

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

- against -

HAMZA AHMED,

Defendant.

DECLARATION OF SHEIKH
ABDISALAM ADAM

15-CR-49 (MJD/FLN)

Sheikh Abdisalam Adam hereby declares under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

1. I am the board chair of the Islamic Civic Society of America (ICSA), which operates the Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque in Minneapolis. I am also on the board of the Islamic League of Somali Scholars in America. I have also served on the boards of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Neighborhood House in St. Paul, as well as a member of MPR's Citizens Advisory Council.¹

2. I submit this declaration in support of the application of Hamza Ahmed for bail. At Mr. Ahmed's counsel's request, I have visited Mr. Ahmed several times since his incarceration at Sherburne County Jail. This declaration is submitted with Mr. Ahmed's consent and the support of Mr. Ahmed's family.

3. The Islamic Civic Society of America (ICSA) was established in 1998 community leaders committed to the simultaneous advancement of Islamic principles and democratic values. Members of ICSA are dedicated to governance for the common good while addressing the

¹ I am also a licensed schoolteacher, and I have worked for St. Paul Public Schools for 18 years as an ESL teacher, and as the Somali Cultural Specialist with the ELL Department and Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships. I do not submit this declaration, however, as a representative of either of these entities.

specific needs of the Muslim community. Our mission and goals are outlined on our website.

See <http://icsaweb.org/about-us/>.

4. ICSA operates the Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque, located in the heart of the Somali community in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis. Over the past 17 years, it has grown to be one of the busiest mosques, providing a broad range of services, including Islamic study classes, five daily prayers, Friday prayers, Eid celebrations, Ramadan nightly prayers, and many more spiritual service programs. The mosque also has youth and family counseling programs. The mosque building was destroyed by fire in January 2014, requiring its move to temporary quarters. It was rebuilt and reopened this month.

5. Were this Court to release Mr. Ahmed on bail, on electronic monitoring, to the custody of his father, the Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque is interested in playing a role to reintegrate Mr. Ahmed with his family and community, and to keep him productively engaged while he is on pretrial release. This will include Mr. Ahmed's:

- a. Attendance at prayer on Fridays and holidays;
- b. Attendance at Islamic study sessions;
- c. Participation in counseling sessions with the Imam and mosque elders;
- d. Volunteer work at the mosque, including light cleaning, painting and repairs, activities relating to organizing events such as photocopying, envelope stuffing, distribution of materials, ordering food, distributing food, etc.
- e. Other activities, including sports activities and youth leadership initiatives, to be developed by the mosque leaders and Imams in consultation with experts, the Probation Department and the Court.

6. I have discussed this plan with Imam Sharif Mohamed and the ICSA board members. All support and are committed to this endeavor.

7. While we obviously do not condone the conduct of which Mr. Ahmed is accused, we believe that even if he is adjudicated guilty of any or all of these charges, the optimal approach for public safety and maintenance of community trust is to focus on Mr. Ahmed's capacity for rehabilitation.

Date: Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 19, 2015

Respectfully Submitted.



Abdisalam Adam