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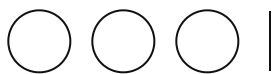
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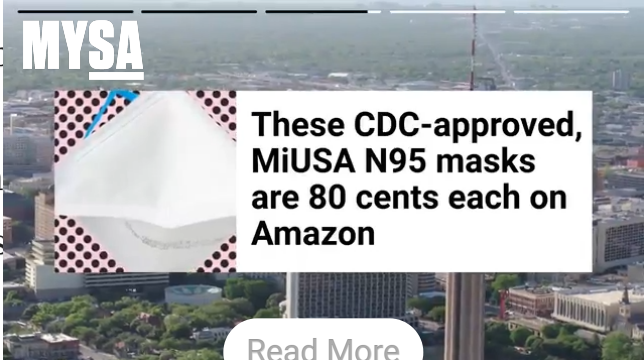
Feds disclose secret deal with Somali terrorist supporter

 **Guillermo Contreras, Staff Writer**
Feb. 5, 2015



A Somali man was sentenced in a San Antonio courtroom Thursday to 15 years in federal prison for lying to get into the U.S., as well as a never-before-disclosed admission that he had helped a terrorist group

Abdinassir Mohamud Ibrahim, 43, previously a country or left out damaging details – such as made international headlines because of their



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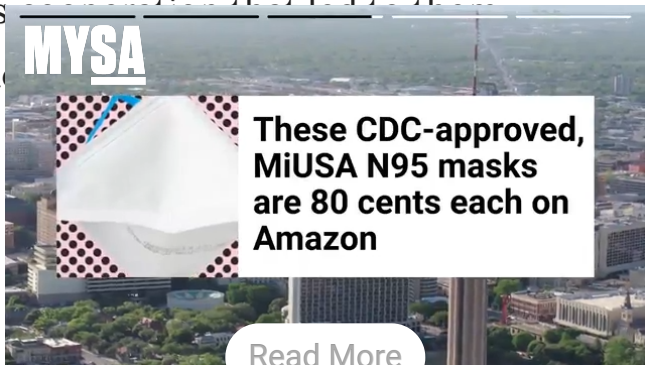
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But the FBI, Border Patrol, acting U.S. Attorney Richard Durbin and a national security official disclosed Thursday that Ibrahim secretly also pleaded guilty in July to sending e-mails in support of al-Shabab and providing money to a friend affiliated with that terrorist group. The charges were made public at his sentencing Thursday, but officials made no mention of his plea. The FBI kept the details secret for more than six months.



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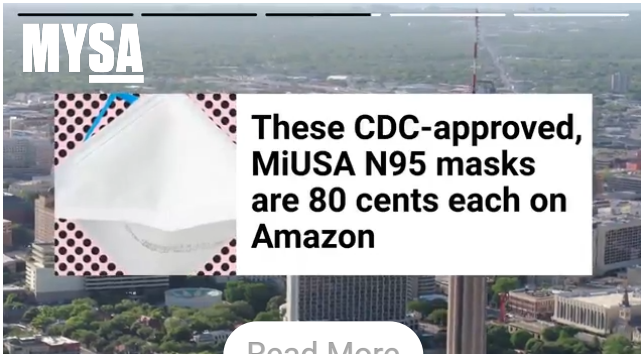
“Ibrahim’s family was famous, and his father formerly worked for the Somali government,” an FBI affidavit said. “Through his clan lineage, Ibrahim was related to known Somali terrorists Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys and Aden Hashi Ayrow.”

The affidavit said Ayrow was the former leader of al-Shabab and was killed in a U.S. airstrike in 2008. Aweys was affiliated with al-Shabab and al-Ittihad al-Islami, which the U.S. has placed on a list of specially designated global terrorist groups.

Ibrahim was granted refugee status in the U.S. and resettled in Emporia, Kansas, after coming through Hidalgo in May 2007. But the status was granted based on fraudulent information, the affidavit said.

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The advertisement features a background image of a city skyline. In the top left corner, the logo 'MYSA' is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font. A white N95 respirator mask is shown in the center, partially overlapping a red and white polka-dot pattern. To the right of the mask, a white text box contains the following text: 'These CDC-approved, MiUSA N95 masks are 80 cents each on Amazon'. In the bottom right corner, there is a white button with the text 'Read More'. A small 'X' icon is located in the top right corner of the advertisement area.

He claimed he was of the minority Awer clan. He confirmed to FBI agents that he lied when he stated on his immigration forms that he fled Somalia in 1991 because militias killed his mother and that he never returned to Somalia after 1991.

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The affidavit said Ibrahim also admitted to age with a man he knew only as "Hamza," who joined Ibrahim came to the U.S. Ibrahim sent \$100 to — an informal money broker — knowing Hamza was a member of al-Shabab, he

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acknowledged to agents.

Ibrahim, the affidavit said, knew that he was lying when he answered “no” on an immigration form asking him if he ever provided material assistance to any person or organization involved in sabotage, kidnapping, political assassination, hijacking or other form of terrorist activity.

gcontreras@express-news.net

Twitter: @gmaninfedland



Written By

Guillermo Contreras

Reach Guillermo on

Guillermo has been with the Express-News for 10 years, and has covered federal court and its investigative agencies for most of that time. He has also covered immigration, minority affairs and legal affairs as part of the projects team here and for other print, TV and radio outlets. Guillermo has also worked in Central America, Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona and California and his work has appeared in various publications, including the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, New York Post, Newsday, Denver Post and the Albuquerque Journal.

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