

## **RUDY SAYS FEDS SHOULD'VE PROBED TERROR SUSPECT**

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### **Body**

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Mayor Giuliani yesterday ripped immigration officials for "allowing alleged terrorists to come into this country."

The harsh words came after a White House official announced that no link had been found between the accused Brooklyn bomb-plotters and Middle East **terror** groups.

Giuliani **said** the Immigration and Naturalization Service was aware that one of the alleged bomb-makers, Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer, "was accused of being a member of a terrorist group" when he applied for U.S. asylum in April. "So it seems to me that that should have resulted in an investigation."

But INS officials **said** Mezer did not admit to being a terrorist. Although he did acknowledge that he had been arrested by Israeli authorities as a **suspected** terrorist, Mezer **said** he was being unjustly persecuted. The INS **said** further that Mezer withdrew his asylum bid and agreed to leave the U.S. voluntarily by Aug. 23.

As for the Hamas terrorist group's denial Saturday that Mezer was a member, Giuliani **said** that doesn't hold much weight with him.

"I have a pretty clear approach in the way I deal with terrorists," he **said**. "I basically don't believe anything they **say**."

Hamas has claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing Wednesday in a crowded Jerusalem market that left 15 people including the bombers dead. The group also **says** accused Brooklyn bomb-maker Lafi Khalil was an Israeli police informant, ABC News reported last night.

Mezer, 23, and Khalil, 22, were captured during a raid on their Park Slope apartment Thursday. Police **said** they were just hours away from pulling off a suicide bombing at a busy subway station.

And ABC reported that two men matching their descriptions bought bomb-making supplies electrical tape, copper wiring and batteries at a neighborhood hardware store.

Both **suspects** were shot during the raid and remain hospitalized with nonlife-threatening wounds.

James Kallstrom, head of the FBI's New York office, **said** Friday that it "is totally wrong to **say** that these individuals are connected to and directed by Hamas."

And White House national security adviser Sandy Berger **said** on CBS' "Face the Nation" yesterday that police have not "established any direct relationship" between the Israeli attacks and the New York bomb plot.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed but added: "This is a multi-headed hydra. The Islamic fundamentalist or radical terrorism is aimed at all of us."

## Classification

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