

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 23, 2005

His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Prince Bandar:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the alleged involvement of Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, a graduate and former valedictorian of the Islamic Saudi Academy (ISA), in providing material support to terrorists and in conspiring to assassinate the President of the United States. Because it is my understanding that the ISA receives a significant portion of its funding and curriculum guidance from your government, I ask for your assistance in fully disclosing the nature of this academy -- what does it teach, from where does it receive funding, and to what extent it may be serving as a breeding ground for anti-American sentiment -- and, possibly, even terrorist activities.

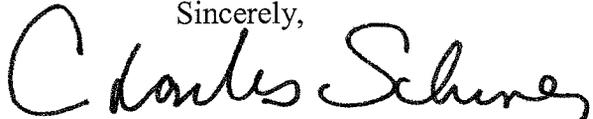
The recent reports regarding Ahmed Omar Abu Ali are particularly troubling because this is not the first instance in which those connected to the ISA, located in Alexandria, Virginia, have been linked with terrorism or the exportation of intolerant and hateful teachings. A former comptroller of the ISA, Ismael Selim Elbarasse, has been referred to by authorities as a high-ranking Hamas operative who was arrested in August while videotaping the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and has been implicated in efforts to channel financing to international terrorist activities. In March of 2002, ISA graduate Mohammad Osman Idris was charged with lying to a U.S. grand jury investigating whether he and another ISA graduate planned to take part in acts of terror or violence against the State of Israel. The grand jury was investigating whether Idris was attempting to provide key support to Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

These incidents represent a repeated pattern of potential linkages between individuals associated with ISA and terrorism that is disturbing. Likewise, the ISA has been repeatedly identified as a disseminator of hateful and intolerant ideology, including teachings that attack other religious beliefs. In August, the Free Muslim Coalition Against Terrorism called on the ISA to remove a textbook used to teach first-graders that stated that Judaism and Christianity are false religions.

The continued association of the ISA with individuals linked to terror and the teaching of hateful ideology within the United States must be addressed. Accordingly, I urge you to assist in the full disclosure of the means through which the school is funded

as well as the tenets of its curriculum, and to take action to immediately remedy these concerns. Finally, I would also ask whether your government is funding any other schools within the United States that may be engaged in the type of intolerant teaching reported to take place at the ISA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate