

The Nation; 20-YEAR BID TO DEPORT 2 IS DISMISSED; Judge criticizes federal conduct in the L.A. 8 case against immigrants accused of terrorist ties.

[HOME EDITION]

Los Angeles Times - Los Angeles, Calif.

Author: Henry Weinstein

Date: Jan 31, 2007

Start Page: A.1

Section: Main News; Part A; Metro Desk

Text Word Count: 1089

Abstract (Document Summary)

Judge [Bruce E. Einhorn] of Los Angeles, in a ruling made public Tuesday, said the government had violated the constitutional rights of Khader M. Hamide and Michel I. Shehadeh by its "gross failure" to comply with his instructions to produce "potentially exculpatory and other relevant information."

In a scathing decision, Einhorn said the government's conduct in the case was "an embarrassment to the rule of law" that left "a festering wound on" Hamide and Shehadeh, who have been in legal and personal limbo for two decades.

Prosecutors never filed criminal charges against any of the eight. Late last year, Aiad Barakat, another member of the L.A. 8, was sworn in as a U.S. citizen in Los Angeles. Three other members of the L.A. 8 have obtained permanent residency. One member of the group is still seeking that status, and the other has returned to the West Bank city of Bethlehem.