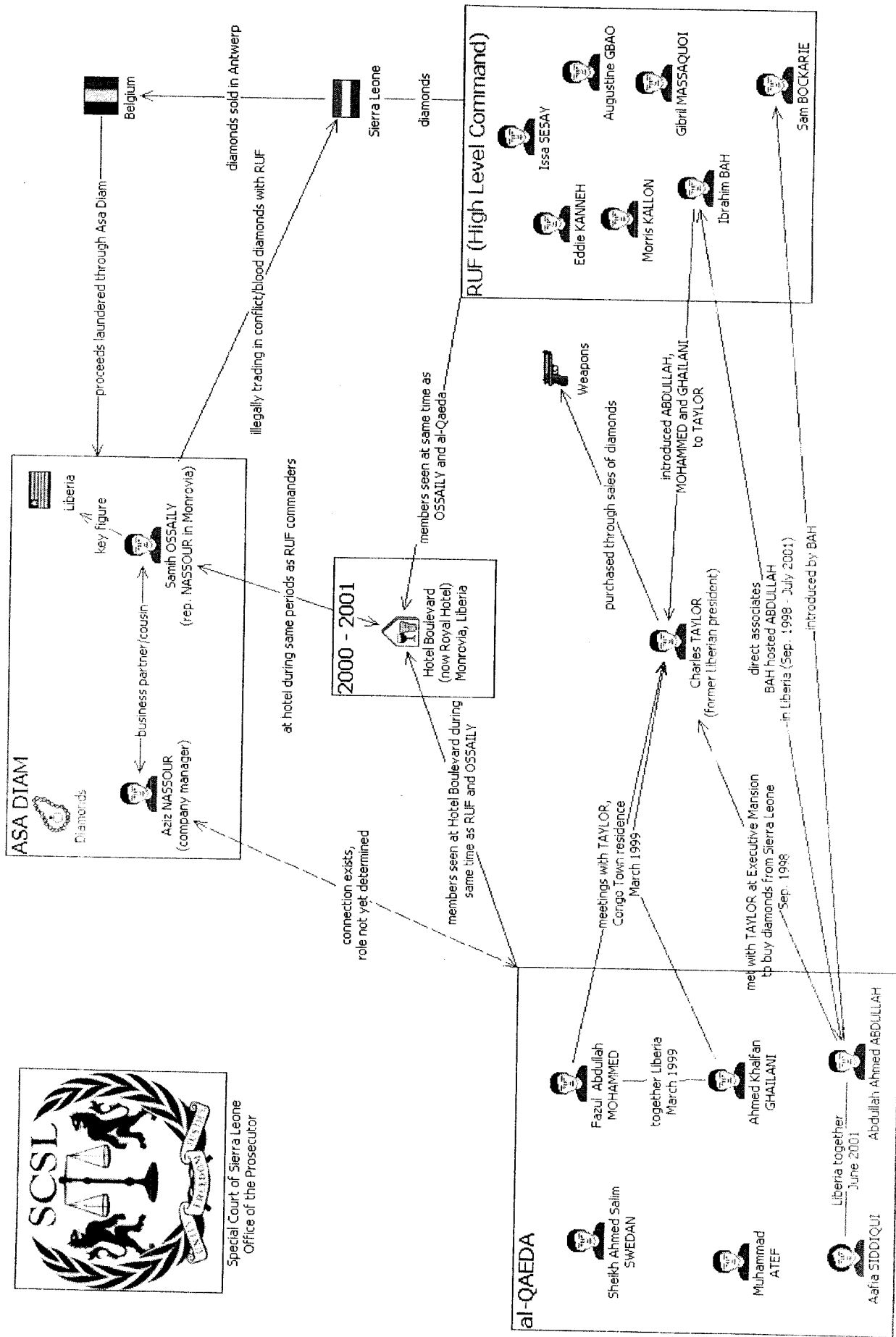


Special Court of Sierra Leone  
Office of the Prosecutor



# INDEPENDENT SOURCE FINDINGS

Over the past three years, there have been six independent sources, including the Special Court that have documented the link between Liberia and al-Qaeda.

Some of the highlights of these links include the following:

- Washington Post 2002 report that al-Qaeda paid Liberian President Charles Taylor for access to protected area of Liberia to hide in; also bought \$20 million conflict diamonds.
- Belgian authorities arrested Samih Ossaily and Aziz Nassour for dealing in Sierra Leonean conflict diamonds. Direct connections found between Nassour and al-Qaeda operatives.
- BBC 2003 documentary 'Blood Diamonds' confirming presence of al-Qaeda operatives Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani and Fazul Abdullah Mohammed (from FBI Most Wanted Terrorist list) purchasing conflict diamonds in Sierra Leone with RUF/Liberian assistance.
- Global Witness exposing al-Qaeda's move in the conflict diamond trade.
- Liberian journalist Hassan Bility CNN interview stating Charles Taylor's encouragement of the presence of al-Qaeda members in Liberia.

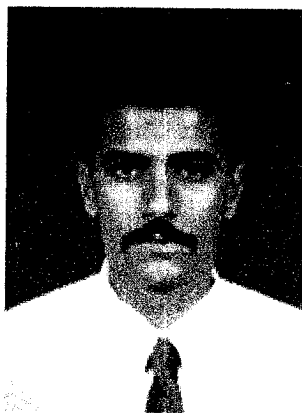
# SPECIAL COURT INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

- While conducting criminal investigations relating to the charter of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, other connections became apparent. In particular, the link between al-Qaeda and Liberia.
- Known al-Qaeda operative Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah sighted in Monrovia September 1998 through July 2001
- Known al-Qaeda operatives Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan and Fazul Abdullah Mohammed sighted during 2000 - 2001 in the presence of both RUF high level command and organised crime figures at Royal Hotel, formerly known as the Hotel Boulevard, in Monrovia, Liberia.
- On these occasions, Fazul Abdullah Mohammed was seen in the presence of General Sam Bockarie of the RUF, staying with him several times and working as his driver. Mohammed was also utilised as a driver for Terrence Terry, an attorney from Sierra Leone, who was in Monrovia at the time as a guest of then President Charles Taylor. Terry currently represents Taylor before the SCSL hearings.
- On another occasion, Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan in June 2001 in Monrovia, Liberia, met with RUF high level commanders to purchase conflict diamonds (inc. Kallon, Bah, Bockarie, Sesay, Massaquoi and Gbao)
- In June 2001 Aafia Siddiqui, AKA: Fahrem, was seen in Monrovia for 1 week meeting with Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah (FBI Terrorist Information Alert, issued May 26, 2004)

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PROFILE

**ABDULLAH AHMED ABDULLAH**



Aliases: Abu Mohammed Al-Masri, Saleh, Abu Mariam

Dates of Birth used: Approximately 1963

Place of birth: Egypt

Citizenship: Egyptian

Height: 5'8"      Weight: Unknown      Build: Medium

Hair: Dark      Eyes: Dark      Complexion: Olive

Languages: Arabic & French

Scars & Marks: Has a scar on the right side of his lower lip

FBI remarks: He fled Nairobi, Kenya on August 6, 1998 and went to Karachi, Pakistan. He is believed to be in Afghanistan. He may wear a mustache.

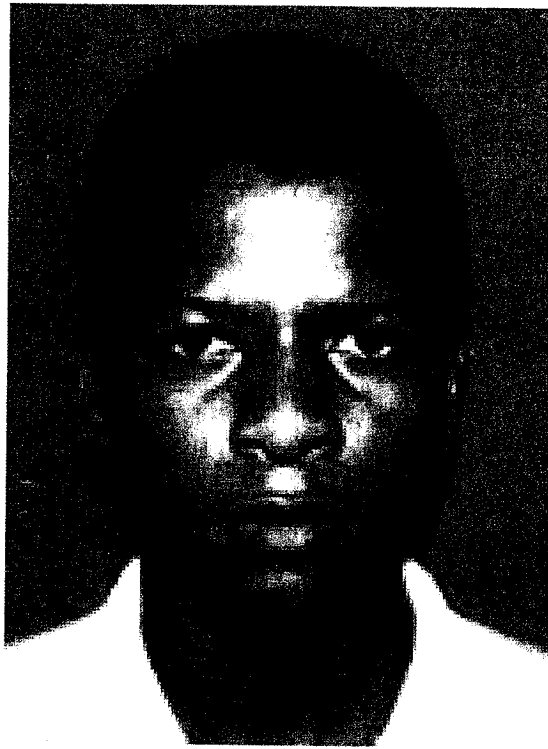
SCSL intelligence: SCSL confidential source identified that Abdullah first arrived in Monrovia in September 1998 as a guest of Ibrahim Bah. Initially stayed at the African Palace Hotel, Monrovia, Liberia. Met with former president Charles Taylor at the Executive Mansion to discuss buying diamonds from Taylor. Per Taylors direction, Bah introduced Abdullah to Sam Bockarie, former RUF Commander along with Benjamin Yeaten, former SSS Director along with Eddie Kanneh, former RUF member in Foya, Lofa County, Liberia. Subsequent visits he stayed at Bah's guest house leased by Ali Darwish near UN Drive between 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Sinkor Drive. Collaborated with Samih Ossaily, Abbas Macky, and Nora Vlasselaerts (Ossaily's girlfriend) in smuggling diamonds. Affiliate – Aziz Nassour.

Sources: FBI official website (Most Wanted Terrorist List, June 2004); Special Court for Sierra Leone intelligence (2004)

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PROFILE

**AHMED KHALFAN GHAILANI**



Dates of Birth used: Mar 14/April 13/April 14, 1974; Aug 1, 1970

Place of birth: Zanzibar, Tanzania

Citizenship: Tanzanian

Height: 5'3" to 5'4"      Weight: 150 pounds

Hair: Black      Eyes: Brown      Complexion: Dark Languages:  
Swahili

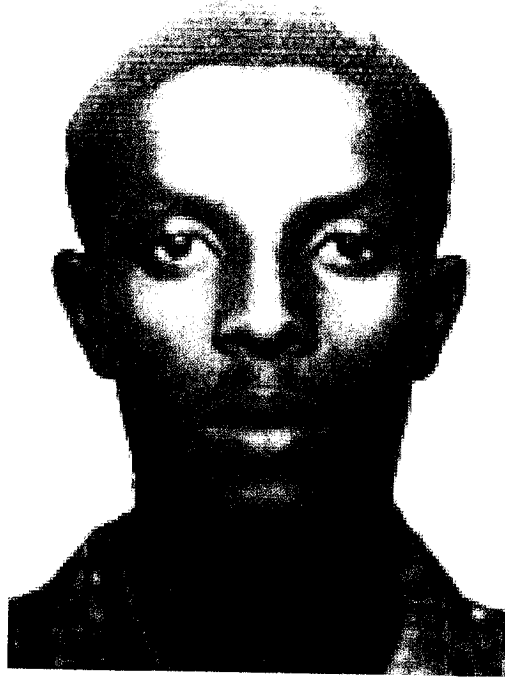
FBI remarks: Wanted for alleged involvement in August 7 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya.  
SCSL intelligence: Sources place Ghailani in the Royal Hotel (formerly known as Hotel Boulevard), Monrovia several times during the same period as high level RUF commanders, including Ibrahim Bah, Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Gibril Massaquoi and Augustine Gbao (2001). BBC 2003 documentary, 'Blood Diamonds' confirmed sightings in Kono, Sierra Leone of Ghailani purchasing conflict diamonds through association with the RUF and Taylor in Liberia.

Sources: FBI official website (Most Wanted Terrorist List, June 2004); Special Court for Sierra Leone intelligence (2004)

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PROFILE

**FAZUL ABDULLAH MOHAMMED**



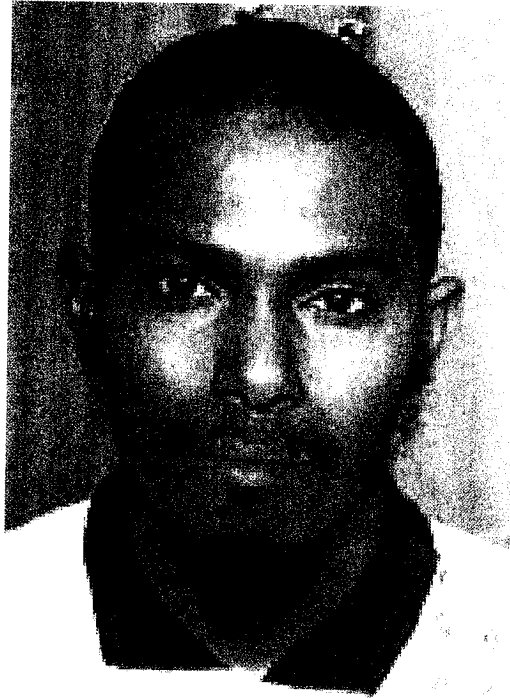
Dates of Birth used: Aug 25, 1972; Dec 25, 1974; Feb 25, 1974  
Place of birth: Moroni, Comoros Islands  
Citizenship: Comoros, Kenyan  
Height: 5'3" to 5'5"      Weight: 120 to 140 lbs  
Hair: Black      Eyes: Brown      Complexion: Dark Languages:  
French, Swahili, Arabic, English, Comoran  
FBI remarks: Wears baseball caps, dresses casually; good with computers;  
wanted for alleged involvement in August 7 1998 bombings of U.S.  
embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya.  
SCSL intelligence: Positively identified by SCSL sources as staying in the  
Royal Hotel (formerly Hotel Boulevard), Monrovia, Liberia during 1999 and  
2000 with RUF General Sam Bockarie; was used as Bockarie's driver. Also  
drove at times during this period for Terrence Terry, an attorney from Sierra  
Leone, who was in Monrovia as a guest of President Taylor (Terry currently  
represents Taylor before the SCSL). BBC 2003 documentary. 'Blood  
Diamonds' confirmed sightings in Kono, Sierra Leone of Mohammed  
purchasing conflict diamonds through association with the RUF and Taylor  
in Liberia.

Sources: FBI official website (Most Wanted Terrorist List, June 2004); Special Court for  
Sierra Leone intelligence (2004)

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PROFILE

**SHEIKH AHMED SALIM SWEDAN**



Dates of Birth used: April 9, 1969; April 9, 1960

Place of birth: Mombasa, Kenya

Citizenship: Kenyan

Height: 5'8" to 6'0"      Weight: 175 pounds

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Complexion: Dark

Languages: Arabic, Swahili, English

FBI remarks: Wears light beard or moustache occasionally; in the past, managed a trucking business in Kenya; wanted for alleged involvement in August 7 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya.

SCSL intelligence: SCSL confidential source personally met with Swedan in June 2001 in Monrovia, Liberia; wanted to buy diamonds from source. RUF high level commanders inc. Morris Kallon present at meeting. Other sources also place Swedan in/around the Royal Hotel (formerly known as Hotel Boulevard), Monrovia several times during the same period as high level RUF commanders, including Ibrahim Bah, Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Gibril Massaquoi and Augustine Gbao (2000 – 2001).

Sources: FBI official website (Most Wanted Terrorist List, June 2004); Special Court for Sierra Leone intelligence (2004)

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PROFILE

**MUHAMMAD ATEF**



Dates of Birth used: Unknown

Place of birth: Egypt

Citizenship: Egyptian

Height: 6'4" to 6'6"

Weight: Unknown Build: Thin

Hair: Dk brown/black

Eyes: Dark

Complexion: Olive

Languages: Arabic

FBI remarks: Alleged to be Usama bin Laden's 2IC of Al-Qaeda; Wanted for alleged involvement in August 7 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya.

SCSL intelligence: Believed to be deceased (details unconfirmed); sources place Atef in the Royal Hotel (formerly known as Hotel Boulevard), Monrovia several times during the same period as high level RUF commanders, including Ibrahim Bah, Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Gibril Massaquoi and Augustine Gbao (2001).

Sources: FBI official website (Most Wanted Terrorist List, June 2004); Special Court for Sierra Leone intelligence (2004)



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
PROFILE

**AAFIA SIDDIQUI**



Dates of Birth used: March 2, 1972

Place of birth: Pakistan

Citizenship: Pakistani

Height: Unknown Weight: Unknown

Hair: Brown      Eyes: Brown      Complexion: Olive

Languages: Arabic, English

FBI remarks: Although Aafia Siddiqui's current whereabouts are unknown, the FBI believes she is currently in Pakistan. Although the FBI has no information indicating this individual is connected to specific terrorist activities, the FBI would like to locate and question this individual.

SCSL intelligence: SCSL confidential source personally met with Siddiqui in June 2001 in Monrovia, Liberia; arrived at Roberts International Airport via Air Weasua from Abidjan, Ivory Coast and received as a guest of Ibrahim Bah; met with Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah to evaluate diamond operations from overall boss in Pakistan (NFI). Her address on Liberian visa request was allegedly Quetta, Pakistan. Stayed at Bah's guest house located near UN Drive and 16<sup>th</sup> Street Sinkor Street, Monrovia for 1 week and then departed Liberia.

**SAMIH OSSALLY**

Dates of Birth used: 4 December 1966

Place of birth: Koidu Town, Sierra Leone

Citizenship: resides in Belgium

Worked for diamond companies in association with

Aziz Nassour; main representative in Liberia for the negotiation and purchase of conflict diamonds.

**AZIZ NASSOUR**

Dates of Birth used: 27 April, 1961; 30 March 1961

Place of birth: Sefadu, Sierra Leone

Citizenship: Lebanese

Considerable interest in diamond companies, and trade in conflict diamonds. Connections to al-Qaeda.

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PROFILE

**SAMIH OSSAILY**

Dates of Birth used: 4 December 1966

Place of birth: Koidu Town, Sierra Leone

Citizenship: resides in Belgium

SCSL database holdings: Second cousin of Aziz Nassour, worked for diamond companies associated with Nassour in Angola, the DRC, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. Entered into business with RUF after 1997.

Ossaily was the primary figure working for Nassour in Liberia, for the purchase of conflict diamonds. Ossaily also managed the proceeds that Nassour sent to Africa. To engage in this business, Ossaily dealt directly with the high level command of the RUF whilst in Monrovia, and did so with the co-operation of the Liberian government (President Taylor).

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PROFILE

**AZIZ NASSOUR**

Dates of Birth used: 27 April, 1961; 30 March 1961

Place of birth: Sefadu, Sierra Leone

Citizenship: Lebanese

SCSL database holdings: extensive interests in the diamond industry, owning diamond and commodity trading companies in Antwerp, as well as diamond-buying and trading companies operating in Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea, Lebanon, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

Believed to be the head of a crime syndicate involved in arms trafficking to regions of conflict in Africa in exchange for conflict/blood diamonds. Uncut diamonds from Kono fields, Sierra Leone are smuggled via Monrovia to Antwerp, where they are then sold, and proceeds laundered through his company, Asa Diam.



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
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**PRESENCE OF AL-QAEDA IN WEST AFRICA**  
**INDEPENDENT SOURCE FINDINGS**

Over the last three years there have been six independent sources, including the Special Court for Sierra Leone, that have documented the link between Liberia and al-Qaeda. Some of the highlights of these links include the following:

**First**, Douglas Farrah published several articles in *The Washington Post* on this matter as well his recent book, *Blood Stones*. While FBI is already aware of the contents of these reports, it should be noted that of the most troubling includes the allegation that "European police investigators told 'The Washington Post' of 29 December 2002 that a year-long inquiry has provided substantial evidence that al Qaeda leaders paid a bribe of \$ 1 million to Liberian President Charles Taylor for access to a protected zone in Liberia on the border of Burkina Faso. It was there that they hid for two months after the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States. The al Qaeda operatives also purchased some \$20 million worth of "blood diamonds," a portion of which they spent on buying weapons.

Prior to this report the paper also detailed how on 22 September 2000, a senior al Qaeda financial officer named Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, who is listed on the FBI's list of most-wanted terrorists, arrived in Monrovia, Liberia. Upon arrival, Ibrahim Bah allegedly arranged for Abdullah to meet with senior Liberian officials and their allies in the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in neighboring Sierra Leone.

**Secondly**, Belgian authorities arrested Samih Ossaily for illegal diamond transactions in Liberia. Investigations coincident to his arrest show that his affiliate Aziz Nassour, who the Belgians have documented as being a major dealer in Sierra Leonean conflict diamonds and who has known business and family connections to Hezbollah and al Qaeda, continued to obtain diamonds from Sierra Leone in the second half of 2001 even as he stopped selling them on the Antwerp market. (Coincidentally, phone traffic of Nassour and the ASA Diam Company, Antwerp, which he was selling the diamonds through shifted to Afghanistan, Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia in July 2001.) Nassour is also active in buying and selling conflict diamonds in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Additionally, the Belgium Police confirmed that \$19 million involving the sale of conflict diamonds by Nassour were traced back to Monrovia. Nassour is directly affiliated with various members of al Qaeda, one of which was connected with al Qaeda and the August 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya.



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
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**Thirdly**, on February 10, 2003 the British Broadcast Corporation aired a 30-minute television story regarding "Blood Diamonds" that confirmed the presence of al Qaeda in Monrovia and purchasing conflict diamonds in Sierra Leone. The story confirmed sightings of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani and Fazul Abdullah Mohammed in Sierra Leone both listed on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list. Both were present to purchase conflict diamonds through the association with the RUF and Taylor in Liberia.

**Fourthly**, the organization Global Witness, which first exposed the trade in conflict diamonds, published a report confirming the allegations of *The Washington Post* stories that exposed how al Qaeda devised and carried out a ten-year strategic move into the unregulated diamond trade. The report, "For a Few Dollars More, How al Qaeda moved into the diamond trade," presents information showing how two senior al Qaeda operatives, based in Kenya and Tanzania from 1993, established diamond mining and trading companies in order to raise funds. According to the report, following the 1998 US embassy bombings three further al Qaeda operatives gained access to the illicit diamond trade in Sierra Leone, then controlled by the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The report shows how the corrupt regime of President Charles Taylor of Liberia facilitated access for al Qaeda operatives into Sierra Leone and Liberia in exchange for diamonds and weapons. It also presents evidence to show how al Qaeda took advantage of the same illicit diamond trading structures being utilized by Lebanese terror group Hezbollah. The report also demonstrates that the US response thus far has been inadequate.

**Fifthly**, a recently released Liberian journalist, Hassan Bility, who recently immigrated to the United States after six months of torture in a Liberian prison stated in an interview to CNN the following

He [Taylor] definitely supports terrorists, terrorist activities. He encourages the presence of al Qaeda members in Liberia. For example, Mohammed Abid (ph), that's someone I presently met with and spoke with. Another person called Sam Walsam (ph) from the Middle East, as well. These are guys who have got direct connection with al Qaeda and one Ibrahim Balde. Ibrahim Balde is some guy whose name is also (UNINTELLIGIBLE). Now, this is a fact. The reason Taylor turned to them is that he felt that the international community had, you know, ostracized him. So he thought it would be better if he established some form of friendship



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
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with them in exchange for him being able to get arms in large amounts.

On July 23, 2003, Hassan Bility, currently residing in Boston, MA was contacted and advised that he personally witnessed al Qaeda members in Monrovia visiting with Taylor from 1999 thru early 2001. He claimed he was unaware at the time that they were linked to al Qaeda. However, after September 11, 2001 the media coverage of al Qaeda and its members he was able to identify several of them. He also viewed the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list, which contains 22 al Qaeda members, and specifically identified Muhammad Atef. He confirmed that this was the same Mohammed that was identified in the July 8, 2003 CNN interview, although the printed version of the interview reflected an incorrect spelling of Abid vs Atef.

All of the aforementioned information was developed independently by each source.

### SPECIAL COURT INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

While conducting criminal investigations relating to the charter of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, other connections to organized crime and terrorist syndicates became apparent. In particular, the link between al-Qaeda and Liberia.

On or about September 22, 1998, a SCSL confidential source witnessed the presence of Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah (on FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist List) in Monrovia, Liberia until July 2001. He was staying at the African Palace Hotel at the invitation of Ibrahim Bah, who introduced him to former Liberian President Charles Taylor at the Executive Mansion. Bah had arranged for Abdullah to buy diamonds from Taylor, which were mined in Sierra Leone. At Taylor's direction, Bah introduced Abdullah to Sam Bockarie (deceased) former RUF Commander while in Foya, Lofa County, Liberia in the presence of General Benjamin Yeaten, Taylor's former Director, Special Security Service (SSS). Abdullah routinely stayed at Bah's guest house located near UN Drive between 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Sinkor streets, which was leased by Ali Darwish. He collaborated with Samih Ossaily, Aziz Nassour, Abbas Macky, and Nora Vlasselaerts (Ossaily's girlfriend), who used to smuggle diamonds from Liberia to Belgium. Taylor purchased arms from the sale of these diamonds.

**Note:** Ossaily & Nassour are currently awaiting trial in Belgium for charges related to diamond smuggling and criminal enterprise related to the diamonds from Sierra Leone. Both, Macky and Vlasselearts admitted to the Belgian police that they had smuggled Sierra Leone diamonds for Nassour from Liberia to Belgium.



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
Confidential document

Additionally, the source recalls in March 1999 the arrival of Ahmed Khalifan Ghailani and Fazul Abdullah Mohammed (both are on FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists List) via a Air Weasua flight from Abidjan, Ivory Coast. They were brought to Monrovia as guests of Ibrahim Bah and subsequently met with former President Taylor at his Congo Town residence. Both stayed at the Hotel Boulevard, currently known as the Royal Hotel. Ghailani was overheard relating that he had previously done some diamond mining work in the Congo and tanzanite mining in Tanzania.

**Note:** Ghailani was indicted on December 16, 1998 by the U.S. authorities for his alleged involvement in the August 7, 1998, bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya.

Source recalled that Ghailani and Mohammed were frequent visitors to Liberia. However, in April of 2001 Taylor was put on notice that middle eastern personnel (Samih Ossaily, Abdullah, etc) were reportedly seen buying diamonds in Sierra Leone, who were linked to Taylor. Apparently, this had made the news and subsequently reported to the United Nations. As a result, from April-June 2001 Ghailani and Mohammed were sent to Kono, Sierra Leone to buy the diamonds on Abdullah's orders because they were of African descent and would not arouse any suspicion.

Additionally, the source recalled a female known as Fahrem (NFI), later identified as Aafia Siddiqui, purported to be from Quetta, Pakistan arrive in Monrovia, Liberia during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June 2001. She was a guest of Bah, however, she was there to meet with Abdullah on orders from the "overall boss" (NFI) to evaluate the diamond operation in Liberia. Source related that although Aziz Nassour was one of the principal figures, he was not the "overall boss", rather, the person may have been from Pakistan. The source related that Abdullah used to routinely talk about JIHAD operations and the need for suicide bombings in its war against Israel. Also, source recalled Bah and Abdullah routinely speak in Arabic and occasionally in French.

**Note:** Siddiqui is an individual identified by the FBI as one of the persons they identified in an FBI Seeking Information Alert, issued on May 26, 2004 and believes she is living in Pakistan. This information is consistent with the source information we received.

During the first week of June 2001, source recalled a visit to Liberia by Aziz Nassour, also known as "Alpha Zulu" to visit Taylor. Nassour learned during that trip the \$500,000 he had previously provided Bah in March 2001, which was supposed to be given directly to Taylor did not occur. When confronted, Bah allegedly claimed that some of the money was stolen while he was travelling in the region and that the remaining portion was stolen by a business colleague. Bah had never disclosed this to Taylor or Nassour and as a result, Taylor directed Yeaten to get the money and kill Bah. Consequently, Bah fled Liberia on or about July 25, 2001 to Burkina Faso.





SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
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One particular incident of identifying known al-Qaeda operatives in the presence of both RUF high level command and organised crime figures was discovered upon an investigative trip by Special Court staff to the Royal Hotel, formerly known as the Hotel Boulevard, in Monrovia, Liberia in February 2004. (Note that the Government of Liberia ran the hotel from 2000- 2002). Five SCSL sources interviewed on this trip confirmed sightings of al-Qaeda operatives' (who appear on the FBI's most wanted terrorists list) Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan and Fazul Abdullah Mohammed during 2000 - 2001.

On these occasions, Fazul Abdullah Mohammed was seen in the presence of General Sam Bockarie of the RUF, staying with him several times and working as his driver. Mohammed was also utilized as a driver for Terrence Terry, an attorney from Sierra Leone, who was in Monrovia at the time as a guest of then President Charles Taylor. Terry currently represents Taylor before the SCSL hearings.

On another occasion, a separate and confidential SCSL source met personally with Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan (on FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist List) in June 2001 in Monrovia, Liberia, as Swedan wanted to purchase diamonds from the RUF. Swedan was sent to Monrovia by Aziz Nassour and met by Bah. Bah introduced Swedan to Taylor in the presence of RUF high level commanders including Morris Kallon, Ibrahim Bah, General Sam Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Gibril Massaquoi and Augustine Gbao, while at the Congo. Taylor subsequently directed Sesay to take Swedan to Sierra Leone to purchase some diamonds, which he did.

Additionally, a highly credible source observed Muhammed Atef with General Issa Sesay, former RUF Commander on at least two occasions between March and April 2000 outside the Echo Bank located in downtown Monrovia, Liberia. Also, the source observed Ghailani with Cindor Reeves, Bah's special assistant at Bah's guest house located behind UN Drive between 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Sinkor Street, Monrovia on a couple of occasions between the latter part of 1999 and early 2000.

Although Nassour's specific role within al Qaeda has not yet been determined, it is apparent that he is directly linked to al Qaeda operation as he is routinely interacting with members of the al Qaeda faction identified those individuals on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list. Swedan in particular was indicted for the bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya, along with Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, and Muhammed Atef.

In October 2002, the Belgian Federal Police provided the diamond smuggling information regarding Samih Ossaily and Aziz Nassour to the FBI in Detroit and



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
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Baltimore, while visiting the United States in response to a letter of rogatory request. Also, at the request of Congress in May 2003 and February 2004 the FBI HQ sent delegations to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to conduct investigations into the presence of al-Qaeda in West Africa and their related involvement in conflict diamonds. In June 2003 the FBI reported to the GAO that there was no presence of al Qaeda in West Africa despite significant evidence to the contrary.

During a repeat investigative trip in February 2004, the FBI delegation was provided with detailed information and names of witnesses in Sierra Leone and Liberia who could confirm the al Qaeda presence in West Africa as well as the purchase of conflict diamonds from Sierra Leone. As a result, we arranged for their transport to Liberia in order to conduct their investigation. Prior to the departure from Liberia the FBI contacted us and advised that their investigation in Liberia had confirmed the presence of al Qaeda and those findings would be reported to FBI HQ.

It is clear that al Qaeda had been in West Africa since September 1998 and maintained a continuous presence in the area through 2002. Recent reports indicate that they are very active in northern Ivory Coast, which is a neighboring country to Liberia. Although the Kimberly process has been implemented in Sierra Leone our source information indicates that the process can be easily manipulated and corruption is still rampant allowing diamonds to be smuggled out on a regular basis. Additional source information indicates that Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah was reportedly working a diamond smuggling operation in the Guinea area, a neighboring country to Sierra Leone.