

**METRO NEWS BRIEFS: NEW YORK;**  
**Ruling Allows U.S. To Try Follower of Sheik**

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## **Body**

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A Federal judge in Brooklyn refused yesterday to drop an indictment against an Egyptian man whose lawyer had claimed that he was being unfairly prosecuted because of his political and religious associations.

The **ruling**, by Judge Carol B. Amon of Federal District Court, clears the way for a trial of the man, Nasser K. Ahmed, a **follower** of **Sheik** Omar Abdel Rahman, the cleric convicted in 1995 in a conspiracy to blow up landmarks in **New York** City.

Mr. Ahmed has been involved in a bitter three-year battle with the Immigration and Naturalization Service over its attempts to deport him based on classified information that the agency refuses to make public. In that case, which is pending, Mr. Ahmed has been detained without bond for more than three years.

A Federal grand jury indicted Mr. Ahmed in December on charges of making false statements in a decade-old immigration matter; with yesterday's **ruling**, he now faces trial in June. The case involved an application from Mr. Ahmed for residency status under a special program for farm workers.

Roger L. Stavis, who is representing Mr. Ahmed in the false-statements case, said his client had been the victim of selective prosecution because of his links to Mr. Abdel Rahman.

Herbert Hadad, a spokesman for Mary Jo White, the **United States** Attorney in Manhattan, said there would be no comment on the **ruling**.

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## **Classification**

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