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Terror Plot Prevented by Vigilant Citizen And Fast-Moving Investigation by JTTF

*Ranking Member Ruppertsberger Applauds Job Well Done
Suspect Makes First Court Appearance in Texas*

(Washington, DC) – A tip from an employee of a North Carolina chemical company and a fast-moving investigation by an FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) stopped a terror plot in its tracks. A 20-year-old Saudi national was arrested Wednesday and made his first appearance in court today on charges he attempted to use a weapon of mass destruction.

Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari is suspected of trying to purchase chemicals and equipment to make an improvised explosive device (IED) and planning to blow up dams, nuclear plants, and the Dallas home of former President George W. Bush. The investigation required almost around-the-clock work by hundreds of FBI agents, analysts, prosecutors and others.

“We cracked this case because an employee who noticed something suspicious contacted authorities. The FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force quickly acted on this tip and stopped a potentially deadly attack before it ever got off the ground saving, lives and keeping our country safe. I applaud everyone involved in this investigation for a job well done,” said **Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger (D-MD)**, Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The criminal complaint filed in federal court in Texas describes blog postings by Aldawsari that talk about “jihad” and say, “It is war until the infidels leave defeated.” The complaint also describes an email sent from Aldawsari to himself explaining how to convert a cell phone into a remote detonator for a bomb. Aldawsari will remain in custody in Texas until a detention hearing scheduled for April 11, 2011. He faces a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted.

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