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WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING SUSPECT APPREHENDED IN PAKISTAN

Attorney General Janet Reno said today that Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, a fugitive indicted for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing in New York City, has been arrested abroad and returned to the United States by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be tried on the bombing charges.

Reno said "Yousef was apprehended in Pakistan and turned over to American authorities to face charges of taking part in a bombing that killed six persons and injured more than 1,000 others."

Reno said Yousef was taken into custody Tuesday in Pakistan, turned over to FBI agents there, and then flown aboard a U.S. aircraft to New York last night.

FBI Director Louis J. Freeh said "The FBI has conducted a world-wide search for Yousef since he was charged shortly after the bombing on February 26, 1993." Yousef was first indicted on March 11, 1993, and named in a fifth superseding indictment on September 1.

Freeh said "Other parts of the federal government that made invaluable contributions to the investigation were the Department of State, including its Diplomatic Security Service, and the Drug Enforcement Administration."

United States Attorney Mary Jo White of the Southern District of New York said "Yousef is expected to be arraigned in Manhattan Federal Court on Thursday."

White said "The message that this sends is that we will pursue accused terrorists wherever they seek to hide and bring them to justice."

Four of Yousef's co-defendants were convicted of federal charges on March 4, 1994, in the World Trade Center bombing: Mohammad Salameh, Nidal Ayyad, Mahmud Abouhalima, and Ahmad Mohammad Ajaj. They have each been sentenced to 240 years of imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

The indictment charged Yousef, 27, who was born in the Middle East, with 11 counts relating to the World Trade Center bombing. The most serious charges carry a maximum penalty upon conviction of life in prison without parole.

The indictment said Yousef, using a false name, flew to New York from Pakistan in September 1992, and later purchased chemicals. In January and February 1993, the indictment said, Yousef and other co-conspirators mixed chemicals in a Jersey City,

New Jersey, apartment to produce explosive materials.

The co-conspirators caused an explosive device to detonate in a van in a garage area beneath the World Trade Center complex on February 26, 1993, the indictment said. On the same day, Yousef again used a false name when he boarded a flight in New York City for Pakistan, the indictment said.

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