

**Interrogation of Dirar Abu Sisi**

**Excerpts "cleared for publication" by the Beersheba District Court,  
Israel**

**11 August 2011**

(partial translation from Hebrew)

**Doc 1/5**

Lines 1-88:

Offer technical details on missiles, missile parts and explosives and includes diagrams and mathematical equations.

**Doc 2/5**

Lines 1-62:

Abu Sisi describes various ties with people involved with Hamas' academy, as well as technical details about some rockets.

Line 63:

Q: Tell me about smuggling raw materials for Hamas.

Lines 64-69:

Abu Sisi: I heard that the (man) responsible for smuggling raw materials for Hamas was... Mahmad Abu Khalil Abu Smalah... I met with him once in 2009 when we were in Rafah for the academy. His job was to smuggle materials for Hamas' development committee.

Line 70:

Q: Did you have anything to do with smuggling materials through the tunnels?

Line 71:

Abu Sisi: No.

Lines 72-100:

Detail other contacts involved in the academy.

### **Doc 3/5**

Lines 1-81:

Detail meeting contacts and technical details about rocket improvement as well as mentions a rocket test fire and repeats Abu Sisi's regret for his actions.

Line 82-87:

Abu Sisi: Like I said in my earlier testimony, my primary job was with the power company and at the time my activities (with Hamas) were few and so I wanted to back out, but Raed Sa'ad told me that many of the operatives were happy, meaning I had to continue my work. I asked him about his choice of words and he said that I should understand them as I liked, meaning I was on the combative path (jihad) and I could not back out. In the beginning of 2007, the development committee I spoke of was formed.

Lines 88-95

Offers technical details about rocket improvement

Lines 95-99:

Abu Sisi: Before the committee broke up Raed Sa'ad said... that they would teach people and make them missile experts. He said they wanted to recruit 10 people from every region and train them. I don't know who these people are or if they were trained.

Lines 100-101:

Q: Do you understand that without your help in developing... and stabilizing the rockets and mortar shells, they could not have developed missiles for the ranges you had mentioned?

Line 102:

Abu Sisi: I understand that and I regret my actions.

Line 103:

Q: What rockets or missiles does Hamas possess now and are they anti-tank projectiles?

Line 104-108:

Abu Sisi: from what I heard from Hamas operatives, Hamas now has B29 anti-tank missiles, Spigot, Kornet, Fagot ... and I know from Hamas operatives that Hamas has some anti-aircraft missiles.

Line 109:

Q: Who is Petovich?

Lines 110-124

Abu Sisi: He was my instructor for my PhD in electrical engineering. In 1995 I started my PhD studies in Ukraine and one of my professors was Konstantin Petovich from St. Petersburg. He is an expert on the control mechanisms of Scud missiles and was a lecturer with the Kharkov Engineering Academy. He would conduct research projects with experts in Kharkov's military academy

and he helped me by getting me into the military academy in Kharkov... I was studying civil engineering and because I was studying control mechanisms and that is Petovich's specialty, he helped me... get faculty books and I would sit in the library in the military academy and study about developing missiles and control mechanisms. You are not allowed to take these text books outside the library or even xerox the faculty's material. At first I didn't want to study this, all I wanted was electrical engineering, but the instructor, he had research about the military academy and Scud missiles and I got into it... While studying the field I studied the field of missile propulsion, because when it comes to missiles there are different kinds of propulsions.

Lines: 124-126

Detail the different kinds of propulsions.

Lines 127-128:

Abu Sisi: I studied it out of curiosity only and I would go there once every two weeks for a couple of hours. In total I went there four times.

Line 129:

Q: Did you hold any meetings or met with anyone else while you were in this military academy in Kharkov:

Lines 130-141:

Abu Sisi: Yes. For the first part of the research, two other Arab students were there: Abdulla Hadi, a Libyan who was an official envoy of the Libyan government and specialized in nuclear physics, and AbdelKarim el-Jabali, who was originally from Hebron, but was living in Jordan and was an envoy of the Jordanian government and specialized in the control mechanisms of T-

82 tanks. After that... the management of the military academy told me that I wasn't eligible to study or participate in the academy because I wasn't a state envoy and they decided to suspend my studies and that I had to go back to my own college. I asked them – why then, did you allow me to study and waste time in the military academy and now you're ending my studies, and they said that my admission was a mistake and the instructor that allowed me in made a mistake and that they had to assign someone else to be my instructor for electrical engineering, and that's what happened. They assigned Philip Gorberv and I wrote my PhD with him.

Lines 142-159:

Censored – marked out on the original document.

Line 160:

Q: What do you know about firing anti-tank missiles at Israeli tanks?

Lines 161-165:

Abu Sisi: In 2010, Abu Omar, a lecturer at the military academy, told me that a Kornet missile was fired at an Israeli tank near Khan Yunis, but failed to penetrate the tank; and that the cell that fired the Kornet missile was from Khan Yunis.

Line 166:

Q: What about naval missiles?

Lines 167-171:

Abu Sisi: Before the Gaza war, Read Saad asked me if there was a difference between torpedo missiles and regular missiles and I told him that as far as I knew, there was no difference. He told me to look into it. I read on the Internet about the differences and afterwards told him that firing naval missiles was complex because they have special mechanisms.

Lines 172-181:

Detail the technical differences

Line 182:

Q: Were you offered at some point to work on missile projects while you were abroad?

Lines 183-195:

Abu Sisi: In 2009 I was in Hajj in Saudi Arabia with several senior members of Hamas' military (wing)... We met with a man named Abu Fares, age about 50, a Hamas operative from Syria... and Abu Fares suggested that as part of developing and advancing the military academy we formed in Gaza, that I should take part in missile productions courses in Syria. He told me that they were military courses. I told Abu Fares that living my work in Gaza would be difficult since I don't have a passport and he suggested I come to Syria to study more about missiles. After we talked more about missile development in Gaza, I turned the offer down. I wanted to return to Ukraine and live with my wife and children.

Lines 196-238:

Abu Sisi speak of leaving Gaza in 2005 for Jabalia, translations he did from Russian, reiterate his regrets.

Lines 238-240:

Censored – marked out on the original document.

Lines 241-269:

Offer more details about the structure and individuals involved in the military academy

Lines 270-277:

Reiterate his regrets over helping the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas, and his hope on being reunited with his family

#### **Doc 4/5**

Lines 1-62:

Abu Sisi is asked to identify cell phones he used and details where he got them; details other technical mechanisms and test of various parts; speaks of rocket tests and their conclusions

Lines 63-67:



Abu Sisi: Like I said before, I tried to cease my assistance to Hamas regarding improving missiles' range. Raed Sa'ad's answer was that there are many fighters or many people who are killed in strange missions. When I asked him what he meant he said – understand that any way you want to, and added that a man who has children should be afraid for them. That was in 2006.

Line 68-69:

Q: Did you official or unofficially appeal to people in Hamas and asked not to be involved in improving the missiles' range?

Line: 70-71:

Abu Sisi: I sent a letter to Mohammed Deif with Raed Saad, that I didn't want to continue developing the missiles' range and my work with Hamas. I never heard back.

Lines: 72-73:

Q: So like you said in your testimony, after your conversation with Raed Saad, you continued your activities, developing missiles' range for Hamas?

Lines: 74-78:

Abu Sisi: I continued until 2008... by 2009 I had sold my house in Gaza and my car with, (I wanted to) go to one another country, especially Saudi Arabia, but during the holiday, the Egyptian take the passports and I couldn't stay in Saudi Arabia. After the holiday I returned to Gaza and Hamas took my passport.

Lines 80-81:

Speak of his attempts to leave Gaza with the assistance of the Red Cross and the UN (offer no details)

Lines 82-86

Censored – marked out on the original document.

Line 87:

Q: Do you regret your actions as you have detailed them

Line 88:

Abu Sisi: Yes, I was afraid Hamas would harm me if that if I stopped my work.

### **Doc 5/5**

Page 1, lines 2-14:

Abu Sisi is advised that he is suspected of conspiracy to commit a crime, weapon offenses and actions detrimental to the national security of the State of Israel, following his affiliation with an illegal organization which is hostile to Israel.

He is further advised that he has the right not to answer questions, that what he says may be used in evidence against him, and that he has the right to legal counsel.

Lines 15-25:

Abu Sisi gives a short family history – mother, father, and a short recap of his years in elementary school and high school.

Lines 25-32:

Abu Sisi: I finished high school in 1987... I studied for two semesters in the Faculty of Science and Physics in a Jordanian university and after two semesters I transferred to the Soviet Union and graduated from a year at a preparatory (school) in the Ukrainian Soviet Republic and then studied electrical engineering in Armenia until 1994... and then I studied power stations in Kharkov for my PhD.

Lines 32-47:

Abu Sisi details names of friends from his years in school abroad, his activities on campus and in Muslim prayer groups.

Lines 49-50:

Abu Sisi: In 1999 I returned to Jordan with a PhD in electrical engineering. In 1998 I got married in Ukraine.

Lines 51-55:

Abu Sisi speaks of his wife, children, first years in Jordan and moving to Gaza to live with his sister.

Lines 57-63:

Abu Sisi: I started studying at the Open University in Jerusalem until 2003 and was I teaching computer management and scientific research methods. Then I went to work for the Palestinian power company. I did not have tenure at the university and worked by-hours. I worked for the Palestinian power company in Gaza for three months as a technical advisor on a power station project. I then went to work for an American company building a power station, until they closed their offices in the Middle East.

Lines 64-69:

Abu Sisi recaps religious interests.

Line 70:

Q: Tell me about your recruitment to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Lines 71-84:

Abu Sisi: In 1999 I was on a vacation in Jordan, I came from Ukraine and I met our neighbor AbdelKarim el-Jabali... and he invited me to a lecture in the Islamic Association, in the Islamic Center in Amman... The lecture was about freedom of speech and freedom of expression... Afterwards he suggested I join the Islamic Association which belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood. Their philosophy is that Islam is the solution and they support Jihad against the Israeli occupation of Palestine. I agreed and put my name down as a new member. After I joined the Muslim Brotherhood I went back to my studies in Ukraine. I never did anything for them except join.

Lines 85-115:

Abu Sisi recaps more activities in student unions in Jordan and Ukraine, and religious studies with people affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Lines 115-131:

Abu Sisi details his associations with several named individuals affiliated with both the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas.

Lines 131-132:

Abu Sisi: The majority of the members in that group, who were Palestinians, became Hamas members when they returned to Gaza.

Lines 136-147:

Abu Sisi: In 2002 I was with my cousin, who is a Hamas member, in evening prayers at a mosque in Jabalya. He said he wanted to introduce me to someone. It was Dr. Nizar Rayyan, age about 50 from Jabalya, also called Abu-Bilal, a Hamas military operative... Nizar suggested I join Hamas and I agreed to join Hamas, but I told Nizar that I worked for the power company and my association was forbidden. Dr. Nizar told me that my activities would take place after work hours and not during, and I agreed. I did not do anything after that other than go to prayers in the mosque.

Lines 148-160:

Abu Sisi: Nizar Rayyan introduced me to Sheik Salah Shehade, called Abu-Mustafa, age about 50 from Beit Hanoun, who was in Hamas' military (wing) and was later killed... Sheik Shehade spoke to me about the importance of

what Hamas was doing and about the way of Islam. In 2002 I met Zakaria Abu Aisha, called Abu Yahya, about 29, an auto parts dealer and a Hamas military operative. After that Salah Shehade introduced me to Raed Sa'ad, about 40, called Abu-Muaz and a Hamas military operative who does weapons development... Raed Sa'ad told me that Hamas wanted me to help them develop the missiles they have, to fire on Israel.

(Interrogation stopped so suspect can eat and pray)

Lines 169-171:

Q: We stopped when you were asked to help Hamas develop missiles they could fire on Israel. What happened after you agreed to help Hamas develop missiles they could fire on Israel?

Lines 172-181:

Abu Sisi: During 2002, after I was recruited to Hamas by Dr. Nizar Rayyan and after I agreed to Hamas' request that I develop missiles... I helped Hamas and the aforementioned improve their missile range by finding and devising mathematical equations that improve (the range)... I met Raed Ta'abath Abu Mahmad, an operative with Hamas' rocket unit and we discussed how to develop the missile's range with equations I suggested. We would meet once every three months.

Lines 182-189:

Offer technical details and specification of the missiles and improvements needed and discussed.

Lines: 190-203

Abu Sisi: Hamas understood that there was this graphite material that could improve the rockets' range and started smuggling it through the tunnels from

Egypt to Gaza, that is what Raed Ta'abath said. I worked with this cell until 2008 and I met with Mohammed Deif several times. In 2007 I was present for a missile test fire over the sea in Khan Yunis... the rocket landed 22km out at sea. It was supposed to land 30km out, and it had the graphite material... In July 2009 I met a man called Salameh, about 50 years old, called Abu Mutsab... he was a Hamas operative who came to Gaza to organize a military training program for the academy. I was part of the civilian department in the academy – administration.

Lines 204-209:

Abu Sisi talks about technical improvements they wanted him to make to some small engine.

Lines 209-218:

Abu Sisi: Three weeks after that, Raed Ta'abath, Abu Mutsab and Abu Omar, who is a Jordanian that lives in Gaza, came to my home. They talked about the training program in Hamas' military academy and decided that Salameh would come up with a military tactics (program) and I will come up with an administrative program. We agreed to meet a month later. We met in a mosque and I presented a 12-day program. Salameh only presented a program that was 40% (complete), he didn't have all the material ready. Salameh's program included (tactics) preventing enemy forces from penetrating. Ten days later Salameh went to Syria.

Line 220:

Q: What were your activities for Hamas' military academy?

Lines 221-230:

Abu Sisi: In September 2009 I was at home when Raed Ta'abath called and said there was an assessment of the war with Israel and they found that the operations were failing, because the ability to recruit was failing; many fled their (battle) stations, there was difficulty in the decision making process, an inability to use weapons in battle because they were afraid; there was failure to deal with problems on an administrative level and a need to create a study program to improve the situation. Raed Ta'abath told me that based on this, the military academy was considering creating a program that would learn from this and would teach the operative how to act under pressure and in battle and how to make the right decisions in any situation. He was talking to me because I was the head of the administrative department in the academy and my experience could help Hamas' new military academy.

Lines 232-241:

Abu Sisi: Raed told me that the decision would be made by Ahmed Ja'abari, a senior Hamas military leader. I started to formulate an overall administrative outline for the military academy... The military academy's role would be to teach tactical warfare. Salameh would be responsible for preparing the outlines for training and studying... I would be responsible for the administrative (program) which will teach human resources management, time management, crisis management and financial management. The religious academy would have expert religious scholars and be headed by AbdelKarim Rahshan, from Gaza, called Abu Mahmud, 55 years old, who is a Hamas operative and works at the Islamic University. The program would teach the Koran and religious principles.

Lines 241-251:

Abu Sisi: In July 2009 Raed Ta'abath told me that there was a meeting in Hamas' Islamic Association in Nazareth and there was an important man who asked to attend it... We talked about the academy's progress and in the meeting, Raed Ta'abath said that Ahmed Ja'abari gave \$15,000 to help the



academy with study materials and \$4,000 for salaries every month... The academy became operational in 2010. Administrative classes were held in the al-Shafi'i Mosque and military training were held in the Abdullah Azzam Mosque. Military training was 38 days long.

Lines 252-257:

Detail names of various instructors in the military and religious programs.

Lines 258-261:

Abu Sisi: Abu Omar taught military tactics and at the end of the course there were tests... all 35 men passed the course and became operatives. After this course, another class began with the same number (of men) and the same material.

Lines 262-270:

Detail how Abu Sisi would travel to the military installation and the religious installation and gives the names of various instructors in both.

Lines 270-272:

Abu Sisi: The second class started in July or August of 2010 and also had 35 men and the same instructors. In the third class we added instructors.

Lines 272-283:

Detail names of new instructors and administrative staff, as well as various physical relocations of the administrative unit.

Lines 284-291:

At the investigator's request, Abu Sisi details more names of academy personal and operatives.

Lines 291-294:

Censored – marked out on the original document.

Doc 5, page 11, line numbering restarts

Lines 10-15:

Details another group of Hamas instructors in the academy.

Lines 15-18:

Abu Sisi: This group asked me to join another group, the development or rocket-range improvement committee, in Hamas' military (wing's) rocket unit. The committee wasn't a part of the rocket unit but did service it, as well as (the rest of) Hamas. We had several meetings but then the committee broke up because of a conflict between Tayseer Al Khatib and Jamal al-Zubeidi. I stayed in touch with Tayseer Al Khatib.

Line 19:

Q: About the military academy – how were candidates selected? What were the requirements?

Lines 20-24:

Abu Sisi: Hamas' military (wing) has sectors and each (sector) has a general. They choose the candidates... The candidates have to be high school graduates... they had to score at least 60 on their tests. None of the textbooks or materials carry Hamas logos. The objective was that anyone who wants to can get in and graduate, and for (the academy's) administrative program to become an educational institute for everyone.

Line 25:

Q: Is there anything more you would like to add?

Lines 26-31:

Abu Sisi: In March 2009, I don't remember the exact date, I arrived in Rafah with Raed Ta'abath and we met with Abu Ayman and Abu Khalil, who were in charge of... the tunnels in Hamas' al-Qassam military unit... We met with other operatives as well, to teach the regional commander about the new military academy. We explained to them and to all the other regional (commanders) about the six regions of the academy and about its importance.

Line 32:

Q: Other than the rocket test-fire at sea in Khan Yunis, what else did you do?

Lines 33-40:

Abu Sisi: I was present in an experiment meant to test the temperature and pressure in the pipes, as part of the experimentations with improving the rockets' range. That was in 2007... The experiment took place in south Gaza City.

(Answer goes on to includes technical specifications of pipes, and the details of the missile test)

Line 41:

Q: What do you know about any money transfers to Hamas?

Line 42:

Abu Sisi: During Hajj, the Palestinian hajjaj would get money in Saudi Arabia and deliver it to Hamas in Gaza.

Line 43:

Q: What about firing missiles with a 45km range?

Line 44:

Abu Sisi: I know that there was a test fire for a 45km-range missile but it hit the ground and didn't work. I didn't take part in it.

Line 45:

Q: Among those who took part in the test, who do you know?

Line 46-57:

Abu Sisi: Those I mentioned before... they are the members of the committee I mentioned. It was only in 2005, during my work for the committee that Tayseer Al Khatib asked me to help him (goes into great technical detail about electric mechanisms).

Lines 58-71:

Abu Sisi details meetings with people associated with the academy.

Lines 72-74:

Q: You knew that your activities with the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas, your recruitment to Hamas, and your activities with them – improving rocket range, you knew these rockets were being fired only on Israel and were killing and endangering people. Why did you agree to be recruited into Hamas and to part of the activities you have detailed?

Lines 75-81:

Abu Sisi: I regret my affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas, my part in developing the rockets' range, my part in creating Hamas' military academy and all the information I gave Hamas that can threaten Israel's security. I know the rockets are deadly and that they kill people, that they don't differentiate between Jews and Arabs and I know Hamas fight Israel and Israel is fighting Hamas. My activities with the Muslim Brotherhood and later with Hamas had religious motives, I was studying religion. My (second) motive was Palestinian nationally and the current state of the Palestinians; and my third motive was that I wanted to get a Palestinian ID card and a Palestinian passport. And I regret it.

(Interrogation stops, the officer notes it will be resumed later)

ENDS