

Terror convict testifies in Padilla case

by UPI

MIAMI - A convicted terrorist testified in a Miami court Friday that he trained at an al-Qaida camp prosecutors say terror suspect Jose Padilla attended.

Yahya Goba -- a member of the "Lackawanna Six" terrorist group convicted in 2002 of providing material support to al-Qaida -- said he flew to Pakistan from his home in upstate New York and traveled overland to neighboring Afghanistan where he trained at the remote al Farouk camp allegedly run by the al-Qaida organization.

Wearing a loose-fitting prison uniform, the 30-year-old Goba said during testimony in federal court he filled out a "mujahadeen data form" similar to the one prosecutors say Padilla completed in 2000.

Goba testified he attended the camp one year later, recounting how trainees there -- the majority of which were of Arab descent -- were schooled in the use of assault rifles and explosives, and engaged in rigorous physical exercise in preparation for Islamic holy war or "jihad."

The Bush administration in November 2005 then linked Padilla to the ongoing case in Miami, accusing him and other defendants of aiding terror groups worldwide. Padilla then was transferred to a federal detention center in South Florida.

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