

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Louisiana

United States of America

v.

ABDEL ADHAMI

Case No. 26-mj-112

*Defendant(s)***CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of February 2021 to present in the parish of St. Tammany in the
Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section**Offense Description*

18 U.S.C. § 2339B

Material Support to a Foreign Terrorist Organization

18 U.S.C. § 1343

Wire Fraud

18 U.S.C. § 1956

Money Laundering

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

see attached Affidavit

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.*s/Scott Foster**Complainant's signature*

Special Agent Scott Foster, FBI

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: September 11, 2026City and state: New Orleans, Louisiana

Judge's signature

Honorable Janis van Meerveld, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	MAG. NO. 26-mj-112
v.	*	DUTY MAGISTRATE
ABDEL ADHAMI	*	

* * *

I, **SCOTT FOSTER**, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am a SPECIAL AGENT (SA) with the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) and have been since July 31, 2022. I am currently assigned to the FBI New Orleans Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) where I work a variety of national security matters, specifically threats and acts of domestic and international terrorism. Before I was a SA with the FBI, I served as a Staff Operations Specialist with the FBI from 2014 – 2022 and specialized in international and domestic terrorism. Since being employed by the FBI, I have been trained to recognize potential threats of violence and support for Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) emanating from the internet. I have training and experience utilizing FBI tools to research a subject's social media accounts. In my experience, individuals involved in the Subject Offenses



Adhami Sends Money To Alzaq's Associate and Gaza

17. Based on records received from PayPal, Inc., beginning on or about November 4, 2023, through on or about June 1, 2025, Adhami sent approximately \$34,672.41 to a PayPal account ([REDACTED] registered to an individual named [REDACTED]¹⁰, who is located in [REDACTED]. The email address registered to the PayPal, Inc. account is [REDACTED], an email address PayPal, Inc., has verified, and the phone number [REDACTED], a phone number PayPal, Inc., has verified. Based on my review of records provided by T-Mobile, Abdel Adhami is the registered user of phone number [REDACTED].

18. Based on records received from PayPal, Inc., beginning on or about January 12, 2025, through on or about February 15, 2026, Adhami sent approximately \$46,600 to a PayPal

¹⁰ Based on my training and experience, my conversations with other law enforcement agents, linguists, my participation in this investigation, my review of documents, the conversation between Abdel Adhami and Alzaq articulated in paragraph 25e referencing Alzaq's contact in [REDACTED] and Alzaq's "Saleem alzaq003" snap post of [REDACTED] aypal account referenced in paragraph 17, I believe [REDACTED] is Alzaq's financial associate.

Adhami's WhatsApp Communications

25. Based on records provided by WhatsApp, WhatsApp account [REDACTED] was registered on December 15, 2022 with email address [REDACTED], an email address that WhatsApp has verified. An Apple iPhone 14 Pro was the last known device connected to WhatsApp account [REDACTED] as of May 21, 2025. A review of the information obtained during CBP's border search of the Subject Device revealed WhatsApp account [REDACTED] was loaded onto the device, and over 300,000 WhatsApp messages for account [REDACTED] were found.

26. On or about November 4, 2023, Adhami, utilizing WhatsApp account 941-726-9750, sent an audio message to his brother, Omar Adhami (hereafter Omar) who utilized WhatsApp account [REDACTED], which stated the following:

Omar, listen! I was talking with that guy¹² and I told him, one helps the children, and those in need, but what can one do for our brothers, those guys, the true men, do you understand me? And he told me not to worry, we are giving them as well. Every time we are in possession of sum of money, or if someone sends us money, we cook a meal and give the true men portion of the meal. So, I told him if that is what you do, I then will transfer money to you on daily basis, God willing. If one sends \$10 or \$20 a day, because the prophet said, "He who equips a fighter is as if he has taken part in the fighting himself." So, I myself will transfer money to him on daily basis, God willing. I will send whatever amount I can afford. I dedicated myself and portion of everything I have to the true men, and the other portion for the children and those in need. When you talk to him, do not say like that. He uses the word "bread". So, when you want to send something, you tell him, "This amount for the bread", and he will understand. Don't mention anything by its name on WhatsApp and use the word "bread" instead. You can say, "This amount for the bread, two dozens of bread, or May God strengthen the bread! Or something like that.

¹² Based on my conversations with other law enforcement agents, linguists, my participation in this investigation, my review of documents, and my training and experience, I know the reference to "that guy" is likely referring to Saleem Alzaq.

Alzaq: [audio] My dear brother, I'm telling you, it's people who send me the donations. Their job is this, that they send me, this is their job. And I told you, if you want to send through a [credit] card you can send, someone who has a store, a friend of mine, as if you were purchasing supplies from them or purchasing anything, using a Visa card or Mastercard, one thousand or two thousand dollars. You collect from your friends and put them in your account, it's up to you, and if it's cash, it's not a problem. I have to check and make sure who has cash, sorry, I mean who can pick up cash, and I give them your address or your phone number or WhatsApp, and you can connect with each other for example. Whatever you want, I am ready for.

30. On or about December 04, 2025, the NYPD OCE and Alzaq engaged in the following conversation via SnapChat:

NYPD OCE: [audio] May the peace and mercy of God be upon you. I talked to my brother and he told me he will put the money on his card and he can go to the store like you said, as if he was purchasing something.

NYPD OCE: [audio] He will come meet me tonight in the store. I have the money. I will give it to him, \$2200. God willing, I am sending.

Alzaq: [text] [REDACTED]

Alzaq: [audio] Peace be upon you my brother, and God may bless you my brother, and God may send you 1000 blessings, my brother Hussain. This is my friend's number Abed Al-Adhami. This is his WhatsApp number and his regular number. Call him and come to an understanding with him and see what's the best method, how to transfer, how to send them [funds]. This young man transfers to me on monthly basis. All he does is he transfers to me; he said give him my number and have him contact me and we will figure a solution out very easily, as long as he is in American, in a state and I am there, we will figure it out.

Alzaq: [text] Abed Al-Adhami

Alzaq: [audio] All good my brother Hussain. Contact him and call him and tell me what happens between you two, and God protect you and him.

31. On or about December 04, 2025 and December 05, 2025, the NYPD OCE and Adhami engaged in the following conversation via WhatsApp:

NYPD OCE: [text] May the peace and mercy of God be upon you. Mr. Saleem sent me your number to contact you and send you money.

Adhami: [text] Peace be upon you

Adhami: [text] God bless you

Adhami: [text] Where do you live

NYPD OCE: [text] In New York

NYPD OCE: [text] Thank God, I'm very happy with the work they do. God give them strength

Adhami: [text] Ok can you Zelle

NYPD OCE: [text] To be honest no. He said I can pay with a card or cash.

Adhami: [audio] Peace upon you. If the money is available in the account, instead of paying me with a card, you can pay me with Zelle. You must have Zelle; maybe you don't know that you have it, as long as you have a bank account, you have Zelle, brother.

Adhami: [audio] If you send the amount through Zelle, it's very easy; in seconds, I will have the amount. There are no fees, there are no transfer fees also; just by putting my number and you put the amount you want and a message, that's all. Nothing is easier than that. The whole operation takes less than one minute.

NYPD OCE: [audio] The money is going to be cash because my store operates in cash. My brother has Barclays Bank, and he told me they do not have Zelle. He tried to look into the Zelle thing.

Adhami: [audio] I understand you, I understand you. This means, in this case, there are only two solutions. Either cash, and to be honest, I cannot go to New York to pick them [the money] up, and it must be difficult for you to come to Louisiana to give them [the money] to me, and I wouldn't want that for you. There is only transferring, wiring, from your account to my account, or if you would like, you can put them [the money] in your account, and after you can send it through PayPal, Cashapp, or Venmo, anything, internal transfer.

NYPD OCE: [audio] May the peace and mercy of God be upon you, my brother. Blessed Friday. What about the card thing he told me about? I don't like things on computers and electronics and all this. They can follow them.

Adhami: [audio] May the peace and mercy of God be upon you. The first thing you should know is that this group is recognized in the United States and everything is a hundred percent legal. Me personally, I give God the one. If you want, I can send you a statement. Me personally, every month, I transfer \$3500-\$4000, even before the war I transfer, and thank God nothing has happened. You are going to transfer to a charitable organization, and the money goes to [REDACTED] and from [REDACTED] Abu Abdullah has access to the account, and he uses them in Gaza. The card thing he

told you about is if you want, I can, you can put the money in your bank account, and after, you call me and you give me the card number as if you were a customer going into my store. I charge you the amount you want, you give me the card details, and I put them into the cash register that I have in the store and the money goes into my bank account. I take them [the money] and transfer them to Abu Abdullah and I sent you an invoice and a receipt. I send you videos where the money went and who received them, and everything is a hundred percent.

Adhami: [text] But do not worry everything is legal, God willing.

NYPD OCE: [audio] Peace be upon you. Ok I talked to my brother and he will come take the money and do the card thing.

Adhami: [audio] May the peace and mercy of Allah (God) be upon you. Ok good, God willing all good. God accept from you, multiply your money, and compensate you. God, God willing all this is on the scale of your good work. You are building up your house in heaven God willing.

32. On or about December 05, 2025, Alzaq sent the below message to the NYPD OCE via SnapChat:

Alzaq: [audio] I called my friend and he told me what happened [inaudible] Zelle, but if it doesn't work, it's okay. Do it in the way of a credit card. Give him the card as if you were buying from him, but contact him, but God bless you, contact him, and get it done. Get the money taken out of the card as he said, and that's it. If Zelle is not working, that's it, as if you were buying something from his store. I think he talked to you and he talked to your brother, meaning it's easy, as you were with the same way as discussed. God willing it will work. You guys are on the top of my head. It's important you talk to him.

CONCLUSION

33. Based upon the facts above, your Affiant submits there is probable cause to believe that, **ABDEL ADHAMI** was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2339B, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956. Affiant also