

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

**CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL
FAWADI,**

Defendant.

Criminal No. *5:20-cr-241 (TJM)*

Indictment

Violations: 18 U.S.C. § 1546(a)
[False Statements in an
Immigration Application]

18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)
[False Statements to a
Government Agency]

Three Counts

County of Offense: Onondaga

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

INTRODUCTION

1. On or about March 17, 2015, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI**, an Iraqi citizen, while in Turkey, signed a United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services Form I-590 to apply for classification as a refugee and to be admitted to the United States, along with his family. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI**'s application for refugee status was based in large part on his claim that, while in Iraq, he was persecuted and threatened by Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group, because he had refused to assist in kidnappings of Sunni Muslims.

2. On or about September 1, 2015, an official of the United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services interviewed defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** in connection with his refugee application. Thereafter, the application was approved and defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** and his family were admitted to the United States

on or about January 12, 2016.

3. On or about June 8, 2017, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** signed a United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services Form I-485 to apply to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States. He mailed the completed application form from Syracuse, New York.

4. On or about April 9, 2019, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** was interviewed in Syracuse, New York, by an official of the United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services concerning his Form I-485 application to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

5. On or about October 30, 2019, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** was interviewed in Syracuse, New York, by another official of the United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services concerning his Form I-485 application to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

COUNT ONE
[False Statements in an Immigration Application]

On or about June 8, 2017, in Onondaga County, in the Northern District of New York, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** knowingly subscribed to as true under penalty of perjury under Section 1746 of Title 28 of the United States Code one or more false statements, as described below, with respect to material facts in an application to adjust his immigration status to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States, specifically a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-485, "Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status," a document required by the immigration laws and regulations prescribed thereunder. These false statements, made under penalty of perjury, included the following:

1. When asked on the Form I-485 to “List your present and past membership in or affiliation with every organization, association, fund, foundation, party, club, society, or similar group in the United States or in other places since your 16th birthday,” defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely stated in writing “NONE,” when in fact, as he then well knew, since after his 16th birthday, while living in Iraq, he was a member of, and affiliated with Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group.
2. When asked on the Form I-485: “Have you **EVER** engaged in, conspired to engage in . . . or have you through any means ever assisted or provided any type of material support to any person or organization that has ever engaged in or conspired to engage in sabotage, kidnapping, political assassination, hijacking, or any other form of terrorist activity,” defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely stated “no” by checking a box, when in fact, as he then well knew, he had assisted and provided material support to Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group, that, as he then well knew, has engaged in and conspired to engage in sabotage, kidnapping, political assassination, hijacking, and other forms of terrorist activity.
3. When asked on the Form I-485 whether “by fraud or willful misrepresentation of a material fact, [he had] ever sought to procure, or procured . . . entry into the United States, or any immigration benefit,” defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely stated “no” by checking a box, when in fact, as he then well knew, he had willfully misrepresented material facts when, in 2015, in Turkey, he applied for admission to the United States as a refugee, including by falsely stating that he had never travelled to or been to any countries other than Iraq and Turkey, when, as he then well knew, he also had travelled to and

been inside Iran, Syria, and Jordan.

4. When asked on the Form I-485 whether he had “**EVER** . . . [s]erved in, been a member of, assisted in, or participated in any military unit, paramilitary unit, police unit, self-defense unit, vigilante unit, rebel group, guerilla group, militia, or insurgent organization,” defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely stated “no” by checking a box, when in fact, as he then well knew, he had served in, been a member of, assisted in, and participated in Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite paramilitary unit, vigilante unit, rebel group, guerilla group, militia, and insurgent organization.
5. When asked on the Form I-485 whether he had “**EVER** been a member of, assisted in, or participated in any group, unit, or organization of any kind in which you or other persons used any type of weapon against any person or threatened to do so,” defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely stated “no” by checking a box, when in fact, as he then well knew, he had been a member of, assisted in, and participated in Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group whose members routinely used weapons against other persons and threatened to do so.
6. When asked on the Form I-485 whether he had “**EVER** received any type of military, paramilitary, or weapons training,” defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely stated “no” by checking a box, when in fact, as he then well knew, he had received military, paramilitary, and weapons training.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1546(a).

COUNT TWO
[False Statements to a Government Agency]

On or about April 9, 2019, in Onondaga County, in the Northern District of New York, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** willfully and knowingly made one or

more materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, as described below, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, by making false oral statements during an interview with an official of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, a component of the Department of Homeland Security, in connection with his application to adjust his immigration status to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States. These false statements included the following:

1. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** orally confirmed the truth of a written statement on his previously-submitted Form I-485, used to apply to adjust his immigration status, specifically, his written statement of “None,” in response to a question on the Form I-485 asking him to “List your present and past membership in or affiliation with every organization, association, fund, foundation, party, club, society, or similar group in the United States or in other places since your 16th birthday.” In fact, as defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** then well knew, his oral confirmation of this written statement was materially false because since after his 16th birthday, while living in Iraq, he was a member of, and affiliated with Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group.
2. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** orally confirmed the truth of a written statement on his previously-submitted Form I-485, used to apply to adjust his immigration status, specifically, his written statement by checking a box marked “no” in response to a question asking: “Have you EVER engaged in, conspired to engage in . . . or have you through any means ever assisted or provided any type of material support to any person or organization that has ever engaged in or conspired to engage in sabotage, kidnapping, political assassination, hijacking, or any other form of terrorist activity.” In fact, as defendant

CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI then well knew, his oral confirmation of this written statement was materially false because he had assisted and provided material support to Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group, that, as he then well knew, has engaged in and conspired to engage in sabotage, kidnapping, political assassination, hijacking, and other forms of terrorist activity.

3. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** orally confirmed the truth of a written statement on his previously-submitted Form I-485, used to apply to adjust his immigration status, specifically, his written statement by checking a box marked "no" in response to a question asking whether he had "EVER been a member of, assisted in, or participated in any group, unit, or organization of any kind in which you or other persons used any type of weapon against any person or threatened to do so." In fact, as defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** then well knew, his oral confirmation of this written statement was materially false because he had been a member of, assisted in, and participated in Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group whose members routinely used weapons against other persons and threatened to do so.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

COUNT THREE
[False Statements to a Government Agency]

On or about October 30, 2019, in Onondaga County, in the Northern District of New York, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** willfully and knowingly made one or more materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, as described below, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, by making false oral statements during an interview with an official of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, a component of the Department of Homeland Security, in

connection with his application to adjust his immigration status to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States. These false statements included the following:

1. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely denied travelling to or being in any countries other than Iraq, Turkey, and Jordan, when in fact, as he then well knew, he also had travelled to Iran and Syria.
2. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely denied membership or participation in any organization involved in hijacking, sabotage, kidnapping, political assassination, or use of a weapon or explosive to harm another individual or cause substantial damage to property anywhere in the world, when in fact, as he then well knew, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** was a member of and a participant in Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group involved in hijacking, sabotage, kidnapping, political assassination, and use of weapons and explosives to harm others and cause substantial damage to property.
3. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely denied receiving military, paramilitary, or weapons training from any group or organization other than during police training, when in fact, as he then well knew, defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** had received military, paramilitary, and weapons training from Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group.
4. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** falsely denied knowingly associating with any Shia insurgency groups, including Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, when in fact, as he then well knew, when defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** lived in Iraq, he was an active member of Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite militia and paramilitary organization and group.

5. Defendant **CHASIB HAFEDH SAADOON AL FAWADI** admitted that when he applied in 2015 to come to the United States as a refugee, he concealed that he had worked as a police officer because he feared that if he was honest, "they will not accept [me] to come to the United States," but otherwise during the October 30, 2019 interview he falsely denied lying about, concealing, or misrepresenting any facts on his application to procure entry into the United States, when in fact, as he then well knew, when he applied for admission to the United States as a refugee, he falsely stated that he had only been in Iraq and Turkey, when in fact, he also had been to Iran, Syria, and Jordan.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

Dated: September 2, 2020


A TRUE BILL

*NAME REDACTED


Grand Jury Foreperson

ANTOINETTE T. BACON
Acting United States Attorney

By:


Steven D. Clymer
Assistant United States Attorney
Bar Roll No. 509281