

## FOIA DOCUMENTS

These two documents from the FBI are in Yassin Aref's FOIA file. The first one, dated December 20, 2002, shows him (Yassin Muhiddin Aref) misidentified as Mohammed Yasin. The other names:

- Yasin "Al-Barazengy" indicates Aref's Iraqi tribal surname (he's from the Barzingi tribe)

- "Yasen" Aref is just an alternate first-name spelling

This document bears the earliest date in the FOIA file, and shows that the FBI had a file on Aref seven months before the sting commenced in summer 2003.

The abbreviations are:

IT = International Terrorism

UBL = Usama Bin Laden

See the article "Muhammad Yassin Killed by IDF in Gaza" in this packet.

The second document, dated April 11, 2003, shows the high-level nature of the case just four months later, and also predates the beginning of the Albany sting by almost four months.

The secret nature of this and other information in the FOIA file, the many questions it raises, and the fact that most of it is redacted, make it hard for us to know exactly what the FBI was thinking or saying. But clearly the FBI was linking Yassin Aref to Al Qaeda and to someone named Mohammed Yasin. It also appears as though the FBI was trying to use Aref to connect Iraq and Al Qaeda in 2002–2003.

For an interesting June 28, 2013 article that mentions a secret government program only recently revealed from information leaked by Edward Snowden, which sought to surveil perceived "Iraqi spies [who] were engaged in terrorist activities and presented a threat to U.S. interests in the United States and abroad," see:

"New Leak Suggests Ashcroft Confrontation Was Over NSA Program" by Charlie Savage and James Risen, *New York Times*,

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/28/us/nsa-report-says-internet-metadata-were-focus-of-visit-to-ashcroft.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/28/us/nsa-report-says-internet-metadata-were-focus-of-visit-to-ashcroft.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)