

On Oct. 23, 2001, Gwen McClure of Interpol's Criminal Subdivision officially informed a group of parliamentarians from NATO countries that Interpol has evidence that bin Laden is linked to Albanian gangs which have taken over the growing web of crime across Europe. Their investigations have also shown that bin Laden deployed one of his top military commanders for an elite KLA unit during the NATO war in Kosovo. The Interpol confirmation of the direct collaboration between bin Laden networks and the NATO-KLA operations during the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, is further confirmed by an article in the Swiss financial daily (*Neue Zuercher Zeitung*) on Oct. 25, 2001: "According to Egyptian and French intelligence services, in the late 1990s, bin Laden brought 500 Arab mujahideen to Tirana [Albania]. They are reported to have fought side by side with the KLA and to have been involved in the most brutal acts of revenge against Serbian civilians." McClure also stated that a meeting took place in Albania, in the presence of bin Laden, according to Albanian police. Several Algerian terrorists were present at the meeting. "It was during this meeting," she stressed, "that many structures and networks were established for propaganda and fundraising activities and for providing the Algerian armed groups with logistical support." During and immediately after the Kosovo war, when the KLA took over the province, heroin and weapons trafficking exploded unchecked. The so-called "Albanian mafia" ended up controlling 80% of the heroin distribution in Western Europe, when Kosovo had become a NATO protectorate.

A short article which appeared from the Egyptian Mideast News Agency on Sept. 8, 1996, entitled "Al-Jihad Terrorist Claims Strong CIA Terror Ties." It read: "An important cadre in the al-Jihad organization, who has returned from Afghanistan, has disclosed that there are strong relations between the CIA and British intelligence on one side, and terrorist leaders in Egypt and the Arab countries. Ahmad Rashid, the former ideologue of the Jihad, said that (Ayman al-Zawahiri, the military commander of the Jihad organization, had asked the CIA for \$50 million) early in the 1990s to stage a coup in Egypt." Other reports say that it was actually a man called al-Amriki ("the American" in Arabic) who made the offer. The \$50 million offer was accompanied with the assurance that the United States would not interfere with an "Islamist" takeover of Egypt, and allegedly proposed a (modus vivendi) between U.S. forces and the "Islamists" in the Balkans. Reportedly, al-Amriki was known among Islamist circles as a CIA go-between to various militant groups especially connected to the Afghan Jihad. And, connections among the CIA, British intelligence, and Afghan "fighters" are nothing secret or surprising, given that Western agencies provided support, training, logistics, and financing for those who were willing to fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan. In January 1998, in an interview with the French journal *Le Nouvel Observateur*, former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, an advocate of a "Clash of Civilizations" between the West and Islam, confirmed that, indeed, secret CIA support to the mujahideen started six months before the date given officially. The secret support was intended as a provocation to the Russians, to lure them into the "Afghan trap." Brzezinski stated: "According to the official version of history, CIA aid to the mujahideen began during 1980, that is to say, after the Soviet army invaded Afghanistan, on Dec. 24, 1979. But the reality, secretly guarded until now, is completely the opposite: Indeed, it was July 3, 1979, that President Carter signed the first directive for secret aid to the opponents of the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. And that very day, I wrote a note to the President in which I explained to him that in my opinion this aid was going to induce a Soviet military intervention." When asked if he regretted that provocation today, Brzezinski replied, "Regret what? That secret operation was an excellent idea. It had the effect of drawing the Russians into the Afghan trap--the day that the Soviets officially crossed the border, I wrote to President Carter: 'We now have the opportunity of giving to the U.S.S.R. its Vietnam War.' Indeed, for almost ten years, Moscow had to carry on a war that was unsustainable by the government, a conflict that brought about the demoralization and finally the breakup of the Soviet empire. What is most important to the history of the world? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some whipped-up Muslims or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?"

So, it is not hard to see why the "Islamists" would have an open channel with Western agencies including the CIA. The man who reportedly presented to al-Zawahiri the \$50 million proposal and the encouragement to destabilize Egypt, is known as Abu Mohamed al-Amriki, "Mohamed the American," real name Ali Mohammad. An Egyptian military man, al-Amriki joined the Jihad organization in 1981, the year that the Jihad claimed credit for the Oct. 6, 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat. Among the persons arrested for that assassination was Ayman al-Zawahiri, charged with illegal weapons possession. The stories of al-Amriki and al-Zawahiri tend to intersect not only in Afghanistan and Egypt, but also in the United States. It was al-Amriki who organized the visit of al-Zawahiri to New York, California, and Texas, to collect money, officially, for the families of the Afghan war victims. In reality, part of the money, according to the courtroom testimony of Khalid Abu-al-Dhahab in Cairo 1999, was used to finance the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Al-Amriki reportedly began his

career as the elusive "American" in 1981, when he first arrived in the United States immediately after having joined the Jihad organization, and was enlisted in a U.S. Special Forces school for foreign officers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In 1985, after leaving the Egyptian Army, he came to California and married. In 1986, he joined the U.S. Army. As a sergeant, he was stationed again at Fort Bragg's Special Warfare center, and in the late 1980s he popped up at an Afghan refugee center in Brooklyn, New York. There he gave combat training to Afghan and Muslim recruits who were to be sent back to Afghanistan to fight the Russians. Al-Amriki in 1992 went to Pakistan and Afghanistan to train the bin Laden men, providing especially "military and basic explosives training," according to U.S. court records. Al-Amriki terrorist career took off from there, putting him in contact and in a position of leadership with virtually every major Islamist terrorist organization. Al Amriki/Mohammad was indicted and convicted for his involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. One of the prosecutors in that case was Special Prosecutor in the RoveGate case, Patrick Fitzgerald. Nevertheless, Al Amriki/Mohammad was a prized contact for Pentagon special operations personnel. One of his closest colleagues, a former member of Delta Force, is now involved with Task Force 121 and the Pentagon's Strategic Support Branch (Project Icon) and passing intelligence to the neo-conservative parallel intelligence unit operating inside the Pentagon. Task Force 121 is the group responsible for the kidnaping of Imam Omar from Milan and other irresponsible and dangerous adventurism around the world.