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Canadian Is Indicted in U.S. On Terrorism-Aid Charges

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A 24-year-old Canadian whose father was a close friend of Osama bin Laden was indicted here Wednesday on charges he provided ammunition and explosives for attacks on U.S. troops in Afghanistan, federal prosecutors said.

Abdullah Ahmed Khadr was arrested in Canada in December, soon after he returned from more than a year of detention in Pakistan. He is in jail awaiting hearings on his extradition to Massachusetts.

Khadr is from a family that moved from Canada to Pakistan when he was about 8, and which has recently become notorious for its alleged relationships with bin Laden and al Qaeda.

U.S. authorities say Khadr's father, Ahmed Said Khadr, funneled money to the terrorist network through a phony charity and later became a key commander in the fight against U.S. troops in Afghanistan. He was killed by Pakistani troops in October 2003.

Khadr's younger brother, Omar Ahmed Khadr, was captured by U.S. and Afghan troops in 2002, during a firefight in which he allegedly threw a grenade that killed an American soldier. Now 19, he is facing murder and other charges in front of a military commission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Wednesday's indictment said Abdullah Khadr was asked by his father to supply weapons for the fight against U.S. troops and their allies in Afghanistan starting in 2003. To that end, he bought machine-gun ammunition, rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds and explosives used to make mines, prosecutors said.

If convicted on all four counts, including conspiracy to commit murder, Khadr could face a sentence of life plus 30 years in prison. Although Khadr is charged by federal prosecutors in Massachusetts, the indictment does not accuse him of committing or planning a crime on U.S. soil.

Dennis Edney, Khadr's lawyer based in Edmonton, Alberta, said the case is tainted because his client was tortured by Pakistani authorities. He said that, after two days of torture, U.S. interrogators asked Khadr the same questions again and again "to elicit the response they wanted."

Edney said the case showed that "the rule of law is suspended in the pursuit of showing that people are terrorists."