

### “Default Setting”

The piece of information our team initially dismissed was *The Times-Picayune* article about Hayyan al Baghdadi called “A Syrian Refugee Story.” When we first received this article, we dismissed it due to its (seeming) irrelevance to the investigation, since it was Baghdadi’s personal story about moving from Daraa to Louisiana. At the time, our team had been pursuing different *factual* leads that were pertinent to our case; therefore an *emotional* story would derail us from the facts. Furthermore, we had already read an article about a group of Syrian refugees and concluded that this article was sufficient in explaining to us what Syrian refugees faced in America, and thus, we felt that Baghdadi’s story was unnecessary to our investigation. Our final reason for dismissing the article was that there was no incriminating evidence that revealed Baghdadi as a suspect in the bombing of Port Fourchon, and thus we deemed the article irrelevant.

As time continued, new evidence came to light revealing the fact that this article should not have been overlooked: Baghdadi worked at Anadarko Petroleum and had access to internal servers. Given this new information, we were forced to reevaluate the article and our newly-found suspect. However, through further analysis and interpretation, we found that it was highly unlikely that he committed the “crime” which actually turned out to be an accident. Also, later we were given more evidence, an interrogation with agents Macklin and Utah, that confirmed he did not rig the port to explode but was actually a victim of racial profiling. During the first few lines of the interview, one of the agents continually accused him of being a terrorist without any evidence. This interrogation that subjected him to racial profiling ultimately

confirmed what we originally speculated, that Baghdadi was not behind the explosion. However, it gave us more insight into the emotional side of Baghdadi, which we did not consider upon initial reading of the article. This proved that people rarely think about what others may have been through and jump to conclusions based off of other people's opinions, falling into the logical fallacy of argumentum ad populum.

After viewing “This is Water”, a video that depicts everyday life and what we see versus what we refuse to see, we were able to apply the situation found in “A Syrian Refugee Story” to real life scenarios. In the article Baghdadi has issues transitioning from Syria to America because he came the war-ridden Syria to a hesitant America. This accurately represents real life in America, as Baghdadi is constantly berated with racial stereotypes from a variety of people, including an FBI agent which shows how vulgar our country can truly be at times. Little do the common masses know, Baghdadi had to constantly look out for his wife and child from the dangers that resided in Syria. Hoping to escape the corruption of the Syrian government, Baghdadi relocated his family to the United States to lead a peaceful and fulfilling life, away from the dangers of his homeland. Sadly, the public is largely on their “Default” self-centered setting and are completely blind to the issues of other people.