

## **Islamic leader seems stuck in Michigan jail**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 16, 2006 Sunday, FIRST EDITION

Copyright 2006 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A3

**Length:** 218 words

**Byline:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** CLEVELAND

### **Body**

---

An **Islamic** religious **leader** convicted of concealing ties to terrorist groups remains **jailed** in **Michigan** seven months after he reached a deal with the U.S. government to be deported.

The agreement called for Fawaz Damra's deportation to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Egypt or the Palestinian territories. But so far, no one has been willing to take the former imam of the **Islamic** Center of Cleveland, officials said.

There is no definitive rule on how long Damra can be held in **jail**, according to his attorney, Robert Birach.

"If there was progress, he'd be gone by now," said Birach. "We haven't gotten a country yet to say yes."

A spokesman with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not immediately return a call seeking comment Friday.

Damra, 44, was convicted in June 2004 of concealing ties to three groups that the U.S. government classifies as terrorist organizations when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1994.

That conviction was upheld in March 2005, clearing the way for the U.S. to begin deportation proceedings.

Damra, born a Palestinian, immigrated to the United States in the mid-1980s.

Damra is having a difficult time in **jail** and misses his wife and three children, who still live in the Cleveland area, friend Haider Alawan said.

"He's a man without a country," Alawan said.

### **Classification**

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** RELIGION (91%); IMMIGRATION (90%); DEPORTATION (90%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (90%); MUSLIMS & ISLAM (90%); **JAIL** SENTENCING (90%); TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS (78%); CLERGY & RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS (78%); MUSLIM AMERICANS (78%); NATURALIZATION (76%); CITIZENSHIP (73%);

Islamic leader seems stuck in Michigan jail

TERRORISM (73%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); LAWYERS (72%); RELIGION; CLERGY;  
TERRORISM; SUSPECT; PRISON

**Industry:** LAWYERS (72%)

**Geographic:** MICHIGAN, USA (92%); UNITED STATES (94%); STATE OF PALESTINE (92%); QATAR (79%);  
EGYPT (79%); UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2006

---

End of Document