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"He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep"

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AI QAEDA'S BOARDROOMS WITH THE SHEIKS

Al-Qaeda's *de facto* 'boardrooms' are hosted by Saudi and U.A.E. Sheiks

The US State Department looks the other way as Gulf Sheiks supply bin Laden

By Lee Kaplan, DAFKA National Director

When the 9/11 Commission finally released its report on the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93, there were 28 pages [redacted by the government](#) for reasons of "national security." The information centered around Saudi Arabian and Emirate sheiks of the U.A.E. Now, a shocking revelation about complicity between the US State Department and those Sheiks, who also fund al-Qeada, may prove to be what those redacted pages are, at least in part, about. This information concerns, of all things, incredibly, falconry, the practice of hunting with birds.

To Arab oil sheiks falcon hunting is a passion beyond compare. Some birds command [prices](#) of \$25,000 a piece and can go for as much as one million dollars due to its popularity among the oil potentates of the Middle East. Alan Parrot (yes, that's really his name, pronounced Pa Ro), since his youth, has raised and trained these birds of prey in this limited trade which made him a hot commodity to oil sheiks. Few Americans would guess that falconry is a \$300 million dollar industry.

As a young man, Parrot was admitted to the inner circle, or *majelis*, of the late [President Sheik Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan](#) of the United Arab Emirates. The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) is in fact composed of seven states with Abu Dhabi being just one of them. Parrot speaks fondly of the Emir of Abu Dhabi, Sheik Zayed, who treated Parrot like a son and who Parrot regarded as a second father. He credits Sheik Zayed with saving his life once after one of the Sheik's sons put out a death warrant on him for interfering with the son's falcon smuggling in violation of endangered species laws. Parrot's abilities with falcons, honed since he was an adolescent, led the Sheik to have him sit at his right side at inner circle meetings of the Sheik's council where he was even asked his opinions on politics, religion and anything else that dealt with the running of Abu Dhabi. Over the years, Parrot even witnessed the Sheik's meetings with Yasser Arafat (who Parrot says threatened to assassinate Zayed's children if he did not donate to the PLO) and other major players in the Middle East. Treated almost as a blood member of the royal family, Parrot was given his own chauffeur-driven Mercedes and was rewarded handsomely and honored by other oil sheiks for his expertise with breeding, training and protecting these birds, a commodity so [highly valued in the Middle East](#) as a sign of success and even masculinity.

As he saw falcons and raptors begin to join the ranks of endangered species, Parrot began pushing for international protections of these amazing birds. Raising and training falcons for Arab royals is over for Parrot, who formed a non-profit wildlife conservation organization to stop the selling of falcons for sport. His [Union for the Conservation of Raptors](#) emphasizes wildlife conservation, and wants these magnificent birds, now a seriously at-risk endangered species, protected. It was through these efforts as a wildlife conservationist and the contacts he made over his years with the Sheiks that that he became privy to information that should concern every American in the War on Terror, information that he believes is being covered up in those redacted pages of the 9/11 Commission Report.

Parrot explained to me how falconry of all things has become a means of funding al Qaeda, of supplying that terrorist organization that murdered 3,000 people on US soil in 2001 with money, vehicles, equipment, logistical support and just about anything al Qaeda needs while the US State Department runs interference for the Sheiks.

“The Sheiks fly into hunting camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan on C-130 military cargo planes filled with SUV’s, supplies and even steamer trunks full of cash. They meet with al Qaeda leaders or bin Laden himself [while in these camps](#) and discuss their Muslim obligations and unity. When they leave, they leave all the vehicles, supplies and any other useful equipment behind as donations to al Qaeda for its efforts at jihad,” he told me. “I know this because I was there.” Parrot, who even found himself spending nights in the home of an al Qaeda arms dealer, says the US State Department covers these transactions up for the Saudi and Emirate Sheiks much to America’s peril. He makes a convincing case.

“Everyone remembers about the Cruise missiles fired to get bin Laden in Afghanistan after the suicide attack on the USS Cole,” he said. “That was a failure, they missed and did not kill bin Laden in August 1998. But the mainstream press has almost ignored how there was a botched second opportunity firing the weapon [because some Sheiks from the UAE were allegedly hunting in the area](#). “Point of fact, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed – a son of Zayed, was tipped off about a second US military strike in process against bin Laden by NSC adviser Richard Clarke,” says Parrot. “Mohammed then tipped off his brother, Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed, who was with bin Laden in the falconry camp in Afghanistan at the time, that an attack was in the works. Clarke called off the attack to save the lives of the key Sheiks of the UAE precisely because of the financial interests the Sheiks have with Washington interests.” The attack was stalled and delayed long enough for bin Laden to escape even though CIA field operatives had him in their sites for a missile attack. Clarke subsequently brokered a deal as an agent for Lockheed-Martin worth 6.4 billion dollars to provide the UAE with 80 F-16 fighter jets.

“The US State Department has been so busy facilitating the acquisition and distribution of endangered falcons and raptors at the behest and pleasure of Saudi and Emirate potentates that they are jeopardizing national security by not destroying the hunting camps, places that should be renamed al Qaeda’s Boardrooms,” Parrot bemoans. “And officials in our own government who are responsible for American security have more than a passing [conflict of interest](#) that links back to falconry.”

Parrot further told me, “They have even done the bidding of these Sheiks by trying to get a career government employee fired for enforcing international conservation laws.” That government naturalist, Dr. David H. Ellis was not fired, but due to constant pressure from the U.A.E., the US State Department and the Department of the Interior, he took early retirement to get away from the constant badgering. “The US State Department has consistently circumvented endangered species laws around these birds to the extent they have cost a professional naturalist employed by the US government his career, and even violated laws that no American should be allowed to violate,” he revealed.

Parrot recounted to me how Prince Bandar, the former Saudi ambassador to the US, chartered a Royal Saudi Airlines jetliner and populated the first class cabin with falcons and raptors that were illegal to export from the United States. He even has a copy of the Embassy's check paid to the US Department of Justice as a fine through Riggs Bank that he intends to reveal on television in the near future.

Bandar's influence in Washington was well known during his tenure. A close personal friend of former State Department head Colin Powell, Bandar enjoyed unlimited access to the White House. After 9/11, it was learned that Bandar's wife had sent \$150,000 to one of the 9/11 hijackers, a complete stranger, in San Diego. Alan Parrot points out that Bandar used the Saudi embassy as a base of operations to fund falcon smuggling. The Bush administration glossed over these incidents, as did the 9/11 Commission report. It seems nobody wants to "offend" the Saudis and other Gulf Sheiks, so their wishes are always fulfilled under favoritism conveniently "classified" from public scrutiny.

"Persian Gulf states are technically sovereign nations, but practically speaking they are 'family businesses' that use government agencies at home and abroad – not for civil services to their people – but for self-services that are strictly limited to royal family enterprises," he explained. "Their political leaders in fact use government and military jets, sometimes supplied by the US, for their personal whims. They are not subject to border controls, needing passports or any supervision required of other people."

Parrot told me how he was present in these falcon hunting camps numerous times as Sheiks from the U.A. E. flew into Afghanistan and Pakistan in Hercules C-130 military cargo planes filled with hundreds of SUV's, weapons and even steamer trunks full of US dollars to be given to bin Laden as "gifts" to carry on the worldwide jihad. "These are religious people in their own mind serving the cause of jihad, and they don't mind playing both sides of the coin by professing to be allies of the US but in fact providing funding as an Islamic obligation to the jihadists who want to destroy America," he said.

The Saudis and Emirate leaders grease their way worldwide for their personal whims. The UN, with US backing, passed the 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna' (CITES) Treaty, but, as with everything else in Washington, and at other worldwide seats of power, oil money and perks bought circumvention of environmental laws as the Sheiks put paid off agents in powerful administrative positions. For example, after gaining such influence in the U.N., licensing protocols for the royal falconry camps that required clearance for the endangered birds (Parrot calls those camps al-Qaeda's boardrooms) are ignored so that the falconry camps may continue without U.N. controls that previously would have shut them down. Without supervision or oversight, these same falconry camps are where Osama bin Laden has made annual one-month pilgrimages as a V.I.P. guest of U.S. 'allies' from the Arabian Gulf. Meanwhile, officials in the US State Department do more to cover these activities up than to expose them and lose the "good will" of the Sheiks, sort of a "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding rubbing elbows and financing those out to destroy America.

Parrot recounted to me how over and over again Saudi and Gulf States diplomats have been caught by his U.C.R. investigators smuggling falcons by using their own high level diplomats, only to be continuously released at the behest of the US State Department.

"This is not just about falcons. This has about as much to do with falcons, as pigskin has to do with the Super Bowl. It is true that falcons are an essential component, without which, the hunting camps cease to exist. But more importantly: today's royal falconry hunting camps which operate without passport or border controls, are month-long venues for clandestine meetings between legitimate Arab leaders, and today's dark purveyors of organized terror," Parrot told me angrily. "The same Sheik who wants to control US seaports meets with bin Laden and supplies him in these camps!"

"The Sheiks are confident they can do anything they want too," he said. "The Foreign Minister for the U.A. E. has told the US government to fire or punish its own 'whistleblowers' for doing their jobs—and it gets

done. Corrupt foreign ministers and other agents or UN officials also make these falconry camps possible.”

Alan Parrot was sued for slander by the Minister of Nature in Mongolia after he revealed the role the Minister played in selling black market falcons to ranking Princes and Sheikhs from the U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia. Parrot won that case, but told me that when U.S. Ambassador Alphonse LaPorta, an employee of the US State Department, learned that a senior US Geological Services/Department of the Interior employee, Dr. David H. Ellis, an expert on falcons, was testifying in the case, he informed Dr. Ellis he would be fired and lose his retirement benefits at the Department of the Interior if he went through with the testimony. Then the U.S. Ambassador attempted to have news articles explaining the case redacted from public view. Failing to achieve this, he printed his own articles defending the Mongolian Minister of Nature, insisting there was no falcon smuggling in Mongolia. In other words, in the interest of propping up a corrupt Mongolian government, and in the interest of following orders and threats from Arab leaders made to the United States by the Sheiks, the State Department [instructed Ambassador LaPorta to deprive a U.S. citizen of a viable defense](#) in a foreign court, levied against the U.S. citizen by corrupt foreign government officials. The Mongolian Minister of Nature lost his job after Parrot won the case.

Parrot has [experienced such US bureaucrats](#) in action [time and time again](#): “There are many patriots working at the US State Department. But unfortunately, there are also many naïve, idealistic, and headstrong employees at State who resolutely see the world ‘the way they want it to be,’ rather than ‘the way it is’. The State Department needs more pragmatic envoys, who do not eagerly anticipate their own personal six-figure retirement funds to be paid by Saudi Arabian and U.A.E. oil barons.”

As for Dr. Ellis, when he continued to report and write about such UN violations, the UAE sent no less than 200 pages of complaints to the US State Department *demanding* that Ellis be fired. When he refused to alter his reports, Dr. Ellis was placed on administrative unpaid leave losing two weeks’ income because the Department of Interior was obviously representing the U.A.E. more than the US. Dr. Ellis chose to retire early, sacrificing hundreds of thousands of dollars in income, so that he could speak out publicly. Dr. Ellis is now the Chairman of Parrot’s Union for the Conservation of Raptors “Science Advisory Board.”

Parrot says the U.A.E. Sheiks then paid members of the Russian Mafia to break his bones—and they did. Incredibly, the Sheiks use the Russian Mafia as bodyguards and to procure most contraband items for them such as drugs, children or prostitutes for sexual purposes and even the smuggling of falcons. A Yemeni Sheik, Dr. Mohammed Ali Aisa, who works closely with the Sheiks of the U.A.E. by smuggling falcons for them, is also an arms smuggler for Osama bin Laden. Dr. Ali Aisa owns his own personal fleet of Yak 40 and Tupelov Russian aircraft for these purposes. Smuggling is also carried out all over Central Asia by the U.A.E. Crown Prince himself who uses a Turkmenistan jet that is loaned to the Prince by Turkmenistan’s universally feared dictator, Saparmurad Niyazov, also known as “President Turkmenbashi,” who shares in the action with the Sheiks (see photos). An absolute ruler for the past 20 years, Turkmenbashi still practices [old Soviet-style repression](#) and corruption within his country. Since aircraft owned by Arab Sheiks have come under international scrutiny and face interdiction due to such smuggling, the Sheiks use Russian and Turkmenistan aircraft now to avoid detection.

Parrot described to me a government-controlled airport in Russia with a fleet of airplanes that is guarded by former KGB agents that is controlled by Ali Aisa for smuggling purposes. Corrupt Russian government officials even smuggle weapons through that airport that make their way to bin Laden, and, incredibly, even to Muslim separatists, allies of bin Laden in Chechnya, where they are used to kill Russian soldiers. “It’s all about big money with these guys, it doesn’t matter who gets killed by the smuggling operations,” Parrot explained.

So how does all this link to those redacted pages of the 9/11 Commission Report? Are Parrot’s tales just “for the birds?” (pun intended).

On his website, Parrot has the transcripts of an interrogation of one of the al-Qaeda terrorists who was captured in Afghanistan and is currently held at Guantanamo by the US military. He points out that that

terrorist on more than one occasion with his military interrogator begins to discuss falconry and the hunting camps in divulging information on who has contacts with al Qaeda. Those transcripts reveal each time the terrorist tries to come clean by mentioning those contacts and how they link to the falconry hunting camps, the interrogator forbids him [to even mention the information](#).

Parrot's website is [replete with more information](#) on links between Falconry and al-Qaeda: It seems the 20th hijacker on 9/11, also known as Detainee 063, Mohammed al-Qahtani, was a falcon smuggler for six prominent UAE nationals, all of whom paid and directed the 9/11 terrorist. Of note is the fact that Al-Qahtani was also a falcon trainer for Osama bin Laden. Al-Qahtani was prevented from entering the US through Florida due to some alert customs officials as Mohammad Atta, the ringleader of the 9/11 attacks, waited at Miami airport to pick him up. Al-Qahtani was later captured by US special forces on the battleground in Afghanistan and sent to Guantanamo. Interrogation transcripts reveal any time al-Qahtani mentions falconry or cars supplied by the U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia, he is immediately silenced by military interrogators and forbidden to mention them. "Falconry and cars are two tangible, material components that irrevocably link U.A.E. and Saudi Sheikhs to Osama bin Laden," Parrot points out.

This is the first public evidence of U.A.E. leaders paying and directing the 9/11 hijackers. Parrot says the US government needs to divulge the full names of the six U.A. E. nationals who paid and directed this 9/11 terrorist and says a public campaign needs to be mounted to get the names.

Congressman Curt Weldon [may help](#) Parrot push for the names. All of us need to bring this information to the American public and take it out of the hands of State Department and administration hacks who have too close a personal relationship with the Sheiks and who stand to lose lucrative consulting contracts with them when they retire. Anyone who has followed the Dubai Ports deal, and now the selling of US military production secrets to a British company controlled by the same U.A.E. Sheiks, should be able to understand the sway oil money has over those who should be less-than-impartial in dealing with the Gulf Sheiks who meet and mingle with America's enemies abroad. Alan Parrot wants to know who in the UAE financed and directed the 20th hijacker, and believes that information might even be in those redacted pages of the 9/11 Commission Report.

U.C.R. has provided details to Weldon in the interest of enlisting the Congressman's help in shedding light on the identities of six U.A.E. nationals who financed and directed 9/11's 20th hijacker. "This isn't about birds like everyone thinks," Parrot emphasized, "It's about falconry as a cohesive, tribal activity that is used by Arab Sheiks to associate, supply, fund and do business with bin Laden under the nose of the USA. American corporate executives meet on the golf course, Arab Sheiks, who fund terrorism and who are making fools of the United States, meet with bin Laden as a V.I.P. in falcon hunting camps."

Parrot and his Union for the Conservation of Raptors is advocating trade sanctions on businesses and enterprises owned and directed by Sheikh Mohammed al-Rashid and other U.A.E. Sheiks through Congress' [Pelly Amendment](#) as [a measure to shut down support for al-Qaeda by contemporary Arab leaders](#). He says The Pelly Amendment for endangered species is an extraordinarily efficient punitive measure that could potentially have a lethal effect on Middle East leaders who finance terror. It could also be used to deprive U.S. universities from receiving funding from those same Arab leaders, [an issue that is now coming to the attention of Congress](#) during the War on Terror.

Alan Parrot's theories and information demand a [hard look by all of us](#) for whom American national security is an issue in the War on Terror. Could this be the reason we can't get bin Laden?

Readers who want to make their voices heard on these issues may want to telephone Congressman Weldon's office at 202 225-2011 or email to his staff: Chris.Phelen@mail.house.gov

End.