

Terror suspect gets U.S. apology

Man whose case mishandled to be deported for fraud

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A federal judge apologized Tuesday on behalf of the United States government to a man who was convicted in a terrorism trial that later collapsed because of prosecutorial misconduct.

"I would be remiss if I did not say that some procedures that are normally followed in criminal cases were not followed in this case," U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen told Ahmed Hannan, 36, during a sentencing hearing in Detroit in an unrelated insurance fraud case. "For that, you have the apology of the United States government."

"The process failed you," Rosen told Hannan, who has spent 3½ years in jail.



Hannan, Karim Koubriti, 26, and Abdel-Ilah Elmardoudi, 39, all of Morocco,

Ahmed Hannan pleaded guilty to insurance fraud.

were convicted in Detroit in June 2003 in the first trial to result from the federal 9/11 probe. Hannan was convicted of document fraud. Koubriti and Elmardoudi were convicted of that charge and of conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists. A fourth man was acquitted.

Rosen dismissed the charges last September at the behest of the U.S. Attorney's Office, which said prosecutors had withheld key evidence from the defendants. The Justice Department is investigating the former lead prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino, for his handling of the case.

In December, the government charged Hannan and Koubriti with conspiring to commit mail fraud

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GERALD ROSEN, U.S. district judge, to defendant Ahmed Hannan. He had been convicted in a terror case that collapsed.