

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF  
AN APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH  
WARRANT**

1. I, J. Troy Amundson, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

2. I make this affidavit in support of an application for a search warrant for information associated with two Facebook, Inc. (Facebook) accounts that are stored at premises owned, maintained, controlled, or operated by Facebook, a social-networking company headquartered in Menlo Park, California. The target accounts are described as display name “Abdullah Ali Yusuf,” Facebook ID# 100011348363749 (“TARGET ACCOUNT ONE”), and display name “Abdullah Yusuf,” Facebook ID# 100029114903595 (“TARGET ACCOUNT TWO”). The information to be searched is described in the following paragraphs and in Attachment A. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a search warrant under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(a), 2703(b)(1)(A), and 2703(c)(1)(A), to require Facebook to disclose to the government records and other information in its possession, pertaining to the subscriber or customer associated with the Facebook accounts.

3. I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and have been since January 2008. Prior to employment with the FBI and on an ongoing basis, I have been an officer in the United States Army for approximately 23 years, and currently hold the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army National Guard. As an FBI Special Agent, I am currently assigned to the FBI Cleveland Division, Toledo Resident Agency. As a Special Agent with the FBI, I am an investigative or law-enforcement officer of the United States within the meaning of Rule 41(a)(2)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. I am

engaged in the enforcement of criminal laws and am within a category of officers authorized by the Attorney General to request and execute search warrants pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3052 and 3107; and Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations set forth at Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 0.85 and 60.2(a).

4. I have investigated national-security cases involving individuals seeking to travel overseas to commit violent jihad and who have participated in terrorist fundraising.

Additionally, I have completed FBI administered counterterrorism classroom and online training, at the FBI Academy, and at other FBI facilities.

5. The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, interviews, my training and experience, and other governmental agencies, and information obtained from other agents and witnesses. This affidavit is intended to show that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

6. The FBI is investigating DAMON MICHAEL JOSEPH (JOSEPH), who is a 21-year-old male who resides in Holland, Ohio. Based on the facts set forth in this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe that JOSEPH has committed violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2339B, that is Providing, Attempting To Provide, and Conspiring to Provide Material Support and Resources to a Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, and that evidence of these crimes will be found in TARGET ACCOUNT ONE and TARGET ACCOUNT TWO.

7. As such, your Affiant requests authority to search TARGET ACCOUNT ONE and TARGET ACCOUNT TWO as described in Attachment A for evidence of these crimes, and seize the items described in Attachment B.

**JURISDICTION**

8. This Court has jurisdiction to issue the requested warrant because it is “a court of competent jurisdiction” as defined by Title 18, United States Code § 2711 and Title 18, United States Code §§ 2703(a), (b)(1)(A) & (c)(1)(A). Specifically, the Court is “a district court of the United States ...that has jurisdiction over the offense being investigated.” Title 18, United States Code § 2711(3)(A)(i).

**IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET ACCOUNT ONE  
AND TARGET ACCOUNT TWO**

9. According to a Federal Grand Jury subpoena return,<sup>1</sup> Facebook account 100011348363749 (TARGET ACCOUNT ONE) was registered to “Abdullah Ali Yusuf,” bearing vanity name “damon.joseph.79” and associated with registered email addresses “damon.joseph.79@facebook.com” and “dmjoseph4000@hotmail.com,” and cellular telephone number (419) 901-3504.<sup>2</sup> According to the return, the account was closed on October 12, 2018 at 23:34:12 UTC. On September 20, 2018, your Affiant observed TARGET ACCOUNT ONE bearing user name “Damon Joseph” and display name “Abdullah Ali Yusuf.” The profile photograph was a face only picture of JOSEPH, which your Affiant recognized from JOSEPH’s Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle photograph issued to JOSEPH on August 28, 2018. The cover photograph contained Arabic writing translated as, "There is no one worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is his messenger." The profile page stated JOSEPH “works at” "Dawah - Calling to Allah; Slave of Allah – swt."

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<sup>1</sup> Facebook, Inc. responded to the Federal Grand Jury Subpoena return for TARGET ACCOUNT ONE on October 17, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> According to open source database search on September 28, 2018, telephone number (419) 901-3504 was registered to a known relative of JOSEPH.

10. According to a Federal Grand Jury subpoena return,<sup>3</sup> Facebook account 100029114903595 (TARGET ACCOUNT TWO) was registered to “Abdullah Yusuf,” on October 14, 2018 at 09:36:59 UTC (two days after TARGET ACCOUNT ONE was closed). According to the return, cellular telephone number (419) 901-7236<sup>4</sup> was utilized to register the account. On October 16, 2018, your Affiant observed TARGET ACCOUNT TWO bearing display name “Abdullah Yusuf.” The page contained numerous Islamic symbols and Arabic writing. The profile photograph was known by your Affiant to be JOSEPH and displayed a cover photograph that stated, “I am proud to be a Muslim.”

### **BACKGROUND AND PROBABLE CAUSE**

11. On October 15, 2004, the United States Secretary of State designated al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), then known as Jam'at al Tawhid wa'al-Jihad, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224.

12. On or about May 15, 2014, the Secretary of State amended the designation of AQI as an FTO under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224 to add the alias Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as its primary name. The Secretary of State also added the following aliases to the FTO listing: The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (“ISIS” – which is how the FTO will be referenced herein), The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ad-Dawla al-Islamiyya fi al-Iraq wa-sh-Sham, Daesh, Dawla al Islamiya, and Al-Furquan Establishment for

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<sup>3</sup> Facebook responded to the Federal Grand Jury Subpoena return for TARGET ACCOUNT TWO on November 6, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> According to open source database search on November 8, 2018, telephone number (419) 901-7236 was registered to a known relative of JOSEPH.

Media Production. On September 21, 2015, the Secretary added the following aliases to the FTO listing: Islamic State, ISIL, and ISIS. To date, ISIS remains a designated FTO.

13. Beginning in 2014, using social media, ISIS has called for attacks against citizens—civilian and military—of the countries participating in the United States-led coalition against ISIS. For instance, on September 21, 2014, ISIS released a speech of Abu Muhammed Al-Adnani, a senior leader and official spokesman of ISIS, prior to his death. In this speech, entitled, “Indeed Your Lord is Ever Watchful,” Al-Adnani called on Muslims who support ISIS from around the world to “defend the Islamic State” and to “rise and defend your state from your place where you may be.”

14. American born Anwar Al-Awlaki was a Yemeni-American preacher and imam. He was centrally involved in planning terrorist operations for the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda in his position as a senior recruiter and motivator.<sup>5</sup> He had close relationships with at least two of the 9/11 hijackers and Major Nidal Hasan (the gunman in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting that killed 12 soldiers and a doctor), among other known terrorists. Al-Awlaki was associated with the al-Qaeda magazine Inspire, many YouTube videos, and described by a Saudi news station Al Arabiya as the “bin Laden of the Internet.” According to the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point, Al-Awlaki “has already served to radicalize a sizable number of young Muslims, including Americans and other English-speaking Muslims who aspired to learn more about jihad and its permissibility according to Shari`a (Islamic law).”<sup>6</sup> After a request from the U.S. Congress, in November 2010, Google removed many of Al-

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<sup>5</sup> In the following paragraphs, your Affiant will demonstrate that JOSEPH aspires to model himself also as a recruiter and motivator in the same vein as Al-Awlaki.

<sup>6</sup> Mark Heffelfinger, “Anwar al-‘Awlqi: Profile of a Jihadi Radicalizer,” CTC Sentinel, Vol 3, Issue 3, March 2010.

Awlaki's videos from its websites. Al-Awlaki continues to appeal to Western jihadists even after his death in 2011.

15. In May 2018, a FBI Special Agent identified TARGET ACCOUNT ONE being associated with several Facebook “friends” that contained jihadist propaganda, to include multiple friends with photos of Anwar Al-Awlaki and references to jihad. As a result, your Affiant reviewed law enforcement and open source databases regarding JOSEPH, and discovered JOSEPH is registered as a sexual offender for Gross Sexual Imposition of a Minor Under 13.<sup>7</sup> As part of his sentence, JOSEPH resided in a group home for adolescent boys between April 20, 2015, and June 10, 2016.<sup>8</sup> In June 2018, your Affiant interviewed an employee of the group home who worked directly with JOSEPH. The employee told your Affiant JOSEPH became a Nazi, an atheist, and a Satanist prior to abruptly converting to Islam. The employee believed JOSEPH's abrupt conversion to Islam was influenced by JOSEPH's uncle after a weekend they spent together.

16. On approximately July 30, 2018, unassociated with the investigation conducted

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<sup>7</sup> JOSEPH was 15 at the time of his arrest on April 18, 2013. JOSEPH was ordered to register as a Tier I Sex Offender on September 3, 2014, requiring him to register with law enforcement annually for a period of 10 years with in-person verification. On January 16, 2018, as part of the in-person verification, a Lucas County Sheriff's Office (LCSSO) Deputy verified Joseph resided at 40 E. Woodside Terrace, Lot 40, Holland, Ohio. At the time of the deputy's visit, Joseph did not acknowledge employment or school attendance.

<sup>8</sup> JOSEPH was initially placed in the Juvenile Residential Center (JRC) of Northwest Ohio. Joseph refused to complete the program and on or about July 25, 2014, he was placed in the Paint Creek Youth Center, Department of Youth Services (DYS) until he was paroled and placed into the group home on or about April 20, 2015. JOSEPH's parole was revoked on or about June 6, 2015, likely as a result of being Absent without Leave (AWOL) from the group home, and he was placed in the Circleville DYS facility for approximately 3 months. On or about September 14, 2015, JOSEPH was again paroled and returned to the group home until June 10, 2016. JOSEPH was arrested twice for Domestic Violence on May 14, 2016, and December 3, 2016, both of which involved threatening arguments with a family member.

above, TARGET ACCOUNT ONE was identified by a FBI Confidential Human Source (CHS) as sharing a Facebook post that featured an Anwar Al-Awlaki quote stating, "Unless the Muslims go back to what the Sahaba<sup>9</sup> were doing, the situation of Ummah<sup>10</sup> will not change."

17. In approximately May 2018, also initially unassociated with any investigation described above, a FBI employee operating in an undercover capacity (UC-1) became Facebook friends with JOSEPH. On or about September 12, 2018, TARGET ACCOUNT ONE displayed numerous pictures of knives and firearms.<sup>11</sup> Among the posts, JOSEPH displayed a photograph which was originally distributed by Al-Furqan Media, the media wing of ISIS. JOSEPH also displayed what appeared to be JOSEPH's finger with a ring. The ring displayed words which translate to "Allah, messenger, Muhammad," which are also found on the ISIS flag. In two photographs JOSEPH apparently took of himself, JOSEPH displayed the hand gesture for "tawheed."<sup>12</sup> In another photograph, JOSEPH appeared to wear the uniform of a security guard with Continental Secret Service Bureau.

18. September 12, 2018, UC-1 sent a private message to JOSEPH through TARGET ACCOUNT ONE and inquired as to whether he was a revert. JOSEPH replied in the affirmative. UC-1 asked whether JOSEPH was on the "haqq,"<sup>13</sup> mentioning having seen a Facebook post of JOSEPH's mentioning "Sheikh Anwar" (Anwar Al-Awlaki). JOSEPH replied

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<sup>9</sup> "Sahaba" refers to the companions, disciples, scribes, and family of the prophet Muhamad.

<sup>10</sup> "Ummah" is an Arabic word for "community," and commonly used to mean the collective community of Islamic Peoples.

<sup>11</sup> Your Affiant reviewed the photographs displayed on TARGET ACCOUNT ONE on September 12, 2018, referred to here. While the photograph of firearms appear to be stock photographs, most of the photographs of knives appear to have been taken by JOSEPH.

<sup>12</sup> "Tawheed" refers to monotheism in Islam, or Oneness of Allah, and describes Him as being One and Unique with no partners or peers. The hand gesture displaying "tawheed" by JOSEPH is commonly used by ISIS to affirm the Oneness of Allah.

<sup>13</sup> "Haqq" is the Arabic word for truth.

that he was, and was looking for a brother to guide him. UC-1 asked JOSEPH whether he was a "khilafah"<sup>14</sup> supporter. JOSEPH replied that he supported "the khalifa 100%." UC-1 asked JOSEPH if he was a man of talk or action. JOSEPH responded, "It seems a lot of brothers and sisters don't even believe in sharia"<sup>15</sup> There are too many men of talk." JOSEPH asked UC-1 if he/she was a member of "any groups" where "you all communicate," meaning an alternate social media application. JOSEPH indicated he used two other social media applications. Through TARGET ACCOUNT ONE, JOSEPH sent his contact information to UC-1 as "Yusuf Ali 419-901-3504"<sup>16</sup> for an alternate social media application.

19. Beginning September 12, 2018, JOSEPH and UC-1 continued their on-line conversations on the alternate social media application.<sup>17</sup> JOSEPH claimed to have watched a number of videos on YouTube, and stated that he wished he "could access sheikh awlakis videos." JOSEPH stated that he did not support the killings of Muslims or innocent people, but that he did "believe in destroying the enemies of Islam of course," and that he "believ[ed] in jihad as well, but jihad means many things." JOSEPH said he didn't "want to be a coward but at the same time I am not sure what I could do [...] But seeing how our brothers and sisters are treated makes me more and more convinced everyday."

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<sup>14</sup> "Khilafah" (or Caliphate) is a general leadership over all Muslims in the world. Its responsibility is to implement the laws of the Islamic system and convey the Islamic message to the rest of the world. In June 2014, ISIS emir Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi proclaimed the creation of the Caliphate (Khilafah). Thus, "Khilafah supporter" refers to one who supports ISIS.

<sup>15</sup> "Sharia" is Islamic canonical law based on the teachings of the Quran, the Hadith, and the Sunna, prescribing both religious and secular duties and sometimes retributive penalties for lawbreaking.

<sup>16</sup> (419) 901-3504 was previously noted in this affidavit as a cellular telephone number associated with TARGET ACCOUNT ONE.

<sup>17</sup> From this point forward and unless otherwise noted, all communications in this affidavit between JOSEPH, UC-1, and UC-2 occurred on the alternate social media application, and not through Facebook or Facebook Messenger.

20. As part of the on-line conversations on September 14, 2018, JOSEPH sent a screenshot of his computer's desktop to UC-1. The picture appeared to depict a number of mujahedeen,<sup>18</sup> two of which were prominently carrying an ISIS flag. A golden-topped mosque is in the background, while a large plane flies overhead. During the conversations, JOSEPH often expressed interest in being put in contact with other like-minded "brothers."

21. On September 17, 2018, JOSEPH and UC-1 continued their on-line chat. JOSEPH told UC-1, "Our job is to spread the true Islam by whatever means necessary" and "The west will never eliminate dawlah<sup>19</sup> no matter what the media tells people because you cannot destroy an ideology [...]." Later, UC-1 mentioned JOSEPH's Facebook account in which JOSEPH stated, "Inshallah<sup>20</sup> one day I will be able to move out of this kafir<sup>21</sup> country." JOSEPH stated he thought about leaving all of the time, and was thinking of moving to somewhere in Europe or Lebanon. JOSEPH said he spoke to a "couple of people who were in Syria," and "It would be impossible to travel to turkey from America without being extremely questioned and investigated." At one point, JOSEPH asked if the brothers UC-1 had mentioned in a previous on-line communication were all in the US, and whether "they are on the same page as us then." UC-1 also asked if JOSEPH had ever thought about doing "graphic design for the brothers," to which JOSEPH replied "That would be cool."

22. On September 18, 2018, JOSEPH initiated contact with UC-1. During the online conversation, JOSEPH asked, "Also I forgot to ask what exactly did you mean by some of the

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<sup>18</sup> "Mujahedeen" (or singular Mujahid) is one who fights Jihad.

<sup>19</sup> "Dawlah" is Islamic State (IS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

<sup>20</sup> "Inshallah" (In shaa' Allah) is Arabic for "God willing."

<sup>21</sup> "Kafir" is an Arabic term for disbelief or suppressing the truth of Islam.

brothers might be interested in me like doing stuff with my computer?" UC-1 told JOSEPH "graphic design" was big with the brothers, and "helps attract new recruits, show the world the successes of dawlah." JOSEPH stated he knew how to do some things with Photoshop, after which UC-1 offered to pass along "some of [his] stuff to one of the brothers to check out. No pressure either way." JOSEPH replied, "Lol doing stuff for my brother's would give me something exciting to do though." UC-1 clarified that the work would be for "Dawlah," to which JOSEPH replied, "Ya I know it would be for dawlah." UC-1 told JOSEPH, "They [referencing the brothers] won't put any pressure on you-they only want brothers who are committed and volunteer to help." JOSEPH stated, "For sure Ahk.<sup>22</sup> You know I would love to help any way I can." JOSEPH told UC-1 he would work on something for UC-1 to show him/her "the skills I do got lol."

23. On September 19, 2018, JOSEPH initiated online contact with UC-1. JOSEPH and UC-1 discussed a video JOSEPH was working on with a "nasheed"<sup>23</sup> in the background. JOSEPH told UC-1 that it had "Dawlah images." JOSEPH sent UC-1 a video which was approximately 2 minutes and 17 seconds long. The video included images of ISIS fighters and flags, a photo of Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, as well as statements such as "Join your brothers in Islam! Preform [sic] jihad any way you can! We must establish and spread the Khilafa," and "We will fight you in the East and the West the true religion of God will dominate the world!" When asked, JOSEPH stated he had authored all of the text for the video. JOSEPH then asked UC-1, "Will you show it to the other brothers?"

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<sup>22</sup> "Ahk" refers to Akhi, which means brother in Arabic.

<sup>23</sup> A "Nasheed" is a "chant" or works of vocal music either sung a cappella or accompanied by percussion instruments. Nasheeds are popular throughout the Islamic world.

24. On the same date, JOSEPH sent UC-1 a second video which was approximately 2 minutes and 45 seconds long via the alternate social media application. The video included a number of images of Anwar Al-Awlaki, the ISIS flag, and statements such as “Educate yourselves on the teachings of Sheikh Awlaki [...],” “Brothers in Islam we must rise up and fight for our Lord [...],” and “Brothers and sisters! It is our duty as Muslims to establish and spread the Caliphate of Allah azawajal<sup>24</sup> on this Earth [...].” JOSEPH asked UC-1, “Is that good propaganda?” and “I do have some talent don't I? lol [...].” UC-1 asked if JOSEPH would be ok with “dawlah” using the video. Joseph asked, “How would they exactly,” and stated that he (JOSEPH) wanted to meet and talk with the brothers before sending that particular video to them. Later in the conversation, JOSEPH said, “Go ahead and send him what I sent you and tell me if he says anything.”<sup>25</sup>

25. On September 20, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1, and was later invited into a joint online conversation which included UC-2. UC-2 told JOSEPH that UC-1 had forwarded JOSEPH's videos and UC-2 was impressed. JOSEPH said he made the videos the day prior.<sup>26</sup> Later in the conversation, JOSEPH explained that he supported “the khilafa [sic] because as a Muslim we must establish Allahs kingdom on Earth.” UC-2 asked JOSEPH what he would say to those that said the best way to establish the khilafah is by co-existing in peace with the mushrikeen,<sup>27</sup> to which JOSEPH replied that “I don't believe in Co

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<sup>24</sup> “Azawajl” (or Azawajal) is commonly said after “Allah.” It means Allah is Mighty and Dominate and Possessor of Complete Glory and Majesty.

<sup>25</sup> JOSEPH was referring to UC-1 sending JOSEPH’s video to UC-2 who JOSEPH believed to be in contact with Al-Hayaat, the media production wing of ISIS.

<sup>26</sup> The day prior to this conversation would have been September 19, 2018. JOSEPH was suggesting he made the videos the same day they were delivered.

<sup>27</sup> “Mushrikeen” (or singular Mushrik) often refers to those who are sinners by practicing idolatry, polytheism, or worship anyone or anything besides Allah.

existing [sic] with kufr unless you have no choice." UC-2 asked under what conditions JOSEPH would have no choice, and JOSEPH stated, "Like my situation I am surrounded by kufr because I can't move anywhere. I am stuck where I am until I can get enough money saved up to move somewhere better." JOSEPH further explained he "absolutely hate[s] living in America more and more everyday that passes." JOSEPH stated that he thought about making hijrah,<sup>28</sup> but it was not possible for him at the time. JOSEPH advocated doing "any jihad we can," and that his was more of a "virtual jihad."

26. On the same date, while still in the joint online conversation with UC-1 and UC-2, JOSEPH mentioned "a brother on Facebook" had contacted JOSEPH and said the alternate social media application they were currently using was not safe.<sup>29</sup> Your Affiant understood JOSEPH to have communicated with the "brother" through TARGET ACCOUNT ONE. Later on the same date of September 20, 2018, and shortly after UC-2 left the online conversation, JOSEPH provided the name of the "brother" to UC-1. JOSEPH said he thought the "brother" was "with dawlah." Subsequent to this conversation, UC-1 identified the "brother" on Facebook. UC-1 reviewed this individual's public Facebook page and learned the "brother" claimed to live in Aleppo, Syria, and posted messages related to Anwar Al-Awlaki, exhortations towards hijrah, and pictures of various weapons. This individual also claimed to be a female.

27. Later on the same date of September 20, 2018, while still in a private conversation between JOSEPH and UC-1, JOSEPH sent UC-1 a third video that was

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<sup>28</sup> "Hijrah" means migration (travel), departure or exodus. In this context, it refers to a journey to a land controlled by Muslims.

<sup>29</sup> At the time of this conversation, JOSEPH, UC-1 and UC-2 were using the alternate social media application and not Facebook or Facebook messenger.

approximately 4 minutes and 50 seconds long which JOSEPH represented to UC-1 that he created. The video contained multiple images of the ISIS flag, images and quotes from Anwar Al-Awlaki, and statements such as "44 ways of jihad, have you contributed? Do your part to help your brothers," "Whatever country you are in, gather with eachother [sic] and do what you can, Allah will reward you for any 44 ways of jihad you can do," "Nothing is greater than what Allah azawajl wills dying a martyr [sic] is most honorable," "will you sit back while our people are being oppressed or will you be a man of action," and "Allah bless and reward the brothers who have made hijrah, Allah also bless those who plan to make hijrah and all those who are upon the same aqeedah."<sup>30</sup>

28. On September 21, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. During the conversation, UC-1 asked JOSEPH's opinion regarding Saudia Arabia and its recent rapprochement with Israel. JOSEPH said that he was not a big fan of the Saudis, and "Anybody responsible for the killing of our people is my enemy." While discussing the ability of making a hijrah, JOSEPH stated, "I would as well. Nothing is here for me except a couple family I love." Later, JOSEPH stated, "I would try to go to another country and then try to make my way into Syria Maybe." JOSEPH discussed a documentary he watched regarding Dawlah in the Philippines. After a brief discussion, JOSEPH stated that "Inshallah or [sic] numbers will increase and we will have Daesh<sup>31</sup> all over the world." UC-1 commented that it would not come without a fight, especially in the U.S. JOSEPH replied, "Then so be it if that's the way they want it then that's how they will get it inshallah. You can only fight evil with Force."

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<sup>30</sup> "Aqeedah" is an Islamic term meaning "creed."

<sup>31</sup> "Daesh" is the Arabic language acronym for the Islamic State (IS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

29. Later on the same date of September 21, 2018, JOSEPH referenced another video that he was making, stating, "Im excited to hear what the brothers on the front lines think of them." UC-1 asked JOSEPH whether he would consider picking up arms for Dawlah. JOSEPH replied he did not have weapons.<sup>32</sup> UC-1 told JOSEPH the brothers sometimes ask that question, and JOSEPH asked, "About waging jihad in the west?" UC-1 provided an affirmative response. JOSEPH replied, "I question myself if I could do it or not everyday [...]. As long as we're doing something brother it's better than doing nothing."

30. On September 23, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. JOSEPH stated he had to link "2 profiles to my phone because my other phone doesn't want to record video anymore." After a brief online conversation, JOSEPH delivered a fourth video to UC-1 which was approximately 5 minutes and 56 seconds long. The video included numerous ISIS flags, ISIS fighters, images of Anwar Al-Awlaki, and messages such as "Nothing is greater than what Allah azawajal wills dying a martyr is most honorable," "Will you sit back while our people are being oppressed or will you be a man of action," "they will never break our spirit and we will show the enemy no mercy," and "If you are a Muslim upon the haqq in the West, don't associate yourselves with the kafr! Support your brothers abroad fighting the evil doers." JOSEPH was asked if he came up with the words used in the video and JOSEPH replied, "Im trying to make them to inspire brothers fighting and also trying to aim them to recruit [...] Ya I came up with everything." When JOSEPH was asked about his inclusion of the themes of hijrah and martyrdom into his fourth video, JOSEPH stated, "And yes i wanted to add those

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<sup>32</sup> Your Affiant understands JOSEPH meant firearms in this conversation when he referred to "weapons." In a later online conversation, discussed in paragraph 33, your Affiant understands JOSEPH then had a different meaning when he mentioned a "weapon" by referring to a specific knife.

things into this one."

31. During the online conversation on September 23, 2018, UC-1 asked if JOSEPH's family had access to his computer. JOSEPH replied, "No they dont it is heavily protected lol." When discussing the week ahead, JOSEPH stated he was "going to make more videos for sure." JOSEPH also stated, "the masjid<sup>33</sup> i usually go to is anti dawlah so i dont like going to it too often especially not for the lectures just go to pray when i can go."

32. On September 24, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. JOSEPH discussed a documentary he watched called "Path of Blood," which included home footage of Al Qaeda sleeper cells conducting suicide missions in Saudi Arabia. UC-1 asked if the documentary included the martyrdom videos. JOSEPH responded by praising the video and said, "Ya like the whole thing was like al queda [sic] recording their own missions it was awsome [sic] and the real deal." UC-1 asked if JOSEPH was referring to this when he mentioned he wanted his videos to be used for recruiting. JOSEPH replied, "Ya like i want my videos to inspire brothers in the west too [...] More twords [sic] dawlah but really anyone on the haqq."

33. During the same conversation on September 24, 2018, UC-1 asked JOSEPH what his thoughts were on attacks in the US. JOSEPH replied, "I think there are some innocents but essentially all kufr are the enemy which is why im torn." After being questioned as to what he viewed as legitimate targets, JOSEPH replied, "People who are openly against islam for one thing, all military obviously, people who disrespect the prophet and Allah. Like the Charlie Hebdo thing i supported that 100%." Later, JOSEPH said he struggled with the idea of killing,

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<sup>33</sup> "Masjid" is the Arabic word for Mosque.

and "(ISIS) definitely [sic] need[s] fighters but there are other important aspects that play a huge role." UC-1 commented they (ISIS) especially need brothers in the west. JOSEPH replied, "Exactly that's my aim to inspire and encourage brothers in the west." JOSEPH continued, "Inshallah my efforts help the cause even if I end up getting in trouble for it." When asked about the risk of jail time, JOSEPH replied, "If that's what ends up happening then so be it I only fear Allah at the end of the day. jail isn't going to change me or my religion." When asked about his beliefs regarding attacks on law enforcement, JOSEPH replied, "I've never liked the police LOL." When asked why JOSEPH thought there were more attacks in Europe rather than the US, JOSEPH replied, "I know there hasn't been an attack here lately I've been waiting." JOSEPH further stated, "It's not safe to be Muslim in the US either that's why I make sure I carry a weapon at all times." Further conversation revealed that JOSEPH was likely referring to an "Italian dagger stiletto" of which he sent a picture to UC-1.

34. On September 25, 2018, a joint online conversation between UC-1, UC-2, and JOSEPH, as well as a private conversation between just UC-1 and JOSEPH took place simultaneously on the alternate social media application. In the joint chat, UC-2 told JOSEPH that he/she spoke with brothers from Al-Hayaat,<sup>34</sup> and that they were impressed with JOSEPH's potential. In the private chat, when JOSEPH learned Al-Hayaat is the media production wing of ISIS, JOSEPH replied, "oh even better." In the joint online conversation, JOSEPH sent a series of three PowerPoint slide shows to UC-1 and UC-2. These "videos" were different from the videos JOSEPH previously delivered as they came directly from JOSEPH's computer and were not simply a recording of JOSEPH's computer screen by his phone.

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<sup>34</sup> "Al-Hayaat" (or Al-Hayat) as explained to JOSEPH, is the media wing of ISIS.

35. In the joint online chat, UC-2 told JOSEPH before the brothers in Al-Hayaat would use any of JOSEPH's material, they needed to know that JOSEPH was on the "haqq" and would have to pledge "bay'ah"<sup>35</sup> to prove his sincerity. In the private online conversation, UC-1 told JOSEPH not to feel pressured as "[...] Dawlah only takes those that volunteer. [...]" and "[...] but you have to make that choice yourself. it is a personal decision." In the joint online conversation, UC-2 sent JOSEPH a script he could read. Soon after, JOSEPH sent a video to UC-1 and UC-2 in the joint conversation. In the video, JOSEPH displayed the hand gesture for "tawheed"<sup>36</sup> and read the script while he pledged bay'ah to Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS. In the private conversation, in regard to the video JOSEPH had just made and sent to the OCEs, JOSEPH told UC-1 he was "filled with emotion" and "It's almost the same feeling that overcame me when I accepted Islam first."

36. On September 26, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. After a short discussion, JOSEPH mentioned another video he was creating. He said the new video would focus "on jihad in the west inshallah." He further stated, "It's been too quiet and something new needs to be done especially in the US [...] My target audience for this one will mainly be Muslims upon the haqq in America and the UK." JOSEPH later stated he watched "some dawlah media productions on Al hayaat last night," and was impressed with how well they were made. JOSEPH told UC-1 he found a brother "like us" on Facebook<sup>37</sup> and asked him if he wanted to "join us on here," meaning the alternate social media application and not Facebook or Facebook Messenger. JOSEPH told UC-1 the person's name, and that he was a

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<sup>35</sup> "Bay'ah in Islamic terminology is an oath of allegiance to a leader.

<sup>36</sup> As noted previously, "tawheed" is a hand gesture often associated with support for ISIS.

<sup>37</sup> Your Affiant understood that JOSEPH was referencing the use of TARGET ACCOUNT ONE here.

"khilafah supporter" who had recently gotten out of federal prison. After additional conversation, JOSEPH stated, "Inshallah one day i can do more than makes videos." JOSEPH was asked what he had in mind and JOSEPH replied, "waging more physical jihad." However, JOSEPH stated for now he would stick with what he was good at until the "time comes to do more." After a discussion about UC-1's work for Dawlah, JOSEPH stated, "You are doing a good thing and yes I agree essentially it's everyone's personal choice at the end of the day." JOSEPH and UC-1 continued to speak about other ways to help Dawlah, and that JOSEPH should not feel pressured. JOSEPH stated, "No i dont its all voluntary. Its all my choice." At one point, JOSEPH asked, "will i be meeting more brothers though on (the alternate social media application)? I wish i could meet with dawlah brothers in person." He then stated, "Hopefully one day inshallah i will be a trusted known member of our group."

37. On September 27, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. JOSEPH said he had been sick but was working on a new video, and "hope[ed] this shows how dedicated i am lol." During this conversation, JOSEPH delivered his most recent video production, and four videos in .mp4 format he had previously delivered by capturing video of his computer screen with his phone.

38. As a test of JOSEPH's resolve, UC-1 said JOSEPH would soon be sent footage of a "brother who will make the ultimate sacrifice for Dawlah." JOSEPH asked whether it would occur "in the west" and UC-1 confirmed it would. UC-1 asked JOSEPH whether he would be willing to edit the footage to help inspire those in the US, and JOSEPH replied, "i can try my best inshallah. it shouldnt be a problem ahk." UC-1 clarified specifically what the video would involve stating, "I want to make sure you understand what im talking about tho--this is a Dawlah brother's martyrdom video, for an attack that will occur here in the US. are you

comfortable with that?" JOSEPH replied, "I am [...] Allahu Akbar!!! [...] Inshallah I will make it beautiful." JOSEPH asked if it would be on the news and UC-1 told him that if the attack were successful, it would be. UC-1 again clarified by asking if JOSEPH was "comfortable doing this at the behest of our ISIS brothers." JOSEPH replied, "Yes no worries."

39. On September 28, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. After discussing JOSEPH's value in video editing, JOSEPH was asked about his comment on September 26, 2018, regarding "physical jihad." JOSEPH initially replied he really did not know right now. Later, JOSEPH explained, "I don't think I'm the one for that at least not at this point in my life." UC-1 replied, "that is just fine brother." JOSEPH said, "Maybe one day I could even be a recruiter I've always been told I have strong leadership skills and can convince people of things."

40. On September 29, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. During the conversation, UC-1 told JOSEPH that a "Dawlah brother"<sup>38</sup> would potentially be traveling through Ohio in the next few weeks. After a brief conversation, JOSEPH said that he "would be totally interested" in meeting a Dawlah brother. JOSEPH stated he used to work alongside his county sheriff's department as a security guard, but could not be armed as he was too young. However, he had both handcuffs and pepper spray, and had used the handcuffs. JOSEPH stated he could no longer work as security due to having a "violent charge" which also prevented him from "purchasing and possessing a firearm or ammo 'legally.'" JOSEPH said that he had always been into guns, and he used to hunt with his family when he was a kid. With respect to risking jail time to support Dawlah, JOSEPH stated, "Yeah what I mean is it doesn't

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<sup>38</sup> This "Dawlah brother" was later portrayed by a FBI employee operating in an undercover capacity (UC-3) on October 24, 2018.

scare me and if that's what ends up happening then so be it I know God has a plan for me [...] Jails and prisons are actually good places for recruitment." At one point during this conversation, JOSEPH was asked if he felt hate for the people in the US. JOSEPH replied, "Oh yeah definitely [...] The gays the Christians the Catholics the Jews you name it."

41. On October 1, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. During the conversation, JOSEPH asked UC-1 "about the brother that's going to do the mission or the video."<sup>39</sup> JOSEPH then asked whether "the brother driving through Ohio" would be the one that would "carry it out," referring to "the mission." JOSEPH told UC-1, "I just want to do my best with that video" and that "I'm just looking forward to the whole thing really." UC-1 asked JOSEPH whether he was referring to the video or the brother coming to visit. JOSEPH replied, "The video. the operation and the brother."

42. On October 8, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. After a brief conversation, JOSEPH expressed concern to UC-1 about the video footage he was supposed to edit but had yet to receive, and about the "brother coming to Ohio." JOSEPH said he felt like he had been "kept in the dark about everything." JOSEPH also stated he hoped "people aren't questioning my loyalty."

43. On October 12, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation with UC-1. JOSEPH informed UC-1 his Facebook page (understood by your Affiant to be the page associated with TARGET ACCOUNT ONE) was shut down by Facebook. JOSEPH stated the shutdown was due to a photograph he put onto his page depicting a snarling lion, and the quote,

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<sup>39</sup> JOSEPH is referring to the video footage JOSEPH was asked to potentially edit in paragraph 38 and the "Dawlah brother" mentioned in paragraph 40. As of the date of this affidavit, JOSEPH was never provided this video footage or told specifically why the "Dawlah brother" was going to be in the area.

“And fight them until there is not fitnah<sup>40</sup> and [until] the religion, all of it, is for Allah.” [Quran 8:39]. The bottom right corner of the photograph included a circle emblazoned with Arabic words which translated to “Allah, messenger, Mohammad.” In your Affiant’s training and experience, this is the same circle used on the ISIS flag, though the words themselves are not exclusive in their use by ISIS.

44. On October 14, 2018, JOSEPH initiated an online conversation by sending UC-1 a video which was intended to be an ISIS inspirational video which JOSEPH represented was produced by him. The video made statements such as, “would you die for your religion and your lord” and “blood has to be spilled for progress to be made. “Referring to the video, JOSEPH said he “tr[ie]d to inspire brothers in the west mainly but i like to give credit to the brothers already fighting of course.” During the ensuing conversation, UC-1 asked JOSEPH where he saw himself fitting, stating, “Dawlah always wants to know where each individual brother and sister is to best fit in with operations.” JOSEPH initially said he was not sure where he would fit in, but then stated, “Your talking about for an operation? The only thing i could see is like a coordinated shooting but i still dont see how that would happen.” After a brief conversation, JOSEPH stated, “Inshallah thats what i would have interest in but my virtual jihad is my focus at this point. Plus how would i even go about it?”

45. During the same online conversation, JOSEPH sent UC-1 the photograph JOSEPH believed caused his profile page to be removed from Facebook.<sup>41</sup> During the

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<sup>40</sup> “Fitnah” is an Arabic word that depicts civil strife and turmoil. It has connotations of trial, affliction, or distress. It is considered a highly negative and destructive internal conflict that plagued Muslims decades after the prophet’s death. The Qur’an states “Fitnah is worse than death.”

<sup>41</sup> This photograph was previously describe in this affidavit, and JOSEPH is referring to TARGET ACCOUNT ONE.

conversation, JOSEPH revealed he was communicating with another “brother” and JOSEPH had "him on the hook for lack of a better term lol [...]" UC-1 asked JOSEPH if he saw “recruiting others to Dawlah as part of your digital jihad,” and JOSEPH replied “I do yes i think i could be good at it." During the ensuing conversation, JOSEPH revealed he discovered the “brother” on Facebook<sup>42</sup>, in an apparent reference to using TARGET ACCOUNT TWO to identify new recruits for ISIS. JOSEPH described his technique for spotting possible recruits through Facebook. He stated, “I look at the kind of things they post, then i see if they are in tge [sic] west, then i engage in conversation where i deliberately ask certain questions that hint at dawlah, then evaluate their answer.” During the conversation, JOSEPH debated sending his videos to the “brother,” but decided that “it will basically say im apart [sic] of dawlah [and that it] could scare him off. Maybe too upfront.”

**BACKGROUND CONCERNING FACEBOOK’S  
SOCIAL-NETWORKING CAPABILITIES**

46. Facebook owns and operates a free-access social networking website of the same name that can be accessed at <http://www.facebook.com>. Facebook allows its users to establish accounts with Facebook, and users can then use their accounts to share written news, photographs, videos, and other information with other Facebook users, and sometimes with the general public.

47. Facebook asks users to provide basic contact and personal identifying information to Facebook, either during the registration process or thereafter. This information may include the user’s full name, birth date, gender, contact e-mail addresses, Facebook passwords, physical

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<sup>42</sup> Based on the timing of this comment, your Affiant believes JOSEPH was referring to TARGET ACCOUNT TWO.

address (including city, state, and zip code), telephone numbers, screen names, websites, and other personal identifiers. Facebook also assigns a user identification number to each account.

48. Facebook users may join one or more groups or networks to connect and interact with other users who are members of the same group or network. Facebook assigns a group identification number to each group. A Facebook user can also connect directly with individual Facebook users by sending each user a “Friend Request.” If the recipient of a “Friend Request” accepts the request, then the two users will become “Friends” for purposes of Facebook and can exchange communications or view information about each other. Each Facebook user’s account includes a list of that user’s “Friends” and a “News Feed,” which highlights information about the user’s “Friends,” such as profile changes, upcoming events, and birthdays.

49. Facebook users can select different levels of privacy for the communications and information associated with their Facebook accounts. By adjusting these privacy settings, a Facebook user can make information available only to himself or herself, to particular Facebook users, or to anyone with access to the Internet, including people who are not Facebook users. A Facebook user can also create “lists” of Facebook friends to facilitate the application of these privacy settings. Facebook accounts also include other account settings that users can adjust to control, for example, the types of notifications they receive from Facebook.

50. Facebook users can create profiles that include photographs, lists of personal interests, and other information. Facebook users can also post “status” updates about their whereabouts and actions, as well as links to videos, photographs, articles, and other items available elsewhere on the Internet. Facebook users can also post information about upcoming “events,” such as social occasions, by listing the event’s time, location, host, and guest list. In addition, Facebook users can “check in” to particular locations or add their geographic locations

to their Facebook posts, thereby revealing their geographic locations at particular dates and times. A particular user's profile page also includes a "Wall," which is a space where the user and his or her "Friends" can post messages, attachments, and links that will typically be visible to anyone who can view the user's profile.

51. Facebook allows users to upload photos and videos, which may include any metadata such as location that the user transmitted when s/he uploaded the photo or video. It also provides users the ability to "tag" (i.e., label) other Facebook users in a photo or video. When a user is tagged in a photo or video, he or she receives a notification of the tag and a link to see the photo or video. For Facebook's purposes, the photos and videos associated with a user's account will include all photos and videos uploaded by that user that have not been deleted, as well as all photos and videos uploaded by any user that have that user tagged in them.

52. Facebook users can exchange private messages on Facebook with other users. Those messages are stored by Facebook unless deleted by the user. Facebook users can also post comments on the Facebook profiles of other users or on their own profiles; such comments are typically associated with a specific posting or item on the profile. In addition, Facebook has a chat feature that allows users to send and receive instant messages through Facebook Messenger. These chat communications are stored in the chat history for the account. Facebook also has Video and Voice Calling features, and although Facebook does not record the calls themselves, it does keep records of the date of each call.

53. If a Facebook user does not want to interact with another user on Facebook, the first user can "block" the second user from seeing his or her account.

54. Facebook has a "like" feature that allows users to give positive feedback or connect to particular pages. Facebook users can "like" Facebook posts or updates, as well as

webpages or content on third-party (*i.e.*, non-Facebook) websites. Facebook users can also become “fans” of particular Facebook pages.

55. Facebook has a search function that enables its users to search Facebook for keywords, usernames, or pages, among other things.

56. Each Facebook account has an activity log, which is a list of the user’s posts and other Facebook activities from the inception of the account to the present. The activity log includes stories and photos that the user has been tagged in, as well as connections made through the account, such as “liking” a Facebook page or adding someone as a friend. The activity log is visible to the user but cannot be viewed by people who visit the user’s Facebook page.

57. Facebook also has a Marketplace feature, which allows users to post free classified ads. Users can post items for sale, housing, jobs, and other items on the Marketplace.

58. In addition to the applications described above, Facebook also provides its users with access to thousands of other applications (“apps”) on the Facebook platform. When a Facebook user accesses or uses one of these applications, an update about that the user’s access or use of that application may appear on the user’s profile page.

59. Facebook also retains Internet Protocol (“IP”) logs for a given user ID or IP address. These logs may contain information about the actions taken by the user ID or IP address on Facebook, including information about the type of action, the date and time of the action, and the user ID and IP address associated with the action. For example, if a user views a Facebook profile, that user’s IP log would reflect the fact that the user viewed the profile, and would show when and from what IP address the user did so.

60. Social networking providers like Facebook typically retain additional information

about their users' accounts, such as information about the length of service (including start date), the types of service utilized, and the means and source of any payments associated with the service (including any credit card or bank account number). In some cases, Facebook users may communicate directly with Facebook about issues relating to their accounts, such as technical problems, billing inquiries, or complaints from other users. Social networking providers like Facebook typically retain records about such communications, including records of contacts between the user and the provider's support services, as well as records of any actions taken by the provider or user as a result of the communications.

61. As explained herein, information stored in connection with a Facebook account may provide crucial evidence of the "who, what, why, when, where, and how" of the criminal conduct under investigation, thus enabling the United States to establish and prove each element or alternatively, to exclude the innocent from further suspicion. In my training and experience, a Facebook user's IP log, stored electronic communications, and other data retained by Facebook, can indicate who has used or controlled the Facebook account. This "user attribution" evidence is analogous to the search for "indicia of occupancy" while executing a search warrant at a residence. For example, profile contact information, private messaging logs, status updates, and tagged photos (and the data associated with the foregoing, such as date and time) may be evidence of who used or controlled the Facebook account at a relevant time. Further, Facebook account activity can show how and when the account was accessed or used. For example, as described herein, Facebook logs the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses from which users access their accounts along with the time and date. By determining the physical location associated with the logged IP addresses, investigators can understand the chronological and geographic context of the account access and use relating to the crime under investigation. Such information allows

investigators to understand the geographic and chronological context of Facebook access, use, and events relating to the crime under investigation. Additionally, Facebook builds geo-location into some of its services. Geo-location allows, for example, users to “tag” their location in posts and Facebook “friends” to locate each other. This geographic and timeline information may tend to either inculpate or exculpate the Facebook account owner. Last, Facebook account activity may provide relevant insight into the Facebook account owner’s state of mind as it relates to the offense under investigation. For example, information on the Facebook account may indicate the owner’s motive and intent to commit a crime (e.g., information indicating a plan to commit a crime), or consciousness of guilt (e.g., deleting account information in an effort to conceal evidence from law enforcement).

62. Therefore, the computers of Facebook are likely to contain all the material described above, including stored electronic communications and information concerning subscribers and their use of Facebook, such as account access information, transaction information, and other account information.

63. Based on my training and experience, I am aware that individuals involved in attempting to provide, or providing, material support and resources to foreign-terrorist organizations often communicate with others involved in similar conduct via e-mail, social-media accounts such as Facebook, and online chat programs. I also know based on my training and experience that individuals associated with such activities watch videos and view images associated with ISIS and other foreign-terrorist organizations. Those individuals obtain and share such videos and images with each other via a variety of means, including email, social-media accounts like Facebook, and online chat programs. Based on my training and experience, I know that individuals involved in material-support offenses often use multiple accounts,

aliases, and means to communicate. These multiple accounts or aliases are used as a means to avoid detection from law enforcement.

64. Based on my training and experience, I know that many social-media accounts like Facebook and other Internet websites require users to provide their email account when registering for the accounts. The social-media providers and other Internet providers then send the users various notifications regarding messages from other users, information accessed by users, information available by the websites, and other information. These messages can provide evidence in cases involving material-support offenses because they help identify what social media accounts were used by the subjects to communicate with other individuals. In addition, the messages help identify the identities of other subjects. Based on my training and experience, I know that Facebook accounts may be accessed through a Facebook application that can be downloaded to cellular telephones.

65. On or about September 21, 2018, your Affiant requested that Facebook preserve information related to TARGET ACCOUNT ONE for a period of 90 days. On or about October 16, 2018, your Affiant requested that Facebook preserve information related to TARGET ACCOUNT TWO for a period of 90 days.

66. Based on the foregoing, I submit there is probable cause to believe that a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2339B, has been committed by JOSEPH, and there is probable cause to believe that evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of this violation are present within the information associated with TARGET ACCOUNT ONE and TARGET ACCOUNT TWO.

**INFORMATION TO BE SEARCHED AND THINGS TO BE SEIZED**

67. I anticipate executing this warrant under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, in particular 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(a), 2703(b)(1)(A) and 2703(c)(1)(A), by using the warrant

to require Facebook to disclose to the government copies of the records and other information (including the content of communications) particularly described in Section I of Attachment B. Upon receipt of the information described in Section I of Attachment B, government-authorized persons will review that information to locate the items described in Section II of Attachment B

### **CONCLUSION**

68. Based on the foregoing facts and circumstances, there is probable cause to believe the Target Accounts contain evidence of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2339(B), that is Providing, Attempting to Provide, or Conspiring to Provide Material Support and Resources to a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Specifically, there is probable cause to believe the Target Accounts, as described more particularly in Attachment A, has evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of these violations, as described more particularly in Attachment B.

69. Therefore, I respectfully request that the attached warrant be issued authorizing the search and seizure of the items listed in Attachment B.

70. This Court has jurisdiction to issue the requested warrant because it is “a court of competent jurisdiction” as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2711. 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(a), (b)(1)(A) & (c)(1)(A). Specifically, the Court is “a district court of the United States . . . that – has jurisdiction over the offense being investigated.” 18 U.S.C. § 2711(3)(A)(i).

71. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2703(g), the presence of a law-enforcement officer is not required for the service or execution of this warrant.

72. Because the warrant for the account described in Attachment A will be served on Facebook, who will then compile the requested records at times convenient to that entity, reasonable cause exists to permit the execution of the requested warrant at any time in the day or night.

Respectfully submitted,

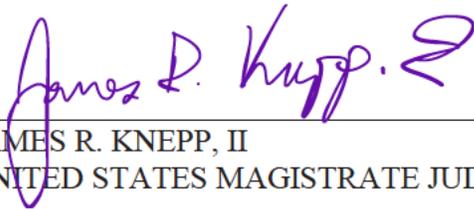


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J. Troy Amundson  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Nov 30, 2018**

Sworn to via telephone after submission by reliable electronic means.  
Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 and 41(d)(3).



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JAMES R. KNEPP, II  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE