

In 2009, Said Namouh, A Moroccan citizenship (*sic*) residing in Canada, was convicted of four terrorism-related charges for plotting attacks in Germany and Austria in order to get the NATO nations to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. In March 2007, the defendant posted a video demanding the governments of Austria and Germany to “withdraw their troops from peace-support missions in Afghanistan or else face grave consequences.” Following the broadcast of the video, the Austrian authorities initiated an investigation that included wire-taps on various online communications between Said Namouh and Mohammed Mahmoud, an Austrian national living in Vienna, Austria.

The communications among the two defendants, conducted in Arabic, consisted of Voice over IP and Internet chat sessions. The communications disclosed issues associated with jihad and plans for a terrorist attack in Europe. The investigations conducted by both Austrian and Canadian authorities revealed that Mr. Namouh was spending considerable time on the Internet in order to be in constant contact with jihadists around the world, including the Global Islamic Media Front, which disseminates propaganda and provides jihadists with tools (bomb manuals, encryption software, etc.) needed to carry out jihad.

Between 3 June and 9 September 2007, Mr. Namouh (Canada) and Mohammed Mahmoud (Austria) had around 31 online conversations about carrying out a bombing at an undisclosed location in Europe, on manufacturing of weapons like explosive belts, financing issues and travel plans to meet other persons in Maghreb and Egypt for final preparations.

On 12 Sept 2007, the Austrian and Canadian authorities carried out simultaneous arrests of Namouh and Mahmoud....

-Cristina Siserman, “A Global Perspective on the Protection of Privacy and Related Human Rights in Countering the Use of Internet for Terrorist Purposes” (2013) excerpt