlalla was placed in contact with the FBI employee by YOUNG, and Dakhlalla exhibited an understanding that he would be taking orders from ISIL when Dakhlalla arrived in their territory. YOUNG and Dakhlalla maintained contact with who they thought were ISIL recruiters and continued to express concerns about being caught by U.S. or Turkish authorities, and explained the initial plan of travelling first to Greece posing as honeymooners in order to avoid the suspicion of authorities, then going to Turkey and on to

Dawlah. YOUNG and Dakhlalla each informed the FBI employees separately that they had had their Nikkah ceremony. Dakhlalla inquired about training in Sharia law, and said that if their passports did not arrive in time, they would spend Eid with their families, “since it will be our last with them.” YOUNG and Dakhlalla applied for passports on or about June 26, 2015, and Dakhlalla made a payment for the purpose of expediting his and YOUNG’s passport applications and accelerating the timetable for their departure to join ISIL.

On July 8, 2015, YOUNG announced to the FBI employee that “our passports should be in by next weekend. We will just fly to Istanbul now since we just want to get to Dawlah ... our hearts ache :(but we have little expenses remaining so can't stay in Istanbul long Ukhti.” July 12, 2015, Dakhlalla asked the FBI employee about the military experience in ISIL territory. Dakhlalla, the next day, informed the FBI employee that he wanted to become a mujahid and learn “what it really means to have that heart in battle.” On July 17, 2015, YOUNG stated to the FBI employee, “What makes me feel better (better) after just watching the news is that an akhi carried out an attack against US marines in TN! Alhamdulillah, the numbers of supporters are growing.”

Later, YOUNG and Dakhlalla, after complaining about the delay, expressed relief when the passports arrived, and YOUNG, in late July, discussed the plan to meet their “contact” in Istanbul, Turkey, on or about August 10, 2015. YOUNG asked “You will leave IS to come get us in Istanbul?” YOUNG then, around August 1, 2015, stated that Dakhlalla was concerned about being arrested by Turkish or U.S. authorities. YOUNG stated “but he will be a bit worried until he gets there and see all is fine. Other than that, he and I keep talking about Dawlah. Alhamdulillah, soon we will taste the freedom of Khalifah” YOUNG later stated “Assalamu alaikum Ukhti, we are curious. In Dawlah will there be Quaranic,

Shariah and Aqeedah classes in English?” YOUNG added “Also we will arrive in Istanbul @ noon In sha Allah.”

On or about August 4, 2015, YOUNG stated, “We will be flying direct. We live in a small town with a very small (poo) airport that doesn't have much, if an, security. In fact when we get to Dawlah In sha Allah I can tell you about it. That's one US weaknesses - small towns' airports have poor funding and less educated staff so it is easier to get through.” YOUNG also stated, “We will leave from US on Saturday and arrive in Turkey on Sunday. As far as clothing, we don't have anything out of the ordinary but I think I will stand out pretty well, especially my hair (big bushy curly hair) but we will choose outfits with logos or such so that we may be recognized.”

The duo bought, with YOUNG using her mother's credit card without permission, plane tickets to Istanbul, Turkey, to meet their “contact” and be taken to Syria. They were arrested on August 8, 2015, at the Golden Triangle Airport in Columbus, MS, attempting to board a flight for the first leg of their journey to Istanbul, Turkey. YOUNG was mirandized by FBI Special Agents and confessed the plan to travel to Turkey in order to join ISIL. YOUNG left behind incriminating farewell letters that explained that they would never be back, with YOUNG stating “Do not alert the authorities. I will contact you soon. I am safe. Don't look for me because you won't be able to retrieve me if you tried. I am leaving to become a medic.” She went on to add “It was all my planning. I found the contacts, made arrangements, planned the departure. I am guilty of what you soon will find out.”

Other available evidence would establish that YOUNG viewed, with Dakhlalla, a number of videos regarding Islamic Law, including the radical teachings of Anjem Choudary; that Dakhlalla downloaded the Islamic State's Guide to Hijrah; and that YOUNG downloaded

at least one issue of Dabiq (the online magazine/propaganda and recruitment platform for ISIL) which does not attempt to disguise the ideology and violence of ISIL.

The government would ask the Court to take judicial notice that Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, and Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi, are within the Northern Federal Judicial District of Mississippi.