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Federal Authorities Seek Terror Suspect's Extradition to Hub

Links to region not discussed

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A Canadian national who has been charged in US District Court in Boston with buying guns, rockets and other weapons for Al Qaeda, allegedly committed all of his crimes outside the United States, according to an affidavit unsealed yesterday.

Federal authorities refused to say whether Abdullah Khadr, 24, who was arrested Saturday in Toronto, had any links to New England or why the case was being prosecuted in Boston.

But an affidavit filed in federal court in Boston says that Khadr confessed to procuring weapons for Al Qaeda when questioned for three days last July at an undisclosed location outside the United States by an FBI agent assigned to Boston's Joint Terrorism Task Force and an agent with the Diplomatic Security Service.

"Khadr told me that he never killed anyone personally," wrote FBI special agent Gregory T. Hughes in the affidavit. "However, at another point in the interview he said that he sometimes regretted not 'doing something.' "

Samantha Martin, a spokeswoman for US Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, said authorities are in the process of trying to extradite Khadr to Boston to face charges that while in Afghanistan and Pakistan, he conspired to arm Al Qaeda against US troops fighting in Afghanistan. Khadr is currently in custody in Canada.

The affidavit says Khadr confessed that at the urging of his father, Ahmed Said Khadr, who was a friend of Osama Bin Laden, he purchased \$20,000 worth of AK-47 ammunition, rounds for Russian-made machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades, rockets and hydrogen peroxide for use in explosives.

His father was killed by Pakistani forces in October 2003, and his brother, Omar, 19, is being held at the US Naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

In April 2004, Khadr appeared in a series called "Son of Al Qaeda," on PBS's Frontline program, and on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and gave an interview, while concealing his face, according to the affidavit.

During the interview, he described bin Laden as "something like a saint," who never seemed to shout or get angry. He said, "He's always smiling, whatever happens."

Khadr said during the television interview that he felt sorry for the people who were killed during the Sept. 11 attacks, but he also felt admiration for those who carried out the attacks "because they did some things that

stunned the entire world."

"Everybody for entire, like months, was only talking about that," he said.

In an affidavit submitted to the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto, where Khadr appeared yesterday at a preliminary hearing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sergeant Konrad Shourie said Khadr admitted to a role in an unspecified plot to assassinate Pakistan's prime minister.

Khadr was born in Canada, but in 1997 his father moved the family to Pakistan.

Khadr spent 18 months in custody in a Pakistani prison before he was returned to Canada earlier this month.

Edmonton lawyer Dennis Edney, who represents Khadr, accused US authorities of participating in the detention and abuse of his client in Pakistan.