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Former Uber Driver Sentenced as ISIS Sympathizer, FBI Believes A Second Uber Driver Sought to Sell Military Weapons in Syria, Iraq and Jordan

ROCKVILLE, Md. – According to news reports, federal indictments allege former Dallas Uber driver, [Talal Ali Chammout](#), a felon now accused of sexually assaulting an Uber passenger, previously attempted to purchase stolen rocket launchers and technical specifications for anti-tank weapons and Stinger ground-to-air missiles in 2005 and 2006. The FBI believed Chammout intended to sell this weaponry to groups in Syria, Iraq and Jordan, according to [reports](#).

Chammout's case was discussed in the [2012 book](#), *Iran's Revolutionary Guard: The Threat That Grows While America Sleeps* by Steven O'Hern.

A second former Uber driver, [Miguel Moran Diaz](#), was arrested by the FBI for plotting to kill residents on behalf of the terrorist group, ISIS. Diaz was recently [sentenced to 10 years](#) in federal prison. According to reports, Diaz called himself a "Lone Wolf" for ISIS and intended to kill Miami residents with a sniper rifle using ISIS-engraved shell casings.

Both Chammout and Diaz were felons driving for Uber.

Alonzo R. Pena is a former Deputy Director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement which is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In a July 28, 2015 [letter](#) to the San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor and the San Antonio City Council, Pena stated that given the recent rise of "self-styled religious terrorists in this country it is imperative for every city to have a system that verifies the identity of all public transportation providers."

Pena's letter further states: "Use of name only background checks such as the Immigration Services 'e-verify' and I-9 verification is insufficient. It leads to abuse of the system, presentation of fraudulent documents and no system of independent verification. This is exactly the type of system criminal organizations and terrorist groups look for. They can provide their members with false identities and have them sign up as drivers for companies such as Uber and Lyft who do not use law enforcement background checks."

"Biometric fingerprinting undertaken by police departments, also known as 10 print, is in my opinion the only viable method of screening individuals to confirm their identity and determine if the individual has any prior criminal history," Pena writes. "Private companies who perform this same fingerprint or background check, unlike a City police department, do not have access to law enforcement data bases. Consequently critical information regarding past criminal history is omitted."

Alonzo Pena, president and founder of DMEP Strategic Consultants, is available for interviews.

ABOUT US:

'Who's Driving You?' is a safety and awareness campaign designed to educate the public about the dangers of unlicensed transportation companies. It is an initiative of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, an international non-profit trade association whose membership consists of 1,100 licensed transportation companies. For more information, visit www.WhosDrivingYou.org, follow us on Twitter (@WhosDrivingYou) and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou)