

[In March 1999, CIA received intelligence about a person named “Marwan” who had been in contact with Zammar and Darkazanli. Marwan was described as a student who had spent time in Germany [—————]. The CIA speculated at the time that this was a Bin Ladin associate who lived in the United Arab Emirates, but now believes that Marwan was Marwan al-Shehhi, one of the presumed hijacker pilots. After September 11, the FBI received information about additional connections before the attacks between Zammar and persons who participated in the attacks].

[Considerable pressure was placed on foreign authorities in the years leading up to the September 11 attacks to target Darkazanli, Zammar, and other radicals [———]. A senior U.S. Government officer told [page 195] the Joint Inquiry that significant information concerning al-Qa’ida members had been shared with foreign authorities, but that it became apparent only after September 11, 2001 that the foreign authorities had been watching some of those persons before that date].

[The Joint Inquiry reviewed numerous documents describing efforts to pressure [———] authorities to act. [—————]

—————]. In the end, these efforts were largely unsuccessful. In most cases, the [—————] did not take actions that were suggested].

Significant legal barriers restricted Germany’s ability to target Islamic fundamentalism. Before September 11, it was not illegal in Germany to be a member of a foreign terrorist organization, to raise funds for terrorists, or plan a terrorist act outside German territory. This law has since been changed. A legal privilege also dramatically restricted the government’s ability to investigate religious groups. In fact, due to the difficulty in investigating terrorist cases, the German government would often attempt to investigate terrorist subjects for money laundering. Unfortunately, laundering laws were difficult to enforce. For example, over the past several years, out of three to four hundred money laundering investigations, only one person has been convicted. [—————]
—————]. The German government apparently did not consider Islamic groups a threat and were unwilling to devote significant investigative resources to this target.