2011

Attempted Correspondence with Zacarias Moussaoui

Benjamin Canine
L. J. Milusnic

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A LETTER TO ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI

July 12, 2010

Dear Mr. Moussaoui,

My name is Benjamin Canine. I am a third year law student at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, which is located roughly seven miles away from the Residence Inn you stayed at while attending flight school in Eagan, Minnesota.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am 24 years old. I grew up in Lindstrom, Minnesota, which is a small, rural town located about an hour north of St. Paul. Before attending law school, I studied Spanish and Political Science at the University of Minnesota. I’ve always had an interest in international law and international relations, and I was lucky enough to spend six months working at the United Nations in New York. I was sitting in the gallery behind the United Nations Security Council when the Council passed the second round of sanctions against Iran on March 24, 2007. I can tell you that I will never forget the hour-long diatribe that the Iranian Foreign Minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, launched against the United States and the Security Council. In short, I am particularly interested in issues related to United States foreign policy.

I am a staff member on the Journal of the National Security Forum, which is a student-run publication here at my school. We publish essays written by lawyers and academics related to national security issues. As you might imagine, your case has been a recurring topic of discussion in our journal—given your close relationship to St. Paul and al Qaeda. Both the lead prosecutor and lead defense counsel in your case, Robert Spencer and Edward MacMahon, have collaborated with our journal. In addition, Harry Samit, the FBI Special Agent responsible for your arrest on August 16, 2001, has also collaborated with our journal.

As the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks approaches, it dawned on me that we have yet to hear your side of
the story. I know, from reading about your case in the newspaper, that you have some well-developed views on United States foreign policy. I also know that Judge Brinkema told you at your sentencing, "Mr. Moussaoui...you will die with a whimper. You will never get a chance to speak again and that's an appropriate ending."

On behalf of the Journal, let me tell you that we'd like you to speak again. Would you be willing to share your story with me? If so, perhaps we could start by talking about how you ended up at the Residence Inn in Eagan. At what moment did you decide to become active in jihad? What was it about the United States foreign policy, or perhaps Western civilization more generally, that made you so angry?

I know that the Journal would be willing to publish portions of our correspondence, but only with your permission of course. I have enclosed a copy of the Journal for you to read.

Very truly yours,

Benjamin Canine
Journal of the National Security Forum
[Address redacted]
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[Signature]

Benjamin Canine
Journal of the National Security Forum
A RESPONSE FROM THE WARDEN

BP-S327.058
RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE
MAY 94

U.S. Department of Justice
TO: (Sender-See Return Address)
Benjamin Canine
Journal of the National Security Forum
[Address redacted]

Federal Bureau of Prisons
FROM:
United States Penitentiary
PO Box 8500
Florence, CO 81226-8500

RE: (Inmates Name and Register No.)
Moussaoui, Zacarias #51427-054

DATE:
July 28, 2010

SUBJECT: Correspondence With Inmate Returned

Your correspondence to the above named inmate is being returned. This correspondence was not delivered to the inmate because you are not approved to correspond with this individual.

The rejection of this correspondence is in accordance with the Federal Bureau of Prisons policy on “Correspondence” as published in Title 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 540 and in the Federal Bureau of Prisons Program Statement on Correspondence. You have the right to appeal this rejection by writing the Warden in the care of the above address. The inmate to whom you address your correspondence has been notified that this correspondence has been returned to you and of his or her right to appeal the rejection. Any inquiry concerning this rejection will need to be referred to the following address: Federal Bureau of Prisons, ATTN: FOIA, 320 First Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20534.

L.J Milusnic, Associate Warden LJM/ tmh
(Printed or Typed Name with Written Signature of the Warden)

Record Copy – Addressee (with Correspondence); Copy – Inmate;
Copy – File (with copy of Correspondence)
(This form may be replicated via WP)  Replaces  BP-327(58)  of  FEB 84
TO: (Sender-See Return Address)  
Benjamin Canine  
Journal of the National Security Forum  
P.O. Box 798  
Lindstrom, MN 55045  

FROM: United States Penitentiary  
Benjamin Canine  
Journal of the National Security Forum  
P.O. Box 798  
Lindstrom, MN 55045  

RE: (Inmate's Name and Register No.)  
Moussaoui, Zacarias #51427-054  

DATE: July 28, 2010  

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L. J. Milusnic, Associate Warden LJM/ tmh  

Record Copy - Addressee (with Correspondence); Copy - Inmate; Copy - File (with copy of Correspondence)  
(This form may be replicated via WP)  
Replaces BP-327(58) of FEB 84
EDITORIAL CARTOON COMPETITION WINNER: THIRD PLACE, ERIC LAKIN†

† Undergraduate editorial cartoonist, The Daily Bruin, University of California, Los Ángeles.
PART III: ARTICLES

The following section contains articles submitted by nationally and internationally recognized specialists on key issues in national security law and policy.