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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	Docket No. 15 CR 149-1
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Chicago, Illinois
)	December 14, 2015
HASAN R. EDMONDS,)	11:00 o'clock a.m.
)	
Defendant.)	

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - CHANGE OF PLEA
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOHN Z. LEE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government:	HON. ZACHARY T. FARDON United States Attorney, by MR. JOHN F. KNESS MR. BARRY JONAS Assistant United States Attorneys 219 South Dearborn Street Chicago, Illinois 60604
For the Defendant:	FEDERAL DEFENDER PROGRAM, by MR. PAUL FLYNN 55 East Monroe Street Suite 2800 Chicago, Illinois 60603

ALEXANDRA ROTH, CSR, RPR
Official Court Reporter
219 South Dearborn Street
Room 1224
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 408-5038

1 (Proceedings had in open court:)

2 THE CLERK: 15 CR 149, USA versus Hasan Edmonds, for
3 change of plea.

4 MR. KNESS: Good morning, your Honor. John Kness,
5 K-n-e-s-s, and Barry Jonas on behalf of the United States.

6 MR. FLYNN: Good morning, your Honor. Paul Flynn
7 appears on behalf of Hasan Edmonds, who also appears.

8 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Mr.
9 Edmonds.

10 We are here for an arraignment with regard to the
11 superseding information as well as change of plea hearing in
12 this case. I understand, Mr. Flynn, that upon arraignment
13 Mr. Edmonds wishes to change his plea and enter a plea of
14 guilty as to Counts 1 and 2 of the superseding information, is
15 that correct?

16 MR. FLYNN: That's correct, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Edmonds, before we proceed further,
18 I'm going to ask my courtroom deputy, Ms. Acevedo, to swear you
19 in.

20 (Defendant duly affirmed.)

21 THE COURT: Mr. Edmonds, do you understand that you
22 are now under oath, and if you answer any of my questions
23 falsely, your answers may later be used against you in a
24 prosecution for perjury, or making a false statement?

25 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

1 THE COURT: Now, Mr. Flynn, you have been appointed to
2 represent Mr. Edmonds for this case, is that correct?

3 MR. FLYNN: That's correct, Judge.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Edmonds, I just wanted to confirm that
5 Mr. Flynn has been your attorney in connection with this case
6 since the beginning, is that correct?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.

8 THE COURT: If at any point in time this morning you
9 wish to take a break so you can speak privately with Mr. Flynn,
10 please let me know, and I will accommodate that request. Do
11 you understand?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Before we continue, I want to
14 inform you that you have the right not to make any statements
15 today that would incriminate you. However, if you wish to
16 plead guilty to those counts, you must answer my questions.
17 And in giving truthful responses to my questions or making
18 other statements during these proceedings, you will be giving
19 up your right not to testify against yourself. And your
20 statements, or some of them, will be incriminating.

21 Do you understand that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

23 THE COURT: Do you wish to proceed?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: One of the things that I have to do today

1 is to determine whether you are competent; that is, I need to
2 make sure that you understand the nature of today's proceeding.
3 In order to do so I will ask you some questions.

4 First of all, can you please state your full name for
5 the record.

6 THE DEFENDANT: Hasan Rasheed Edmonds.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Edmonds, are you a United States
8 citizen?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: How old are you, sir?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Twenty-three.

12 THE COURT: How far did you progress in school?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Freshman year of college.

14 THE COURT: Did you graduate from high school?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

16 THE COURT: And in college, what were you studying?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Business administration.

18 THE COURT: What type of work, if any, have you been
19 doing over the past three or four years?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Mostly security.

21 THE COURT: And when you say, security, what do you
22 mean?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Working for Securitas.

24 THE COURT: Is that a security firm?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Are you currently under the care of a
2 physician or doctor for any sort of illness?

3 THE DEFENDANT: No.

4 THE COURT: Are you currently under the influence of
5 any sort of prescription medication, drug or alcoholic beverage
6 of any kind?

7 THE DEFENDANT: No.

8 THE COURT: Do you understand, Mr. Edmonds, that the
9 purpose of today's hearing is to conduct an arraignment with
10 respect to the superseding information and to allow you to
11 change your plea of not guilty to guilty?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Flynn, do you have any reason to
14 question Mr. Edmonds' competency for the purpose of today's
15 hearing?

16 MR. FLYNN: I do not.

17 THE COURT: Does the government have any reason to
18 question Mr. Edmonds' competency for purpose of today's
19 hearing?

20 MR. KNESS: No, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: In light of Mr. Edmonds' demeanor here
22 today and his responses to my questions and statements from
23 counsel, the Court finds that Mr. Edmonds is competent for the
24 purpose of today's hearing and to offer a plea of guilty with
25 regard to those counts.

1 Now, Mr. Edmonds, have you received and reviewed a
2 copy of the superseding information that's pending against you?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: You have the right to have the information
5 read out loud to you in court today. Would you like me to read
6 the information out loud? Or do you waive the reading of the
7 information?

8 THE DEFENDANT: I'd like to waive that, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Flynn, is your client waiving the
10 reading?

11 MR. FLYNN: That's correct.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Furthermore, Mr. Edmonds, I want to
13 inform you that you have the right to have the charges in the
14 superseding information prosecuted by an indictment, returned
15 by concurrence of 12 or more members of a grand jury consisting
16 of not less than 16 and not more than 23 members. Under the
17 plea agreement, however, I see that you are waiving your right
18 to be prosecuted by indictment, and to assert at trial or on
19 appeal any defects or errors arising from the information, the
20 information process, or the fact that you are being prosecuted
21 by way of information and not by indictment.

22 Do you understand you are doing this?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Is there a signed waiver of indictment?

25 MR. KNESS: Yes, there is, your Honor. May I tender

1 to your deputy please?

2 THE COURT: Yes, you may approach.

3 (Document tendered.)

4 THE COURT: Mr. Edmonds, I have just been handed by
5 the government a document entitled waiver of indictment. There
6 is a signature line that appears there, and under it is the
7 name Hasan Edmonds. And there is a signature that appears on
8 the signature line.

9 Is that your signature, sir?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Did you review the document before you
12 signed it?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Did you discuss the document with your
15 attorney, Mr. Flynn, before you signed it?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Is there anything about the document that
18 you don't understand as you stand here today?

19 THE DEFENDANT: No.

20 THE COURT: Did anyone force you to sign this document
21 in any way?

22 THE DEFENDANT: No.

23 THE COURT: Did you sign the document based upon your
24 own free will?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: All right. Very well. The Court will
2 enter the waiver of indictment.

3 Have you fully discussed the charges in the
4 information with your counsel?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Have you had enough time to discuss the
7 case in general with Mr. Flynn?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Are you satisfied with the representation
10 that you have been receiving from Mr. Flynn in this case?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: In addition to finding that you are
13 competent and making sure that you have had the assistance of
14 an attorney in this case, I must make a number of other
15 determinations before I accept your plea of guilty. I have to
16 determine that you understand that you will be waiving your
17 trial rights by pleading guilty. I have to determine that you
18 understand the nature of the charges that are pending against
19 you and the potential maximum penalties for those charges. I
20 must make sure that your plea is a voluntary act on your part,
21 and that there is sufficient independent factual basis for your
22 plea.

23 So let's go through those one at a time. I want to
24 make sure that you understand your rights to a trial. Do you
25 understand, Mr. Edmonds, that you have the right to plead not

1 guilty to any offense that's charged against you and to persist
2 in that plea?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Do you understand that at a trial, you
5 would be presumed to be innocent, and the government would have
6 to prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Do you understand that you have the right
9 to the assistance of counsel for your defense, appointed by the
10 Court if necessary, at the trial and for every other stage of
11 the proceedings?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Do you understand that at a trial you have
14 the right to see and hear all the witnesses and have them
15 cross-examined in your defense?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Do you understand that at a trial you have
18 the absolute right on your own part to decline to testify,
19 unless you voluntarily elected to do so in your own defense?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Do you understand that if you decline to
22 testify at trial, I would instruct the jury not to draw any
23 inference or suggestion of guilt from your decision not to
24 testify?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Do you understand that at a trial you have
2 the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify on
3 your behalf?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Now, your trial can proceed before a jury,
6 or your trial can proceed before a Judge in what we call a
7 bench trial. But in order for your trial to be a bench trial,
8 both you and the government would have to agree to that
9 procedure.

10 Do you understand that?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Do you understand that at a jury trial,
13 the jury would be composed of 12 individuals selected by a
14 process that you and your attorney could participate in?

15 Do you understand that?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Now, let me explain that a little bit
18 further. At a jury trial, you and your lawyer would have the
19 right to exclude a certain number of individuals from serving
20 on the jury for two basic reasons. First of all, you and your
21 lawyer could challenge someone for cause, meaning that you do
22 not believe that that particular person could be a fair juror
23 in the case.

24 Second, you and your lawyer could exclude a number of
25 individuals by using a peremptory challenge, meaning you could

1 exclude a certain number of potential jurors for any reason
2 whatsoever.

3 Do you understand those procedures?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Do you understand that at a trial, once a
6 jury was selected and heard the evidence and the arguments, in
7 order to arrive at a verdict, the jury would have to arrive at
8 a verdict unanimously?

9 Do you understand that?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Do you understand that if this case were
12 to proceed to trial, you would have the right to appeal from
13 any legal errors committed during the trial?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Have you discussed your trial rights with
16 your attorney, Mr. Flynn?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Do you understand that by entering a plea
19 of guilty and if that plea is accepted by me, there will be no
20 trial and you will have waived, or in other words given up,
21 your right to a trial as well as all of those other rights that
22 we just discussed?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

24 THE COURT: If you plead guilty and your plea is
25 accepted, I will be entering a finding of guilt today without a

1 trial.

2 Do you understand that?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Now, with regard to appellate rights, as
5 part of your plea agreement, Mr. Edmonds, you have waived your
6 right to appeal any issues that might have been available to
7 you had you exercised your right to a trial.

8 Do you understand that?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Also as part of the plea agreement, you
11 have waived your right to appeal your conviction or any
12 pretrial rulings by the Court and any part of the sentence,
13 including the manner in which it was determined, including any
14 term of imprisonment and fine within the maximum provided by
15 statute.

16 Do you understand that?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Furthermore, you're agreeing to waive your
19 right to challenge your conviction and the sentence and the
20 manner in which the sentence was determined in any collateral
21 attack or future proceeding, including but not limited to a
22 motion brought under 28 USC Section 2255.

23 Do you understand that?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: I do want to inform you, Mr. Edmonds, that

1 your waiver of appellate rights does not apply to a claim of
2 involuntariness or ineffective assistance of counsel which
3 related directly to the waiver or its negotiation. Nor are you
4 prohibited from seeking a reduction in sentence based directly
5 on a change in the law that is applicable to you, and that
6 prior to the filing of any request for relief has been
7 expressly made retroactive by an act of Congress, the Supreme
8 Court, or the United States Sentencing Commission.

9 Other than those limited issues, by pleading guilty
10 you are waiving all rights to appeal in connection with this
11 matter as I just discussed.

12 Do you understand you are doing this?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Now, I understand that defendant has
15 entered into a plea agreement, is that correct, Mr. Flynn?

16 MR. FLYNN: That's correct, your Honor.

17 (Document tendered.)

18 THE COURT: Now, Mr. Edmonds, I have been handed a
19 plea agreement in this case. It's a 22-page document. And on
20 the 22nd page there are various signature lines, including one
21 for Hasan Edmonds and one for Paul Flynn, as well as signatures
22 by counsel for the government.

23 The signature that appears above the line, Hasan
24 Edmonds, is that your signature, sir?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: And the signature that appears above Paul
2 Flynn, that's the signature of your attorney, is that correct?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Did you read the document before you
5 signed it?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Did you discuss the contents of the
8 document with your attorney before you signed it?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Is there anything about this document that
11 you do not understand as you stand here today?

12 THE DEFENDANT: No.

13 THE COURT: Has anyone threatened you or pressured you
14 in any way to sign this document?

15 THE DEFENDANT: No.

16 THE COURT: Did anyone make any promises to you other
17 than those set forth in the document to induce you to sign the
18 document?

19 THE DEFENDANT: No.

20 THE COURT: Do you understand, Mr. Edmonds, that under
21 this plea agreement you are agreeing to plead guilty as to
22 Count 1 and 2 of the superseding information?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Did you sign this plea agreement
25 voluntarily and completely based upon your own free will?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

2 THE COURT: I want to make sure that you understand
3 the potential consequences of the guilty plea as well as the
4 maximum statutory penalties with regard to Counts 1 and 2 of
5 the superseding information.

6 Will the government please inform Mr. Edmonds of the
7 maximum penalties in this case?

8 MR. KNESS: Yes, your Honor. Count 1 carries a
9 maximum potential sentence of 15 years of imprisonment. It
10 carries no mandatory minimum fine. There is a maximum
11 potential fine of \$250,000. And with respect to supervised
12 release, as to Count 1, your Honor, you may impose a term of
13 supervised release of any term of years including up to the
14 rest of the defendant's life.

15 For Count 2, that count also carries a maximum
16 sentence of 15 years of imprisonment, a maximum fine of up to
17 \$250,000, and also a term of supervised release of any number
18 of years including up to the rest of the defendant's life.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Edmonds, let me go through those with
20 you. Do you understand that Count 1 carries a maximum sentence
21 of 15 years of imprisonment, a maximum term of supervised
22 release of any years up to life, and a maximum fine of
23 \$250,000?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Do you understand that Count 2 carries a

1 maximum sentence of 15 years of imprisonment, a maximum term of
2 supervised release of three years, and a maximum fine of
3 \$250,000?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

5 MR. KNESS: Your Honor, did you say three years for
6 Count 2 on supervised release?

7 THE COURT: I did. What is the maximum supervised
8 release for Count 2?

9 MR. KNESS: Up to any number of years including the
10 rest of the defendant's life. And I also forgot to add, your
11 Honor, that there is a \$100 special assessment on each count.

12 THE COURT: So, Mr. Edmonds, let me correct myself and
13 make sure that you understand that with respect to Count 2,
14 Count 2 carries a maximum sentence of 15 years of imprisonment,
15 a maximum term of supervised release of any years up to life,
16 as well as a maximum fine of \$250,000.

17 Do you understand that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Furthermore, as a result of your
20 plea of guilty, a special assessment of \$100 must be imposed
21 for each count. And you must pay this amount at the time of
22 sentencing.

23 Do you understand that?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Accordingly, with regard to both counts,

1 the total maximum term of imprisonment is 30 years. The
2 maximum fine is \$500,000. And the maximum period of supervised
3 release is any term of years up to life. And special
4 assessments totaling \$200.

5 Do you understand that?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Furthermore, if the Court accepts your
8 plea of guilty, you will be adjudged guilty of a felony. And
9 such adjudication of guilt may deprive you of valuable civil
10 rights, such as the right to vote, the right to hold public
11 office, the right to serve on a jury, and the right to possess
12 firearms.

13 Do you understand that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Do you understand that the superseding
16 information and the plea agreement will be a matter of public
17 record and will be available to anyone in the public that
18 wishes to see it?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Let me talk to you briefly about
21 sentencing. If you plead guilty and your plea is accepted,
22 your sentence will be determined by me after consideration of
23 the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory
24 sentencing factors. Have you and your attorney talked about
25 how those advisory sentencing guidelines might apply to your

1 case?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Do you understand that the provisions in
4 the plea declaration, or the plea agreement rather, discussing
5 the advisory sentencing guideline range are preliminary in
6 nature only, and they are not binding upon the Court? In other
7 words, I do not have to follow them.

8 Do you understand that?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Do you understand that I can reject the
11 position set forth in the plea agreement without allowing you
12 to withdraw your plea of guilty?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Do you understand that I can impose a
15 sentence that is more severe than what you might anticipate
16 based upon your discussions with your lawyer or any
17 understanding that you may have with regard to the advisory
18 sentencing guideline range?

19 Do you understand that?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Do you understand that I will not be able
22 to determine the advisory guideline range for your case or what
23 the appropriate sentence should be until after a presentence
24 report has been prepared?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Now, I do want to inform you that you and
2 your attorney and the government will have an opportunity to
3 review the presentence investigation report and challenge any
4 of the reported factual findings in the report as well as the
5 application of the advisory sentencing guidelines recommended
6 in the report.

7 But most importantly, do you understand that the
8 sentence ultimately imposed may be different from any estimate
9 or prediction that may have been given to you and different
10 from the calculations that are contained in your plea
11 agreement?

12 Do you understand that?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: The final decision of what your sentence
15 will be rests with me. And I might sentence you to a longer
16 period or shorter period than what you might expect. But you
17 still would be bound by your plea of guilty, and you will have
18 no right to withdraw your plea.

19 Do you understand that?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

21 THE COURT: I will now proceed to determine whether
22 there is an independent factual basis for the guilty plea. Now
23 Mr. Edmonds, I'm going to ask the government to please
24 summarize the factual evidence that the government intends to
25 present at trial if this case were to go to trial. I want you

1 to listen very carefully to what the government has to say.
2 And afterwards I will ask you whether you agree that the
3 factual statements made by the government are true.

4 Do you understand?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Please proceed.

7 MR. KNESS: Thank you, your Honor.

8 If this case proceeded to trial, the evidence with
9 respect to Count 1 of the superseding information would show
10 beyond a reasonable doubt that beginning no later than in or
11 about December 2014, and continuing until at least on or about
12 March 25, 2015, at Aurora in the Northern District of Illinois
13 and elsewhere, the defendant and co-defendant Jonas Edmonds
14 knowingly conspired with each other to provide material support
15 and resources, namely personnel, to a foreign terrorist
16 organization, namely the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant,
17 commonly referred to as ISIL, ISIS or the Islamic State,
18 knowing that it was a designated foreign terrorist
19 organization; and that the organization had engaged and was
20 engaging in terrorist activity and terrorism.

21 More specifically, your Honor, beginning on or about
22 January 19, 2015, and continuing thereafter, the defendant, a
23 member of the Army National Guard of Illinois, assigned to a
24 National Guard unit in the Northern District of Illinois,
25 engaged in online communications with UC1, a person whom the

1 defendant believed was an ISIL fighter in Libya but who in fact
2 was an FBI employee.

3 In those communications the defendant expressed his
4 support for ISIL and his desire to travel to the Middle East
5 with his cousin, Jonas Edmonds, to fight for ISIL. The
6 defendant also gave UC1 advice on how to fight and defeat the
7 U.S. military, and stated that he and Jonas Edmonds were
8 willing to conduct an attack in the United States if ordered to
9 do so.

10 On February 6, 2015, Jonas Edmonds contacted UC1
11 online and said that he was planning to travel with his family
12 to Mosul, an area of Iraq controlled by ISIL. Jonas Edmonds
13 also told UC1 that if he was unable to travel, he intended to
14 commit an attack within the United States in support of ISIL.
15 Over the next month Jonas Edmonds asked UC1 for guidance and
16 assistance on the defendant's desire to travel to the Middle
17 East to fight for ISIL.

18 On February 19, 2015, a confidential law enforcement
19 source introduced Jonas Edmonds to UC2. Jonas Edmonds believed
20 UC2 to be an individual who could assist Jonas Edmonds and
21 defendant with their intention of traveling from the United
22 States to support ISIL. But UC2 was in fact an undercover FBI
23 employee.

24 On March 3, 2015, Jonas Edmonds and UC2 met in person.
25 During the meeting Jonas Edmonds informed UC2 that he was

1 meeting on behalf of himself and the defendant, and that he was
2 looking to assist the defendant's travel to the Middle East.
3 The two discussed the best and safest route for defendant to
4 take.

5 Following the March 3, 2015 meeting, Jonas Edmonds and
6 UC2 engaged in a series of online communications concerning the
7 defendant's travel. Jonas Edmonds in an attempt to facilitate
8 the defendant's travel to fight for ISIL, asked UC2 for a point
9 of contact to assist defendant when he arrived in the Middle
10 East.

11 On March 11, 2015, the defendant told UC1 that he had
12 purchased a plane ticket to Cairo, Egypt, in order to fight for
13 ISIL.

14 On March 23, 2015, UC2 met with the defendant and
15 Jonas Edmonds in Aurora, Illinois. During this meeting, the
16 defendant informed UC2 that he had been watching videos from,
17 quote, brothers from the State, close quote, referring to
18 members of ISIL; and that he did not want peace but instead
19 wanted fighting. Jonas Edmonds expressed his support and
20 excitement for the defendant's travel and said that he believed
21 that one who supported a mujahid, a fighter, was a mujahid.

22 During the March 23, 2015 meeting, Jonas Edmonds
23 informed UC2 that after the defendant traveled he was planning
24 to attack the Army National Guard installation to which the
25 defendant was assigned. Jonas Edmonds advised that he wanted

1 to conduct the attack along with UC2 and that he anticipated a,
2 quote, body count, close quote, of 100 to 150 individuals.

3 Defendant offered to provide Jonas Edmonds and UC2
4 with a list of a, quote, rankings, close quote, of officers for
5 Jonas Edmonds to killed. The defendant also confirmed that he
6 would provide Jonas Edmonds with the defendant's military
7 uniforms for Jonas Edmonds to wear during the attack on the
8 National Guard base.

9 On March 24, 2015, Jonas Edmonds and the defendant
10 along with UC2 drove to the defendant's National Guard base in
11 Joliet, Illinois, for the purpose of conducting surveillance
12 and plan for the attack. During the drive, Jonas Edmonds and
13 the defendant discussed with UC2 the purchasing of weapons and
14 how to conduct an attack.

15 Upon arrival, the three also discussed among other
16 things where the National Guard members conducted their
17 training. The defendant described the inside of the
18 installation and which rooms they should avoid during the
19 attack. In furtherance of the plan to commit the attack and to
20 determine the timing of the attack, the defendant entered the
21 National Guard installation and retrieved a unit training
22 schedule, which he then gave to Jonas Edmonds for the purpose
23 of deciding upon a date to conduct their planned attack.

24 On March 25, 2015, Jonas Edmonds drove the defendant
25 to Chicago Midway Airport so that the defendant could travel to

1 the Middle East to fight for ISIL. After he dropped off the
2 defendant at Midway, Jonas Edmonds went to the defendant's
3 residence and retrieved several of the defendant's National
4 Guard uniforms, which Jonas Edmonds planned to use as a
5 disguise during the planned attack at the National Guard base.

6 Your Honor, at the time the defendant engaged in the
7 conduct set forth above, he knew that ISIL was a designated
8 foreign terrorist organization and that the organization had
9 engaged in terrorist activity in Syria and Iraq. Your Honor,
10 that would be the government's evidence with respect to
11 Count 1.

12 With respect to Count 2 of the superseding
13 information, the evidence would show beyond a reasonable doubt
14 that on or about March 25, 2015, at Chicago in the Northern
15 District of Illinois and elsewhere, the defendant knowingly
16 attempted to provide material support and resources, namely
17 personnel, to a foreign terrorist organization, namely the
18 Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, commonly referred to as
19 ISIL, ISIS or the Islamic State, knowing that it was a
20 designated foreign terrorist organization, and that the
21 organization had engaged and was engaging in terrorist activity
22 and terrorism.

23 Specifically as described more fully in the factual
24 basis for Count 1 that I just recited to your Honor, on March
25 25, 2015, the defendant went to Chicago's Midway Airport for

1 the purpose of traveling to the Middle East to fight for ISIL.

2 Your Honor, that would be the government's evidence at
3 trial with respect to Count 2.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Edmonds, having heard the factual
5 evidence that the government intends to present at trial if
6 this case were to proceed to trial, do you agree that those
7 facts as stated by the government are true?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Is it the government's position that Mr.
10 Edmonds' admission is sufficient to support a plea of guilty as
11 to Counts 1 and 2 of the superseding information?

12 MR. KNESS: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: I will now proceed to take the plea. Mr.
14 Edmonds, how do you now plead as to Count 1 of the superseding
15 information?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

17 THE COURT: How do you plead as to Count 2 of the
18 superseding information?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

20 THE COURT: It is the finding of the Court that Mr.
21 Edmonds is fully competent and capable of entering an informed
22 plea, that he is aware of the nature of the charge and the
23 consequences of the plea, and that the plea of guilty is a
24 knowing and voluntary plea supported by independent basis in
25 fact containing each of the essential elements of the offenses.

1 Accordingly, the Court accepts Mr. Edmonds' plea of
2 guilty as to Count 1 and Count 2 of the superseding
3 information.

4 Mr. Edmonds, I will order a presentence investigation
5 report to assist the Court in sentencing. You will be asked to
6 give information for that report, and your attorney may be
7 present if you wish. You must be truthful and cooperate
8 completely with the probation officer in connection with the
9 preparation of that report.

10 Do you understand?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Ms. Acevedo, can you provide the parties
13 with a sentencing schedule.

14 THE CLERK: Defendant's sentencing memorandum and
15 objections to the report are due March 4. The government's
16 response, March 11. Sentencing is set for March 18 at 11:00
17 o'clock in the morning.

18 In the event that the government is seeking an order
19 of forfeiture, a motion for entry of a preliminary order of
20 forfeiture should be filed by February 23. And any objections
21 by March 4.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Kness, anything else we need to
23 address today?

24 MR. KNESS: No, your Honor. Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Flynn?

1 MR. FLYNN: No, your Honor. Just what time was the
2 sentencing set?

3 THE CLERK: At 11:00 o'clock.

4 MR. FLYNN: Thank you, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. We are adjourned.

6 (Which were all the proceedings heard in this case.)

7 CERTIFICATE

8 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, correct
9 and complete transcript of the proceedings had at the hearing
10 of the aforementioned cause on the day and date hereof.

11

12 /s/Alexandra Roth

3/13/2017

13 _____
14 Official Court Reporter
15 U.S. District Court
16 Northern District of Illinois
17 Eastern Division

Date

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