VISIT TO MINNESOTA

MAY 19, 2000

VIDEOTAPE 2

Participants:  ABDEL RAHMAN = OMAR ABDEL RAHMAN
               YOUSRY = MOHAMMED YOUSRY
               STEWART = LYNNE STEWART
               OFFICER = OFFICER
               UF = UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE

Abbreviations: (UI) = Unintelligible
               (PH) = Phonetic Spelling
               ... = Incomplete Thought
               ____ = Spoken in English
               *** = Redaction

1   ***

2   YOUSRY:  He’s the (UI).... Please sit down, Sir.

3   ABDEL RAHMAN:  Thank you all.

4   STEWART:  Thank you.

5   YOUSRY:  [Helping Abdel Rahman sit] Please wait a little, yes, the chair
               is right behind you, [door sound] please, sit down, okay?

6   ABDEL RAHMAN:  Yeah. Did you translate to her?

7   YOUSRY:  [Sits down] She didn’t want to, the door is open, Miss Miller
               is standing right there. She told me to wait till the Sheikh
               comes, and we close the door.

8   ABDEL RAHMAN:  Uhm.

9   YOUSRY:  Shall I tell her now?

10  ABDEL RAHMAN:  Yeah.
YOUSRY: The Sheikh was asking if I translated, and I said, no, because the door was open and she was next to the door.

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YOUSRY: Actually, the Sheikh's, uh, telling me that, uh, he requested- he had an English teacher, and he got along very well with him, but they transferred this guy to some other (UI).

STEWART: Of course.

YOUSRY: And then they got him a new guy and the Sheikh is not getting along with the other guy. He doesn't understand him that much. And he's very slow... he's very fast with the Sheikh. The Sheikh requested him to slow down a bit a lot of times and he doesn't. So the Sheikh told Abdeen to request the old teacher back. And Abdeen did, he wrote them a letter and since Abdeen wrote this letter, they stopped both of them. And no one comes to see him. And now the Sheikh... they come to him and say, "Do you want anything?" The warden comes, "Do you want anything? Do you have any questions? You want me to help you?" So, they are waiting for the Sheikh to ask. But it's... you know... so they can play with him.

STEWART: Hmmm.

YOUSRY: And then play games with him.

STEWART: Mmm.

YOUSRY: The Sheikh would not answer.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Before Ramadan-

YOUSRY: [Clears his throat]

ABDEL RAHMAN: Before Ramadan, I went to the dentist, my teeth eh, I have some teeth missing.

YOUSRY: Yes, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Some of them are sensitive to cold water or....
YOUSRY: Yeah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Some of them are sensitive to sweets. So he checked, then said, we need to do a lot of work, hah?

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: It might cost up to seven thousand dollars.

YOUSRY: Fine, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: So eh, but they said, after Ramadan.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Now, it is eh, how long had it been since Ramadan?

Shawwal, Zil Qi’da, Zil Hijja, Muharram and Safar, it’s five months after Ramadan.

YOUSRY: Yes, five months.

ABDEL RAHMAN: They didn’t do anything. They tell me that Washington is eh, it didn’t answer as yet.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: But I don’t believe it.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: I don’t believe it because it’s not a political issue.

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Washington....

YOUSRY: It’s a health problem.

ABDEL RAHMAN: It’s a health issue, why would Washington stop it?

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.
ABDEL RAHMAN: I don’t think-

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: -Washington would stop a health related something. But they make me understand that Washington did not answer to the teeth problem as yet. I can’t eat on the toothless side-

YOUSRY: Nor the other side.

ABDEL RAHMAN: -nor the side that has teeth.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Hah? I use my mouth to peel an apple before I eat it, I can’t eat it unpeeled....

YOUSRY: Sir, how about liquids? Does the hot and cold hurt?

ABDEL RAHMAN: In most cases, cold liquids.

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: They are trying everything that would annoy me.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir. Well actually also the Sheikh.... He said that, with respect to his teeth, uh, they had examined-

STEWART: With respect to what?

YOUSRY: Teeth.

STEWART: Oh, yeah.

[Clearing throat]

YOUSRY: They examined it...about six months ago. And...they went through the whole procedure, and the dentist told him that he needs new teeth. Because some of them are very sensitive to chocolates; others are very sensitive to eh, cold water, others are very sensitive to warm water. So he said, "You have to change this whole thing. Otherwise, you're never gonna be
able to eat properly."

STEWART: Mmm.

YOUSRY: So they told him, in a month we'll do that, and they applied...and eh, the application was supposed to be approved, but they tell him that it's coming from Washington.

STEWART: Hmm.

YOUSRY: And the Sheikh doesn't think so, because Washington would approve it, it's something with his health. Washington would give him problems if it's political stuff.

STEWART: Mmm hmm.

YOUSRY: But Washington will never, uh...say no to his health. So he thinks it's the prison...that is delaying this whole thing.

STEWART: How is the Sheikh's health? How is his health, by the way?

YOUSRY: Lynne asks, Sir, how is your health?

ABDEL RAHMAN: It's eh, it’s okay.

STEWART: [Flips pages of her notebook]

YOUSRY: He's getting well. [Turns the page]

STEWART: (UI) Okay.

YOUSRY: [Pulls a paper under his pad halfway out.]

ABDEL RAHMAN: (UI) the odors don’t make me sleep, lack of sleep is dangerous.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, the odors fill the room at the time I am awake for fifteen to seventeen hours, hah?

YOUSRY: Yeah.
ABDEL RAHMAN: The odors keep me up, I can’t sleep. This worries me.

YOUSRY: I'm getting by, but my most concerns are, the thing that bothers me the most is the smell.

STEWART: Mmm.

YOUSRY: This odor doesn't let me sleep. And sometimes I stay 20 hours, 24 hours without sleep, because I can't go to sleep because of that smell.

STEWART: [Writing] Mmm hmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: But I was able to eliminate seventy-five percent of the odors. I sealed....

YOUSRY: How, Sir?

ABDEL RAHMAN: I put small bags under the door-

YOUSRY: [Laughs]

ABDEL RAHMAN: -the tapes bags.

YOUSRY: And in the morning, you remove them.

ABDEL RAHMAN: No, no, I don’t.

YOUSRY: But when they open- [gesticulating]

ABDEL RAHMAN: It’s okay, they open.

YOUSRY: -they are pushed.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, they....

YOUSRY: And when they close the door, you put them back.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah. I also covered the toilet bowl.

YOUSRY: Mmm.
ABDEL RAHMAN: I covered the garbage pail.

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: There are also....

YOUSRY: What about the chest, the wood used to smell.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, I put it by the window.

YOUSRY: (UI)? Oh yeah, where there is air.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah.

YOUSRY: Uhm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: I discovered openings, no not openings, a piece of wire where odors sneak through.

YOUSRY: Ah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: I covered it with a piece of paper. [Gesticulates]

YOUSRY: Oh! [Laughs]

ABDEL RAHMAN: And I said, Lord, I need adhesive tape.

YOUSRY: Eh.

ABDEL RAHMAN: “Please, send me some adhesive tape.”

YOUSRY: Really, were you able to find it?

ABDEL RAHMAN: I found adhesive tape.

YOUSRY: Praise God.

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Gesticulating] I sealed the eh, eh....

YOUSRY: You taped the piece of paper on the wire.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.
YOUSRY: Praise God.

ABDEL RAHMAN: They can’t do anything, of course.

YOUSRY: Yeah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: They can’t change it.

YOUSRY: Right.

ABDEL RAHMAN: You see? I was able to eliminate seventy five percent-

YOUSRY: (UI)

ABDEL RAHMAN: -seventy five percent of the odors that hit me, they used to get to my brains. I couldn’t read, pray, nor do anything. The odors caused me to think about things, old thoughts, like, Mr. So and So came, went, did.... Oh my Lord, they messed me up.

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Totally messed me up, thoughts that go back to years-

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: -dangerous thoughts...

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: You see? But these things, due to God’s grace-

YOUSRY: Praise be to God.

ABDEL RAHMAN: -Eh, eh (UI).

STEWART: Yousry, stop and translate now.

YOUSRY: Lynne is asking me to translate.

[Laughter]
STEWART: Do the best you can. I expect that it's nothing that is gonna lend itself to translation.

YOUSRY: The Sheikh has-

STEWART: [Simultaneously] (UI).

YOUSRY: -been able to defeat...to defeat the smell. He had detected the source of the smell in his cell. So, he covers the bathroom, he covers the garbage pail, he covers the holes behind the door. He covers his...a chest, small chest that he puts under the window.

STEWART: Mmm hmm.

YOUSRY: And he found that the smell usually comes through like a hole in the wall...in the wall. So he covered it with paper, but it pushes it, so that the paper always goes down.

STEWART: Mmm.

YOUSRY: So he prayed for scotch tape, and he found scotch tape in his cell. So...

STEWART: Mmmm!

YOUSRY: ...he covered it, and now he has the smell under control. But before the smell used to cause him...a lot of bad thoughts, a lot of bad ideas. But now it's under control and he, by, by, through God's help, the Sheikh was able to defeat it. So (UI) sleeping.

STEWART: Oh, okay. [Pause]

YOUSRY: [Pokes Stewart's elbow with pen] (UI).

STEWART: [Writing] Terrible. (UI) Thank God.

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Echoing her] Thank God.

[They all laugh]
STEWART: Is that right? That is right.

YOUSRY: (UI) Thank God.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Chances are eh, eh, she will see you or maybe she’ll call you-

YOUSRY: Yes, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: -you would know my position.

YOUSRY: I tell you that just in case if you meet with her, or if she calls you or speaks to you, you know exactly what to say.

STEWART: Oh, okay. [Pause] And there’s still no...it is still his wish not to be at Friday or any of that. We shouldn’t push for that here.

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, is it your wish not to be at the Friday prayer, or do they impose things that, from the point of view of religion, would stop you (UI)?

ABDEL RAHMAN: They do impose things. They totally refuse to take me.

YOUSRY: Right now they refuse to take me.

STEWART: Mmm.

YOUSRY: Not only that, they also put some religious (UI) that I can't...it's not worth it to go to prayer. 'Cause they put a.... [To Abdel Rahman] Shall I tell her, Sir, that they make you stand by yourself and that the officers stand next to you and (UI) the radio....

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Simultaneously] Yeah, yeah and the radio (UI).

STEWART: From that incident that time, that's right?

YOUSRY: And also they put it all the way in the corner. They have guard, eh, eh, fences around there, and they do not allow him to be alone even in that (UI). They put a guard next to him with the radio out loud, so he can’t read anything-
STEWART: Mmm.

YOUSRY: -or listen to anything.

ABDEL RAHMAN: And sometimes they put...there is a sliding door-

YOUSRY: And sometimes they....

ABDEL RAHMAN: -you pull it like this, [demonstrates by hand] and it blocks voice. [Laughs]

YOUSRY: Sometimes even they close me in a room next to the eh, eh, a place where they ah,...where they pray...and I can't even hear them. So how is that prayer?

STEWART: [Writing] Mmm hmm.

[Pause]

[Pause]

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Coughs] [Pause] But (UI), but how come they allow me sugar free cookies eh, eh....

YOUSRY: The doctor prescribed them.

ABDEL RAHMAN: What?

YOUSRY: The doctor prescribed that. If the doctor prescribed them, they go by his instructions.

ABDEL RAHMAN: There is no proof that the doctor prescribed them.

YOUSRY: Then, probably they get together in conferences where the doctor would be attending. The doctor could have told them to get these things, they are good for you.

ABDEL RAHMAN: But, is it that the doctor says (UI), they can’t.

YOUSRY: Mmm, possible.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Can the jail be independent?
YOUSRY: Well, the Sheikh was wondering how come now they are buying him a lot of sugar-free chocolate from outside? Because if maybe the doctor recommended it, (UI) why do they go outside and buy it and bring it? They don't sell it here.

ABDEL RAHMAN: It is impossible for the jail to act independently concerning an issue like that.

STEWART: I don't know what the answer is to that, do you? I don't.

YOUSRY: No, I don't. [To Abdel Rahman] What do you think, Sir?

ABDEL RAHMAN: They must have asked Washington and Washington allowed it.

YOUSRY: They probably have asked Washington, and Washington allowed it. [To Abdel Rahman] Do you know, Sir, that they refused to get licorice-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: -because, [tapping on the table with his pen] they would be getting it from an Arab store?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Is this the only reason?

YOUSRY: Yeah. They get these things, I think, from a store that has nothing to do with Arabs.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, I know.

YOUSRY: So, whoever buys it, will have nothing to do...you understand, Sir?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: So she is not to blame.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah!

YOUSRY: This is a possibility. I mean, Mr. Abdeen and Mr. Ramsey-
ABDEL RAHMAN: -justify it this way?

YOUSRY: They justify it this way.

ABDEL RAHMAN: No, that guy, Tongas (PH) didn’t say so.

YOUSRY: Tongas eh....

ABDEL RAHMAN: He said, he said....

YOUSRY: We saw Tongas, we met with him.

ABDEL RAHMAN: You met with him?

YOUSRY: He’s outside.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Outside?

YOUSRY: Uhm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Is he now outside?

YOUSRY: I don’t see him, but his office is here. [To Stewart] Isn’t that his office?

STEWART: It's right at the end of the corridor where we walk in.

YOUSRY: It’s at the end of, the end of eh, the end of the corridor. When you, Sir, walk to the bathroom-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.

YOUSRY: -his office is the last room to the right.

ABDEL RAHMAN: He is eh...

YOUSRY: He is a young man.

ABDEL RAHMAN: No!

YOUSRY: I swear to God, he is 28.... [To Stewart] How old is Tongas, 28, 29?
STEWART: Mmm, I'd say maybe in his 30's, wouldn't you?

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, he is in the early 30s.

STEWART: But you met him five minutes ago, so....

YOUSRY: Yeah. We met him about five minutes ago.

STEWART: Yeah, he just came.

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, that he passed by five minutes ago. She saw him walking by.

ABDEL RAHMAN: He eh, he told them, if someone doesn’t want to take the medicine, hah-

YOUSRY: Yeah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: -for his stomach, the licorice is not necessary.

YOUSRY: So this is why he refused to get you any licorice, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.

YOUSRY: Actually, probably, the Sheikh is saying, Tongas probably is the one who refused to allow him to buy the, uh, licorice... juice for the Sheikh.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Tell her he is not the jail attorney, he is-

YOUSRY: -a politician.

ABDEL RAHMAN: He’s a politician.

YOUSRY: [Laughs]

ABDEL RAHMAN: He used to be a counselor in an embassy before they brought him here.

YOUSRY: Tongas is not a legal person, he's a political person, [Laughs]

STEWART: Oh, sure, they always are. Well, they think that they can-
ABDEL RAHMAN: [Simultaneously] Tell her (UI).

STEWART: -keep things cool, keep things, you know.... (UI)

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, he keeps things cool.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, he talks to Ramsey, Ramsey comes to me and says, “Wow, all these things-

YOUSRY: [Laughs]

ABDEL RAHMAN: -all these things will be done.”

YOUSRY: He fools Ramsey.

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Laughing] He fools Ramsey, there is nothing at all.

YOUSRY: (UI)

STEWART: Mmmmm.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir, right.

STEWART: How did that happen?

ABDEL RAHMAN: I told him, no, eh....

YOUSRY: Then he tells, he tells Clark on the phone, he tells Mister Clark on the phone, "Oh, I'll do this, I'll do that..." and then Mister Clark comes to the Sheikh and says, "This and this gonna be done." Then the Sheikh said, "Nothing will happen. Don't listen to him."

STEWART: Yes.

YOUSRY: And nothing takes place.

STEWART: That’s him.

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Simultaneously] He is into politics!
YOUSRY: [Laughing] And I told Ramsey, "Watch out for him. He's a politician, he's not a...."

STEWART: Mmmmm. Yes, he's, uh, moving up the ladder probably.

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ABDEL RAHMAN: Ask her what she thinks can be done to activate the media interest in our case, what eh, what can be....

YOUSRY: What kind of suggestion that you might have...that will help...uhm...rejuvenate the...media interest in our case?

STEWART: Well, I think [laughing] the Farrakhan thing is about the only hope we have.

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, we have the Farrakhan thing in hand, that’s the most important thing we have, Louis Farrakhan.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

STEWART: [Gesticulating] Yeah, because he is a...he is a media...somebody they center on all the time.

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, the media always centers on him.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

STEWART: [Gesticulating] And maybe then we can just, ehh...depending on what happens with him, maybe we can just get other people who are...uh, important, uh, to...request....

YOUSRY: Same.

STEWART: ...to have a visit and....

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, she will see what happens with him. If it causes noise, maybe other important people will request to visit.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

STEWART: [Gesticulating] And every time they refuse, if they...if we can
get that in a...you know, if the press will cover it to
show...you know, what kind of madness is this, to deny a visit
to a person in...solitary confinement under the worst
conditions in the middle of the country...1200 miles from each
coast.

YOUSRY: [Laughs] She says, Sir, [gesticulating] if they denied him the
visit, and if other people’s requests to visit are also denied,
every time the media covers it, we will be creating an
atmosphere... information, (UI) the people will talk about this
man, meaning you, Sir, being around.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: For instance, you, Sir, you are in the center of a remote place,
nobody [door sound] comes to you, (UI) and they also
disapprove visits! For instance, that Louis Farrakhan is a spy,
Mr. So and So is a spy, and Mr. So and So is a spy, why don’t
they want.... This will create some kind of media babble.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, but we have now formed a committee to follow up on
the case. Ask her what she thinks eh, eh...does she think there
is something else to do to strengthen the defense? Does she
think that certain people can join the committee?

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: What do you think?

YOUSRY: Well, they speak to the committee, and the committee now
has been reformed, reorganized....

STEWART: Mmm hmm.

YOUSRY: ...and I want your advice [ringing] and I want your help.
They were telling me how, how they, they should go about
their business in order to rejuvenate the interest of the media,
what kind of people should join, if you know anybody that
can join, you know, suggest their names. So probably you
can meet with those guys.

STEWART: I'll be happy....
1  YOUSRY: She says, Sir, that she will meet with them, she will hear from them.

2  ABDEL RAHMAN: From who, the committee?

3  YOUSRY: The people of the committee.

4  STEWART: Very good. The, uhm....

5  YOUSRY: This is her suggestion, she wants to meet with them and see what they can do.

6  STEWART: Whatever happened to that-

7  YOUSRY: [Simultaneously] You follow me, Sir?

8  ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah. But...ask her if she thinks of certain people who can be of help with the committee.

9  STEWART: I still get a lot of requests from the media to meet with him.

10 YOUSRY: She says, Sir, she still gets requests from the media to meet with you.

11 ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, tell her, but....

12 STEWART: [Simultaneously] I would say once a month someone calls-

13 YOUSRY: This is probably once a month.

14 STEWART: -and asks, you know, "How can we get to speak to the Sheikh?"

15 YOUSRY: They ask how they can meet with the Sheikh.

16 STEWART: [Simultaneously] And I say, "You can't. Unless you want to bring a lawsuit," I always say to them, uh, if it's important enough for you to go to court for...then you should go to court." And, uh...but no one has taken me up on it.

18 YOUSRY: They always call her about once a month, she tells them, “If
you want to see the Sheikh, you have to file a suit against the government.”

ABDEL RAHMAN: Tell her she can also tell them to publish. They can write something about their request to the Sheikh’s lawyer and that she said that she can’t because the laws restrict her.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir. [To Stewart] Instead of telling them to sue, ask them to publish.

STEWART: Yes.

YOUSRY: Ask them to speak up. Ask them to just write something (UI).

STEWART: Right.

YOUSRY: "We have requested, they're denying."

STEWART: Yep. You know who called me most recently, tell him, was the, the Japanese television-

YOUSRY: Yeah, he knows about it.

STEWART: -very anxious to....

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, Mister Yamashuti? (PH) Nagashuti (PH)?

STEWART: No, that wasn't his name, was it?

YOUSRY: Yamashuti?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Tell her that she was in the interview with him.

YOUSRY: Yeah, you're the one who...originated this whole interview with them.

STEWART: He's right, when we did that at Springfield.

YOUSRY: We did that in Springfield.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.
YOUSRY: Yes, you’re right.

ABDEL RAHMAN: You were with him.

YOUSRY: Yes, I was, Sir (UI).

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah. [Laughs]

STEWART: Right. That was good, yeah. Oh, Ed, Ed. That was the guy’s name, right? Ed?

YOUSRY: Mister Yamashu, Yamakuchi?

STEWART: Yama....

YOUSRY: Naguchi.

STEWART: No.

YOUSRY: Nagushi.

STEWART: No.

YOUSRY: Mister Naguchi.

STEWART: Noguchi.

YOUSRY: Noguchi.

STEWART: Noguchi.

YOUSRY: Mister Noguchi.

STEWART: Right.

YOUSRY: Mister Noguchi.

STEWART: Yeah.

YOUSRY: The Sheikh asked him about the geisha girls.

STEWART: Yes.

YOUSRY: [Laughs]

STEWART: You were so embarrassed.
YOUSRY: I didn’t know what geisha is, but you, Sir, kept pushing me to ask him.

YOUSRY: I said, “But, Sir...” You said, “You just..” and I said okay. [laughs] It turned out, Sir....

ABDEL RAHMAN: Noguchi told you he will send you a geisha girl.

YOUSRY: He will send a whole one for you, Sir. [Laughs]

STEWART: Noguchi gave us so many gifts-

YOUSRY: [Laughs]

STEWART: [Gesticulating] Ah, it was as if we were the geisha girls.

YOUSRY: He will send us a whole geisha here.

[Yousry and Stewart laugh]

STEWART: Ahh, that was very funny.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Tell her to expand on any media related thing, hah?

YOUSRY: We should expand on any links or any opportunities with the media.

STEWART: [Writing] Right.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: And when you meet with the committee, tell them about the-

YOUSRY: When you-

ABDEL RAHMAN: -names that can be useful (UI).
YOUSRY: When you meet with them, or you meet with some of them, probably you can suggest a few names, people that would be able to help him-

STEWART: [Writing] Mmm hmm.

YOUSRY: -in their media and stuff like that. [To Abdel Rahman] Did I tell you, Sir, that we met with Muhammad Mazin (PH) and (UI).

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, of the (UI).

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

STEWART: We ought to be able, you know....

YOUSRY: [Simultaneously] Muhammad Salah wants to have a talk with Lynne when she gets back.

STEWART: It also seems we also...go ahead, sorry.

YOUSRY: No, I was just telling that Al-Hayat correspondent wants to meet with you, once we're done.

STEWART: Oh, yeah, definitely.

YOUSRY: (UI) will publish it.

STEWART: [Simultaneously] That we’re going to do.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, fine.

YOUSRY: It was published in Al-Awsat. [To Stewart, who is pointing to her notes] Do you have the...the article about the Sheikh?

STEWART: Yeah. The other thing....

YOUSRY: It was (UI).

STEWART: ...I just want to close with was, that I, I think we ought to try to build also off Nasser's (PH) case. All those... types that came in on Nasser's case...you know, it's easier to support
conditions, it's much easier than trying to support uh...

YOUSRY: I know.

STEWART: ...uhtm...you know...Free the Sheikh, or anything like that.

YOUSRY: [Points to an item under Stewart’s pad, under Stewart’s legal pad]

STEWART: [Hands Yousry an article from inside the legal pad]

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, we have to also utilize Nasser’s case well; we should link it to your case because both are personal uh, uh, freedom cases.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.

YOUSRY: We can connect them together. Something was published in....

ABDEL RAHMAN: Al-Awsat?


STEWART: [Laughing] I hear one name. Can you repeat it?

YOUSRY: Mmm?

STEWART: Kuby?

YOUSRY: Yeah, Ron Kuby's right there. [Pointing to the picture in the article] This is him.

STEWART: Oh, yeah, I can see him.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Who is this Batuti, I don’t (UI)?
YOUSRY: He is the Egyptian pilot who said, “In God I trust”-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah, ah.

YOUSRY: -and they said he committed suicide-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.

YOUSRY: - and Ahmed said that they interpreted his words the same way they....[To Stewart] You know Al-Batuti, you know, the, the Egyptian pilot...who said, "In God we trust," and then...the plane crashed and then that's why he said oh, God, we trust, he committed suicide?

STEWART: [Laughs]

YOUSRY: So Ahmed is saying, "The Americans have translated the Sheikh's speeches precisely like how they translated Batuti's (PH), uh, sentence."

STEWART: Oh, that's good, that's very good.

YOUSRY: Thank you very much.

ABDEL RAHMAN: He only said so....

STEWART: I figured that.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Did Ahmed say only that?

YOUSRY: No, this is only the headline.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah.

YOUSRY: They put Ahmed’s picture, he is wearing [points to picture] something that says, what is that? [Puts the article in front of Stewart] Daytona Beach or something?

STEWART: Daytona Beach on this one.

YOUSRY: Really?
STEWART: Yes.

YOUSRY: Daytona Beach, right?

STEWART: Mmm hmm.

YOUSRY: He’s wearing a shirt that says “Daytona Beach,” this is where pretty girls are.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ooooh!

YOUSRY: You wouldn’t understand.... [Laughs]

STEWART: (UI) with Kuby, anyway.

YOUSRY: You are next to him, Sir. You are wearing your glasses and turban, and of course, the MCC coveralls.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah.

YOUSRY: It is four pages.

STEWART: The liberal fundamentalist.

YOUSRY: Liberal funda.... [To Abdel Rahman] It is four pages, it just came out yesterday, issue 423, uh, 5/12/2000.

ABDEL RAHMAN: 5/12?

YOUSRY: Uhm, which was last week.

STEWART: I know that name, too, right? Khamsa (PH)?

YOUSRY: Khamsa is "five." [Laughs]

STEWART: Oh, khamsa is five, so that’s why I heard that before. Someday I will learn, uh....

YOUSRY: But the picture is excellent, Sir.

STEWART: [Trying to repeat the Arabic word for “excellent,”] Mumtaz.
YOUSRY: [Correcting Stewart] Mumtazah.

STEWART: Oh, okay. [Laughing] It's different than “Mumtaz.”

ABDEL RAHMAN: Lynne, I suggest to eh, eh... I mean eh... I will tell Ahmed, Ahmed and Nasser and Yousry and the attorney who can be free to get together for a meeting once a month under the motto, “What Should Be Done,” what should we do, what, what eh, what can we do. You can sit in any office....

YOUSRY: But, Sir, Nasser can’t.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, okay.

YOUSRY: Because of the eh....

ABDEL RAHMAN: Surveillance?

YOUSRY: No, not the surveillance, but the release paper he signed says he should not have any relation with a prisoner-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, fine.

YOUSRY: -or any (UI).

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STEWART: And we actually did have, you know Sheikh, a meeting- so to discuss.... Yes. For most importantly was to discuss the situation around Ramsey's office; somehow that had to be worked out.

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, for your information, they hold meetings. The last one was not too long ago. They discussed Ramsey’s office and his ability to receive your phone calls every week. And how to (UI) because the entire burden is on Abdeen’s shoulders, things like that.

ABDEL RAHMAN: True, the (UI) burden is on Abdeen. Tell her....

YOUSRY: You know, Sir, he will go on vacation.
ABDEL RAHMAN: He will?

YOUSRY: Mmm.

ABDEL RAHMAN: How long?

YOUSRY: Three weeks as he told me, but he doesn’t know when.

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YOUSRY: (UI) time left (UI). [To Abdel Rahman] She says, Sir, there is only....

ABDEL RAHMAN: There is a man....

YOUSRY: Please go ahead, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Hah, how much we have left?

YOUSRY: [Pointing to the paper] We have about half an hour left. [Holds the same paper up, flips it and puts it down] I want to read the letter to you because it’s about two pages.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah.

YOUSRY: So you would know (UI) the answer tomorrow.

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STEWART: [Pointing] You ought to read that though, ’cause he has to think about this.

YOUSRY: Lynne is saying, Sir, we are supposed to read the letter-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: -because you are supposed to think about it.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: [Writing something on the top left corner of the letter as he starts reading] In the name of God, Most Merciful, Most
Compassionate; peace be to the Messenger of God, his family, his ilk, and all his followers who were guided by him (UI).

I thank His Majesty God and pray Him that you receive my letter in good health. May your imprisonment open doors of mercy for you in the hereafter, may He extend sufficient support to you, so you wouldn’t need any other.

My Master, His Eminence Dr. Omar Abdel Rahman, There are some issues I want to tell you and talk to you about, there are other issues-

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Cleans his throat]

YOUSRY: -you asked about during the former visit, I will try my best to get you the answer for them. As for the family in Egypt, they are all fine. As for Mohammed and Ahmed, Mohammed had a baby, he named him Omar. We pray God to bless him and grant that this name leads him to follow-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: -the example of his grandfather- [Yousry mispronounces the word “grandfather”]

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Correcting him] His grandfather!

YOUSRY: His grandfather- [Laughing] I can’t even read (UI).

STEWART: The scholar, the scholar is, eh....

YOUSRY: Sir, [laughing] she is saying, he’s no good any more.

STEWART: He needs to see you more often, Sheikh, to keep up his Arabic.

YOUSRY: [Laughing] I don’t know, it’s....

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: [Continues reading] -to follow the example of his grandfather-
STEWART: [Laughs]

YOUSRY: -and Omar our Faruq, may God bless him.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: [To Abdel Rahman] Alright? [To Stewart] Lynne, I think you should talk to him because they are looking at me.

STEWART: (UI) there (UI), they, uh, (UI)...[she taps Yousry’s pad with her pen] uhm, if he finds out what this is, then we’re.... [Laughs.]

YOUSRY: [Laughs] In trouble.

STEWART: [Laughing] Yeah, that’s right.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

STEWART: But, uh....

YOUSRY: They were standing, facing us, and looking.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: But now they went back a little.

STEWART: The, eh....

YOUSRY: Alright. Yeah, they left, they left already.

STEWART: Okay.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: [Reading] Eh, number two. Ahmed called me and asked me to convey to you, or remind you of something. I am only the messenger who passes the message. He told me that neither he nor Mohammed approve of Fatima’s marriage to her cousin. [Puts his hand on Stewart’s pad] Ahmed said that he knows-
STEWART: Right.

YOUSRY: -his cousin and that he has nothing against his character, but he is not the right person.

STEWART: [Touching Yousry’s hand] Why don’t you stop there and we’ll talk for a minute um, the, uh.... Ahmed’s youngest son needs glasses, did you know that?

YOUSRY: [Laughing]

STEWART: (UI)

YOUSRY: Lynne says, stop a little because they are by the glass, she wants me to talk to her, and I talk to you, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm, okay.

STEWART: And this is a kid that is always in difficulty, so I have no doubt that, uh....

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, that Ahmed’s youngest son needs glasses.

STEWART: [Simultaneously] Ahmed will have to take a loan out of a bank or something to keep, to keep this kid in glasses.

YOUSRY: [Simultaneously laughing] She says, Sir, that they need to get loans from the banks because everyday he breaks his glasses.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Loans from banks?

YOUSRY: [Laughing] Yeah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

STEWART: [Taps with the pen on the paper in front of Yousry] But continue reading this ‘cause this is setting up the, the organizational situation around his conditions.

YOUSRY: Okay. [Picks up the letter and continues reading] He is telling you, Sir, that he knows his cousin, he has nothing to say against his character, but he is not the suitable person to
marry the daughter of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman. They asked me to remind you of what you used to say about people who shave their beards-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: -even if they have good manners, they said, how can we accept for our sister what our father used to criticize?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: Alright? [Flips over the letter and continues reading the bottom part] I sent the power of attorney to Abdullah, hopefully he gets it soon.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: [Continues reading] Attached to this letter is an article written by the former Consul of Egypt to New York, Abdullah sent it to me from Egypt, [hand motion to Rahman] that is the one I read to you, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: Alright? [Continues reading] I went to New Jersey and asked about ‘Atif, but till this moment nobody knows anything about him. I went to Hatim twice, in the slaughterhouse, but I didn’t find him. I met with Hamdi Ali, he said he will look for him because he knows people in touch with him, this was about a week ago when I saw him by coincidence in the funeral....

STEWART: The, eh....

YOUSRY: ...of the son of Ahmad Al-Rifa’i who died in Italy.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

STEWART: ...the, uhm...the usual, uhm...form that these things should take is that...you should translate this...is that we’ll have, like, a...a committee for fund-raising, and we’ll have a committee for publicity....
STEWART: [Gesticulating] ...and we’ll have a committee for, uh, uhm...setting down the um, you know, the day to day work as opposed to, you know, the long term work on the subcommittee.

STEWART: I don’t think this lady speaks Arabic, do you?

YOUSRY: No, she doesn’t.

STEWART: No, alright.

YOUSRY: [Continues reading] He who wants to go, would contact Abd Al Mijid who would mediate for him. As you know, the last time we contacted him, we asked him to sell, and we told him about what you want. He promised to do so, but till now he never called, we don’t know what he did. Let us know if you want us or any of the brothers to go to him, please tell us in detail, especially if you or any of the brothers has a copy of any contract you may have with him. I can, with the power of attorney I have, exert pressure on him and say....

STEWART: [Touching the hem of Yousry’s sleeve] [Background noise] You know (UI) could be part of the Committee to Free Sheikh Omar....

YOUSRY: Yes, this is....
STEWART: ...(UI) this is the Egyptian branch of uh, that committee and (UI).

YOUSRY: [Laughing] Lynne continues to eh, she’s watching them, she’s watching them.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Very good, very good.

STEWART: [Laughs]

YOUSRY: [Continues reading] With the power of attorney I have, I can exert pressure on him, and say I will take him to court unless he finishes. [Stops reading] However, Ahmed says he doesn’t think he will go that far, but he wants to know if there is any paper between you, Sir, and him, so he can take a copy of it to use as a legal document when he sees him.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay fine.

YOUSRY: [Continues reading] Number seven: Mr. Salim ‘Azzam sends you his regards. I contacted him and told him what you said. He promised... he and some worldwide Islamic leadership people promised to conduct a campaign requesting your release, Sir. As you heard, Louis Farrakhan and Layth Shubaylat want to meet with... no, no, not Layth Shubaylat, only Louis Farrakhan wants to meet with you. I contacted Layth Shubaylat, but failed to contact some Sheikhs, like Sheikh Al-Qaradawi, and as you know, Sheikh Yasin. Thank God, there is good rapport, I hope you will hear pleasant things about that in the near future. [Brief pause] [Unfolding the paper] Okay, Sir?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: [As he goes to the other side and folds the letter] Eh, he jumped from number seven to nine.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: [Reading] My communications increased during the past year, I have semi-constant contact with Abu Yasir, Abu Hazim, Abu Mus’ab, Abul Harith, Abu Ithar, Abu Khalid, Abu
Mustafa and many other brothers, thank God. If there is anything, please notify.

Number ten: Abu Yasir called me the day before yesterday.

He still asks for Your Honor’s moral support to his position particularly at this time, after three years have passed since the Initiative that did not produce big results was issued. I had explained to you, Sir, his viewpoint before. Back then, you asked him to commit himself, and to give his brothers a chance. Up till now, the man is committed but I don’t think he will be able to remain quiet longer than that. I sent to you, Sir, the statement he issued on Al-Azhar University incidents, which exposed him to the criticism of some brothers, eh, particularly, because of its strong language. [Hand motion to Stewart]

STEWART: Okay. The, eh...if we set this up using this kind of a format, I think we can-

YOUSRY: (UI) is the best. [Laughs]

STEWART: Yeah, (UI) is the best. Eh, we should stay awake that long.

YOUSRY: [Laughs]

STEWART: But this format is one where you have pressure from the inside, and pressure from the outside, so therefore....

YOUSRY: [Simultaneously] Are you following us, Sir?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.

YOUSRY: She says, now we are translating the letters by the lawyers in Egypt. The lawyers of Egypt work with the lawyers of America, so we exert pressure from here and from Egypt.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah, very good, very good.

YOUSRY: (UI), I swear to God! [Laughs]

STEWART: Alright, but just so that...on four sides, eh...they cannot withstand this, they would....
YOUSRY: We will destroy them this way. [Laughs]

STEWART: [Laughing] That’s right.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Live, live to eat, and, and do not eat to live.

YOUSRY: ..eat to live. [Laughs]

STEWART: [Laughing] Yes. Easier said than done, Sheikh.

YOUSRY: She says it is easy to say so, Sir, but when we sit to eat we eat a lot. [Laughs] Alright, Sir. Uhm... [Resumes reading] - which exposed him to strong language, criticism of some Brothers, though he didn’t say anything other than what is supposed to be said. He therefore, asks for your straightforward opinion, Sir, especially that you know that the man has his massive weight among many brothers; and that if the regime worries about anyone, it is Abu Yasir. I had told him and the other brothers about your request, Sir, concerning the evaluation of the Initiative, he had the same opinion. It is clear though, that those who push to go by the Initiative are the brothers in Liman, even though they are very few. [Articulating as he corrects himself] no, the brothers in Liman and very few others outside. Abu Yasir is of the opinion that the Group has to well utilize the Initiative paper. The least to do is to allow media escalation, and to demonstrate disgust at the way the situation ended up, especially that the most they allow now is some improvement in prisons, permission of visits, and release of some prisoners. Bear in mind though, that those they released had nothing to do with anything to start with, and that there are so many others the government refuses to even discuss their future, like those detained for more than ten years without any charge like Hasan Al-Gharbawi (PH), Dr. Ahmad Abdu (PH) Silim, Dr. Mahmud Shu’aib....

STEWART: [Touching Yousry’s left hand] Speaking about, speaking about food though, the interesting thing is that, sometimes I have to fight whether I want to sleep more than I want to eat, because....

YOUSRY: She is saying, Sir, food is not her only weak point, sleep too.
ABDEL RAHMAN: Oh! [Laughs]

STEWART: And this is a difficult decision.

YOUSRY: This is causing her problems. [Laughs] You see, Sir?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

STEWART: Well....

YOUSRY: [Continues reading] (UI)...like Hasan Al-Gharbawi, Dr. Ahmad Abdu Silim, Dr. Mahmud Shu’aib and many others. Even our Brothers who served the sentences they had in Sadat’s case- [flips the page to continue reading the bottom part of the letter]

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: -more than five years ago are still in jail. Since 1992, the Brothers who were pronounced innocent in any case are still under detention, they were not released. Brother Abu Yasir and many other Brothers think that all these things need you to have a more forceful position, no objection to the formation of a team that calls for cancellation of the Initiative or makes threats or escalates things. Please, Your Eminence, say your opinion about this, dictate some points we can announce in a press conference with Lynne and if you don’t want to announce them (UI), please let Lynne know that.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay.

YOUSRY: Number eleven: he wrote it at night. He says, Sir, that he is doing a business project, it is a good one and so, eh, [Reading] I started about a month ago, I will, God willing, go on and will let you know in details. May God reward you, keep you like a high mountain who would not fear anyone’s blame (UI) in God.

Your Sincere Son.

[Gesticulating] Now, Sir, there is something eh, eh, you know when Mr. Abdeen told you that the stocks came down and that Prince Ibn Tallal purchased (UI) a billion and so?
ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.

YOUSRY: Now, there are, Sir, government companies that sell, like the government of New York, buys the people’s pensions and invests them in the stock market.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: The stocks went down, now they need money to cover their investments, so they (UI) the pensions for nine months or a year, you see, Sir? They sell the eh, eh the pensions to a company for five dollars, ten dollars, and by law, the company has to sell them back before a year, before twelve months pass. You see, Sir, pension money can’t be out for more than 12 months.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: This company takes the pension money from the government, and will pay it back after twelve months when the price of the stocks goes up; the government will be able to buy them again.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: The company that buys the pension money now at a low price, sells it to the people in $10,000.00 dividends, after six or nine months they get it at two and a half and four and a half profit.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: Eh, before the year ends, from nine to eleven months.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: Is it licit or illicit?

ABDEL RAHMAN: All is illicit, all the dealings of companies, stocks and, and, all that is illicit.

YOUSRY: Ah.
ABDEL RAHMAN: None of it, none at all is licit.

YOUSRY: [Writing] But, Sir, they buy pension money.

ABDEL RAHMAN: No, no, all these dealings have legal errors.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: There is no such a thing as stocks go down that much because of someone name or whatever name....

STEWART: Now you should translate to me. [Pause] (UI) [Ringing]

YOUSRY: Right, Sir. Um, the Sheikh is just remarking, you know, (UI).

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Simultaneously] Tell her that all American or Western dealings, whether banks, shares and stocks, all are illicit in Islam.

YOUSRY: Islam is against a lot of the, eh, fiscal policies of the United States of America.

STEWART: Illicit.

YOUSRY: [Repeating her Arabic word] Illicit, she says, Sir, it’s illicit. [All laugh]

STEWART: [Repeating the Arabic word] He said, illicit, I know illicit, I am very familiar with this word.

YOUSRY: [Laughs]

STEWART: While it is illicit for...eh, while it is not illicit, it is not good for Muslims.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ask her, is it unful law? [Tries to say 'unlawful’ in English]

YOUSRY: Who is it, Sir?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Is the word unful law, or what?

YOUSRY: Unful law?
ABDEL RAHMAN: What does “illicit” mean in Arabic, I mean in English?

YOUSRY: Forbidden, unlawful.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Hah?

YOUSRY: Unlawful, meaning, not allowed by law.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, yeah, unlawful.

YOUSRY: Unlawful.

ABDEL RAHMAN: That is the word I meant.

YOUSRY: Islamically unlawful.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, Islamic unlawful.

YOUSRY: Exactly.

STEWART: Right.

ABDEL RAHMAN: But, eh, or Islamic lawful.

YOUSRY: Exactly.

ABDEL RAHMAN: No, no “un.”

YOUSRY: Exactly.

STEWART: Right, no “un.” [All laugh]

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah.

YOUSRY: This is, Sir, all the letters. [Holding the article] What we have left is Al-Awsat, “Ahmed Abdel Sattar, the Paralegal,” which he gave to Lynne.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: He sent it to Lynne yesterday and she brought it, I will read it.
ABDEL RAHMAN: Keep it with the other articles, with the....

YOUSRY: For tomorrow, okay, we’ll keep it for tomorrow.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah.

YOUSRY: And if you, Sir, want to answer, Lynne will have a press interview with Mohammed Salah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: I believe eh, I mean, Lynne is thinking so. [To Stewart] When you are going to meet with Salah, Mohammed Salah, whatever the Sheikh will tell you, probably you will tell him.

STEWART: Oh yeah, definitely.

YOUSRY: She says, Sir, anything you say she will definitely convey to Mohammed Salah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah.

STEWART: Oh, yes, and I will describe, you know, the Sheikh’s....

YOUSRY: And she will talk about your condition, your position, your prison, and, and....

STEWART: And how we’ll....

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, this is important.

YOUSRY: -the difficulties we face when we make a visit... [To Stewart] We have to fly all that time.

STEWART: Mmm hmm.

YOUSRY: Alright, Sir.

STEWART: But we’ll be here fine. Yes, absolutely.

YOUSRY: Ahmed says, Sir (UI) that eh, sorry, it’s not Ahmed, it’s Nabil.
ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: He called last night, and after he spoke about the watch, he asked me to let the Sheikh know that he, Nabil -

ABDEL RAHMAN: Hmm.

YOUSRY: -agrees that your daughter Fatima marries her cousin. I didn’t say anything. He said to me, “Tell the Sheikh so and so, there are levels of commitment, if his beard is not long enough it doesn’t mean he is not committed or so.” I told him, listen, what I know is, Sheikh Omar said it is up to Abdullah, that’s what I heard. He said, “No, Sheikh Omar put my name in the will, I have a saying.” I told him that as far as I know, a “will” is in effect after the Sheikh can no longer have a word.

ABDEL RAHMAN: May God bless you.

YOUSRY: But now, the word is for the Sheikh.

ABDEL RAHMAN: May God, may God bless you.

YOUSRY: That’s what I said, Sir, but he got mad.

ABDEL RAHMAN: No, how come? Why is it called “will” then?

YOUSRY: Exactly.... [To Stewart] I’m telling about what Nabil told me last night.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Why is it called a “will” then, [laughing] a will is after death.

YOUSRY: Exactly. (UI)

ABDEL RAHMAN: He goes ahead and says his opinion on any issue, how come? [Laughs]

YOUSRY: This is exactly so, Sir, right. [To Stewart] Well, the Sheikh is wondering, too, how come he (UI).

ABDEL RAHMAN: The Hadith of the Prophet, may God’s blessings and peace be upon him....
STEWART: That he what?

YOUSRY: What the Sheikh said in his will, that Ahmed and Nabil....

STEWART: [Laughs]

YOUSRY: ...are responsible to marry his kids after, you know.

STEWART: Right.

YOUSRY: And Nabil wants to take charge now.

STEWART: [Laughing] Ay, ay! Tsk, tsk, tsk.

YOUSRY: Help yourself, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Laughing] I saw the Hadith, “Marry a stranger, don’t get weak,” marry a stranger....

YOUSRY: [As he writes] Marry a stranger-

ABDEL RAHMAN: Don’t get weak.

YOUSRY: -don’t get weak.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Meaning, the Prophet advises that we marry strangers, you don’t marry the daughter of your paternal uncle or aunt, nor your maternal uncle or aunt or the daughter of eh, hah....

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: So, you marry a stranger, don’t get weak, in order not to get weak.

STEWART: Ask the Sheikh, how old is his daughter.

YOUSRY: She is asking, Sir, how old is your daughter?

ABDEL RAHMAN: She is about eh, about twenty-five.

YOUSRY: About twenty-five.
ABDEL RAHMAN: You see?

YOUSRY: Yes, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: The word means, “so you don’t get weak.”

YOUSRY: [Repeating] In order not to get weak.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, because of the heredity factor. If the sense of hearing in a family is fifty per cent....

YOUSRY: Yeah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: ...the hearing of the son they will have will be twenty-five per cent.

YOUSRY: Exactly, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: If the sight is seventy-five percent, the son will be twenty-five per cent and so on. Sugar can also be passed through heredity, the son will be diabetic. The Hadith says, “Marry strangers, don’t get weak.”

YOUSRY: [Repeating] Marry strangers, don’t get weak.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Ah.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: I told them that, I advised and I said this is my opinion, but if you agree, that’s fine.

YOUSRY: I am saying this to you, Sir, so you would know, because he told me (UI) and I told him that I know a will is eh, Sheikh Omar is alive, nobody should say anything.

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Laughing] (UI)

YOUSRY: And he said that his son, Abdullah, is in charge. So, this is it; neither I nor you have anything to do.
ABDEL RAHMAN: Uhm.

YOUSRY: He said, “No, tell him that the Muslim advises the Muslim and....”

ABDEL RAHMAN: [Interrupting] Fine, tell him it is right to advise, but advice is something, and the will is another.

YOUSRY: Of course, that is what I told him, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Advice is something and a will is another.

YOUSRY: I told him openly eh, I told him, put yourself in the Sheikh’s place. He didn’t see his family probably for more than fifteen or sixteen years, how can he decide on a marriage when someone else is there? I told him that this is what the Sheikh would think and that was it. This is what I wanted to say to you, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, okay. Uhm.

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STEWART: It’s just about three o’clock.

ABDEL RAHMAN: What time is it now?

YOUSRY: It is three o’clock, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Is it exactly three?

STEWART: Yeah.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Call Ahmed and ask him if there is any new news.

YOUSRY: You mean from yesterday till today?

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, call eh...

YOUSRY: He wants us to call Ahmed Abdel Sattar-

STEWART: Mmm hmm. [Opens her notebook, writes]
ABDEL RAHMAN: Call Firas too....

YOUSRY: and Firas, well, Ahmed can call Firas.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, fine. Call Ahmed-

YOUSRY: Alright.

ABDEL RAHMAN: and ask him to find out if there is any new news.

YOUSRY: Right, Sir.

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YOUSRY: Alright, Sir. See you tomorrow.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Yeah, God willing.

YOUSRY: Please think about...(UI).

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, fine.

YOUSRY: Okay, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: May God award you graciously.

YOUSRY: You too.

ABDEL RAHMAN: May God guide you.

YOUSRY: (UI) Take courage, Sir, see you tomorrow, God willing. [Picks up his notes] [To the officer] Ah, we go out first?

OFFICER: Yeah, two.

YOUSRY: He wants us to go out first.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Okay, okay.

YOUSRY: Peace be upon you.

STEWART: We...we’ll see you tomorrow, Sheikh, with great pleasure.
ABDEL RAHMAN: God willing.

STEWART: God willing.

YOUSRY: Goodbye, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Tell her to call her husband and say hello to him for me.

YOUSRY: Call your husband, say hello to him, and tell him that the Sheikh says hello.

STEWART: Okay. [Laughs] (UI).

YOUSRY: Thank you. Peace be to you, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Peace and mercy of God be upon you too. [Mixed (UI) talk, other voices heard].

STEWART: (UI)

UF: Good, hi Mr. Yousry-

YOUSRY: How are you?

UF: I’m fine, how about yourself?


YOUSRY: Peace be to you, Sir.

ABDEL RAHMAN: Peace be to you.

[ Mixed talking outside the room]