

FBI mistakenly IDs Saudi official probed in 9/11 case in lawsuit filed by victims' families

By **BILL SANDERSON**
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Mussaed Ahmed al-Jarrah, who was assigned to Saudi embassy in Washington in 1999 and 2000, worked with two Saudi government employees to help a pair of 9/11 hijackers then living in California, the victims' families say.(Robert Giroux/Getty Images)

In an embarrassing legal goof-up, FBI officials mistakenly named in court documents a Saudi Arabian embassy official agents suspected of providing aid to a pair of 9/11 hijackers, a lawyer for victim's families told the Daily News.

The mistaken revelation in a lawsuit filed by relatives of 9/11 victims was [first reported Tuesday by Yahoo News](#).

Mussaed Ahmed al-Jarrah, who was assigned to Saudi embassy in Washington in 1999 and 2000, worked with two Saudi government employees to help a pair of 9/11 hijackers then living in California, the victims' families say.

Al-Jarrah's name was supposed to be blacked out in court papers unsealed last week — but whoever edited the papers missed one place where al-Jarrah was mentioned, said James Kreindler, a lawyer for the 9/11 victims' families.

Al-Jarrah's possible involvement in the attacks was known to lawyers for 9/11 families. Attorney General Bill Barr gave his name to the families's lawyers after the families met with President Trump last Sept. 11, Kreindler told The News.

But the lawyers were ordered not to divulge al-Jarrah's identity — they couldn't even tell their clients about him — so the mistaken revelation was a welcome surprise, said Kreindler.

“The fact that the families and the world now know the truth that we have been muzzled and couldn't talk about is important,” said Kreindler said.

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In the course of his work at the Saudi embassy two decades ago, al-Jarrah and two employees of the Saudis' Ministry of Islamic Affairs — Fahad al-Thumairy and Omar al-Bayoumi — in 2000 aided a pair of 9/11 hijackers based in southern California, court papers say.

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The hijackers — Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar — were among the crew that crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon.

The families' case, filed in Manhattan Federal Court, aims to find whether the Saudi government is liable for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

“We've tried to go up the totem pole, and we had identified a total of 11 Saudi government officials who were involved,” Kreindler said.

Al-Jarrah is now believed to be in Saudi Arabia, Yahoo News reported.