

2d Saudi Held by Canada Cleared in Bombing

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Body

While international attention has focused on a man who Canadian officials believe took part in the **bombing** of an American military barracks in **Saudi** Arabia last June, another **Saudi held** in the same Ottawa prison is also accused of being a terrorist.

Fahad Shereri, 21, was arrested at the international airport in Ottawa last December. At an immigration hearing last week Canadian officials said he belonged to a terrorist group and had engaged in a terrorist act, although they did not specify where or when the act occurred.

It was initially reported that Mr. Shereri was linked to the **bombing** in Dhahran, **Saudi** Arabia, last June that killed 19 American servicemen. But an Canadian immigration official, Dianne Toikko, said Mr. Shereri is not now a suspect in that attack.

The man Canadian officials say was involved in the **Saudi bombing** is Hani Abdel Rahim al-Sayegh, a 28-year-old **Saudi** who was arrested in Ottawa on March 18 and whom **Canada** is seeking to deport as a threat to national security.

Both men are being **held** at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Center, but Canadian officials say the two cases are unrelated. Neither Mr. Sayegh nor Mr. Shereri faces criminal charges in **Canada**.

But a lawyer representing one of the men thinks that the arrests show that Canadian intelligence agents have been watching the movements of Saudis in **Canada** for some time.

When Mr. Shereri was stopped on arrival at Ottawa airport on Dec. 6 he made a request for asylum. But immigration agents found various weapons in his belongings, including a steel chain or garrote, an 11-inch Chinese knife and martial arts fighting sticks.

Canadian agents also found an empty shoulder holster and material written in Arabic that they said they believed to be a manual on assassination.

Mr. Shereri's lawyer, Douglas M. Baum of Ottawa, said most of the objects were either decorative, like the knife, or had been used by his client in studying karate.

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Mr. Shereri said he left Saudi Arabia to escape arrest for his nonviolent opposition to the Saudi Government.

Mr. Baum said an agent of the Canadian Intelligence Security Service was at the Ottawa airport when Mr. Shereri was arrested last December, indicating that his client had been under surveillance.

He believes that was because Mr. Shereri had worked with Saudi relief agencies in Afghanistan and Bosnia. He also stopped in England before coming to Canada and there met several times with Mohammed al-Masari, the head of a dissident Saudi organization in London.

Although Mr. Masari has said he advocates a peaceful transition in Saudi Arabia, he was quoted in an interview after the June bombing as saying, "We believe the existence of Americans on the Arabian peninsula is against Islamic law."

Officials said that if Mr. Shereri's appeal for refugee status is denied, he would probably be sent back to Saudi Arabia.

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