

Toledo terrorism trial begins

by UPI

TOLEDO, Ohio -- Trial began Tuesday in Toledo, Ohio, for three men federal prosecutors say conspired to carry out terrorist attacks in the Middle East, including Iraq. Mohammad Zaki Amawi, 28, Marwan Othman El-Hindi, 45, and Wassim Mazloun, 26, were arrested in 2006 for allegedly planning to wage a "holy war" that included possible attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq. The Toledo Blade said prosecutors have steadfastly refused to release many details other than the allegation the trio planned to use skills they picked up on the Internet as part of the alleged conspiracy. The evidence includes a large volume of taped conversations and information from a paid FBI informant. The newspaper said Amawi ran a travel agency and allegedly carried on Internet exchanges with someone in Syria about chemical explosives. It was not clear if the contact resulted in the formation of an actual plan of attack. "What (the government) has to try to prove is that there was an agreement to do an illegal act," defense attorney Stephen Hartman said.

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