

**From: Al-Eqtesadiyah, 18/9/2010**

**Civil claims dropped against remaining Saudis in 9/11 victims' families case**

Al-Eqtesadiyah from Riyadh - Mohammed Al-Hilali from Jeddah

The District Court in Southern New York recently dropped all civil cases filed against Saudi businessmen and the heads of Islamic charitable organisations by families of the victims of the 9 September 2001 attacks.

Expressing his delight with the ruling, Sulaiman Al-Buthi, one of those who have had the charge against them dropped, told Al-Eqtesadiyah that the cases were dropped after it became clear to the judge that there was no evidence to support the charges. Al-Buthi pointed out that those whose cases were dropped included Sheikh Aqeel Al-Aqeel, former Director of the charitable Al-Haramain Foundation, Dr. Abdullah Nasif, former Secretary-General of the Muslim World League, Adnan Al-Basha, Secretary-General of the Islamic Relief Organisation, Yassin Qadi and Sami Al-Hussein. The families of the victims of the attacks and the US Administration, who filed the lawsuits, had claimed damages of hundreds of billions [sic] of dollars in a number of amalgamated cases before the District Court of Southern New York.

The list of defendants included a large number of political figures and businessmen from the Arab and Muslim world in addition to members of the Taliban movement and the Al-Qaeda organisation.

Islamic charitable foundations, the United States and the Muslim world have generally been under US and Western security scrutiny, particularly during the time of former US President George Bush, on the grounds that they provide support directly or indirectly to the Al-Qaeda organisation, which is accused of involvement in the attacks.

The cases were dropped at a time when the United States was recently commemorating the ninth anniversary of the 2001 attacks, during which President Barack Obama stressed that his country was not at war with Islam but with Al-Qaeda. For his part, Yassin Qadi, commenting on the US court decision, said, "I am an innocent man. As events have shown, where I have been given the opportunity to defend myself against the allegations relating to me, they have been completely untrue". Yassin Qadi reaffirmed what he had said from the outset and that, in all his personal, commercial and charitable activities, he had never supported and had never intended to provide support of any kind whatsoever to Osama Bin Laden or Al-Qaeda. He added, "I and those others in my situation have fallen victim to some endless "financial Guantanamo", as the action taken against us was supposed to be temporary but has become permanent". He continued, "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. However, the struggle against terrorism will not succeed if basic human rights are ignored and people are deprived of the opportunity to prove their innocence or where there is no independent mechanism to allow innocent people like me who are falsely accused to redress the injustice against them". 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. This came in a decision taken in the middle of last week by Judge Daniels at the District Court of Southern New York on 13 September 2010.