

# Feds try to deport terrorist's son who protected America

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It was a matter of life and death for the young Palestinian.

If the Obama administration had been allowed to deport the defector from the terrorist group Hamas, it could have meant his execution.

But he's a Christian, not exactly an Obama priority. So, that's what almost happened a few days ago to 30-year-old Mosab Hassan Yousef.

He is the author of the autobiographical *Son of Hamas*, which describes his life as the son of an international terrorist. For more than a decade, young Yousef was our most valuable source of intelligence on the terrorist organization Hamas. He was even willing to return to the organization so that he could tip off American and Israeli officials about Hamas plans.

He is the son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef, one of the founders of the Hamas terror organization.

Former CIA Director James Woolsey has called him a "remarkable young man" who should be commended for "extraordinary heroism and courage."

Pleading his case in a letter, Woolsey said if Yousef were deported, it would discourage other potential defectors – and make America less safe.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that such an action would set us back years in the war on terrorism," Woolsey wrote. "Mosab's deportation would be such an inhumane act it would constitute a blight on American history."

The situation raises a number of questions – not the least of which is Obama's Muslim Aunt Zeituni from Kenya.

If she deserved the political asylum she was given recently, then why not young Yousef, who put his life on the line in America's defense?

Is the difference that she is Muslim – and he is a convert to Christianity?

## Does this make any sense?

In today's Alice in Wonderland world of the Obama administration, the Department of Homeland Security recommended Yousef be deported – although DHS knew well that he had provided invaluable help in the war against terror and that if sent to Hama-controlled Gaza, he would be executed as a traitor and apostate.

From 1997 to 2007, young Yousef provided intelligence that prevented dozens of terrorist attacks and multiple assassinations. During that time he secretly converted to Christianity and abandoned Islam. After he was exposed as an agent, he fled to California and applied for asylum.

And the Obama administration, which is attempting to build relations with Hamas and its financial sponsor, the Islamic Republic of Iran – tried to have him kicked out of the country.

Fortunately, a federal judge intervened.

“If you thought becoming a Muslim apostate and then spying on Hamas for Israel was difficult,” writes Alex Nowrasteh in the Internet site NewsReelBlog.com, “try tangling with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.”

The problem is that Yousef is an embarrassment to the Obama administration – which shuns the use of the phrase “Muslim terrorist.” Government-run National Public Radio calls Islamist suicide bombers by polite terms such as “resistance fighters.”

Yousef knows well what goes on within Hamas. He knows Hamas inside and out – how evil they are, how they think, their motivations and their plans. So, has the Obama administration been picking his brain? No!

They denied his application for political asylum in 2009 because he provided support to a terrorist organization. The Obama administration says that in March 2001, he drove some Hamas members suspected of committing a bombing to a safe house – and so, he does not deserve to stay in the United States. What they ignore is that he was working as an undercover agent and had to appear to be assisting Hamas.

What about his success in that role as an undercover operative – and providing valuable information about Hamas plans and activities?

## That apparently doesn't matter

Yousef says his decision to abandon his Muslim faith and denounce his father's organization had exposed his family to persecution in his home town of Ramallah and endangered his father's life.

He told *London Daily Telegraph* newspaper reporters Catherine Elsworth and Carolynne Wheeler that by speaking out about the problems of Islam and the evil he witnessed back home would help to address the “messed-up situation” in the Middle East and one day bring about peace and enable him to return.

“I'm not afraid of them,” he said of his family who remain active Hamas, “especially as I know that I'm doing the right thing, and I don't see them as my enemies. I do think about this a lot. But what are they going to do? Are they going to kill me?”

Yes, if he is deported back to Hamas-held territory.

“If they want to kill me, let them do it,” Yousef told the *Telegraph*. “I'm not going to stop anyone. It's going to be my freedom. My soul's going to be free of my body, not flesh anymore.”

Yousef arrived in America 18 months ago but it was with the release of his autobiography that he made “the biggest decision of my life” – which was to go public with his Christian conversion.

He said he did it to draw attention to how the Palestinian leadership is “misleading” and exploiting its people.

“Palestinians look really ugly in front of everybody in the world and they are very, very good people. They are misled, and their picture is very dark because of this leadership,” he says. “They need some help, they need people to stop lying to them, and lying to the world.”

He was raised as a Muslim by his politically powerful family. His father is a highly respected sheikh born in the West Bank town of al-Ghaniya near Ramallah and is a founding member of Hamas, whose military wing has instigated dozens of suicide bombings and other attacks against Israel since it was formed in 1987.

Hamas now governs the Gaza strip after ousting the more moderate Palestinian Authority led by Mahmoud Abbas, whose administration now only controls the West Bank.

Yousef said that the decision to leave the home he loves and his family including five brothers and two sisters had made life hard for everyone involved.

“They are definitely suffering because of what I’ve done,” he said. “They are not a regular family, they are a very famous family. Muslims around the world praise my family, praise my father. So when I came with a step like this, it was impossible to think about, it was crazy.

“I knew from the beginning my family would face an impossible situation. It wasn’t their choice. It’s difficult for my mother, she’s crying all day long. Every time I talk to her, she’s crying.”

His mother, Salsabin, told the *Telegraph* that she and her children were “in daily contact with him” but she declined to comment further on his new life. He told the reporters that his father, who has spent more than a decade in Israeli jails for his involvement with Hamas, was in prison when he “got the worst news in his life” – that his son had become a Christian and left Ramallah.

“But at the same time he sent me a message of love. Everybody is asking him to disown me. You understand if he disowns me, he will give terrorists a chance to kill me. He loves me as a son and he believes that what I’ve done was something I believed in, but at the same time it’s very difficult for him to understand and he won’t be able to understand.”

“Many saw him as heir apparent to his father,” wrote Elsworth and Wheeler, “who retains great influence both within Hamas and in Palestinian society, winning election to the Palestinian Legislative Council in January 2006 from his prison cell.”

Young Yousef said that his personal questioning of Islam and Hamas began early in his life.

His father, a pragmatist who has even suggested Hamas would be willing to talk to Israel under certain conditions, would listen to his son’s concerns, such as the targeting of civilians.

Young Yousef said that his doubts about Islam and Hamas crystallized when he realized not all Hamas leaders were like his father, a moderate who he describes as “open-minded, very humble and honest.”

Yousef said that he was appalled by the brutality of the movement, including the suicide bombers seeking glory through violent death.

“Hamas, they are using civilians’ lives, they are using children, they are using the suffering of people every day to achieve their goals. And this is what I hate,” young Yousef said.

Yousef’s attorney had requested that the FBI support Yousef’s claim that he provided information about Hamas and terrorism. The FBI declined to send a representative, but said it would not object if Yousef testifies about his work with the agency.

The FBI is apparently under pressure from the White House.

Yousef tells about being befriended by a British businessman who invited him to a Bible study. Yousef says that he found it “exciting” and began secretly studying the Scriptures, struck by the central tenet that we are to “love your enemies.”

He told the *Telegraph* he does not advocate the “collapse of Islam,” but rather for people to acknowledge that after 1,400 years “it’s not working any more.”

He hopes that Muslims will begin to question their religion and “fix it” by rejecting the parts that call for “killing others, cutting hands, cutting legs, torturing people and asking for destruction of entire civilizations.”

He said that after he converted to Christianity, he decided he had to escape and “live my life away from violence because I couldn’t coexist with that situation as a Christian.”

“I was thinking, what is my responsibility now? To see people dying every day or to stand up and say, this is wrong, this is right and be strong about this? So I had to make this move.”

He plans to write a memoir about his “transformation” that he hopes will inspire others.

He also hopes to found an international organization to educate young people about Islam and preach a message of “forgiveness,” which is the only way he thinks “the endless circle of violence” between Israelis and Palestinians can be broken.

“I know this takes a longer time, but this is the right way to do it, to build a new generation, a new generation who understands how to forgive, how to love.”