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He said the allegations made against him are false Case filed by 9/11 victims' relatives against Yassin Qadi dropped

Abdullah Azaat - Jeddah

A court in New York has ordered all civil cases filed by relatives of the 9/11 victims against Saudi businessman and philanthropist Sheikh Yassin Abdullah Qadi in the United States to be dropped. It came in a decision taken by Judge Daniels at the District Court of Southern New York on 13 September. It should be said that Sheikh Yassin was among a group of individuals, companies and governments in the Muslim world who had civil cases filed against them by relatives of the 9/11 victims on the grounds that they had links to Al-Qaeda and were therefore directly or indirectly responsible for those events. The cases came to be known as the "three billion" claims, reflecting the compensation claimed by the lawyers for the victims' relatives. However, the US court rejected the allegations and ordered all the cases against Sheikh Yassin to be dropped on the basis that there were no grounds or facts to support them. In this connection, Sheikh Yassin issued a statement, in which he said, "I am an innocent man. As events have shown, where I have been given the opportunity to defend myself against all the allegations relating to me, I have demonstrated that they are completely untrue".

"I reaffirm what I have said from the outset. In all my personal, commercial and charitable activities, I have never supported and have never intended to provide support of any kind whatsoever to Osama Bin Laden or Al-Qaeda".

Yassin Qadi added, "I and those others in my situation are victims of some endless "financial Guantanamo", as the action taken against us was supposed to be temporary but has become permanent".

Qadi said, "I condemn without hesitation the acts committed by Al-Qaeda on 11 September 2001 and the acts subsequently committed by it. I also share with the US and Saudi peoples the belief that terrorism represented by Al-Qaeda must be confronted".

Sheikh Yassin managed successfully to win his case with the help of the defence led by David Geneson (of the Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton Law Firm in Washington) and Guy Martin, Cameron Doley and Saad Djebbar (of the Carter-Ruck Law Firm in London).