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Washington, D.C. 20505

19 November 2018

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.  
The Black Vault  
27305 W. Live Oak Road  
Suite #1203  
Castaic, CA 91384

Reference: EOM-2018-00956

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is a final response to your correspondence of 12 September 2018, submitted on behalf of The Black Vault, requesting an Executive Order 13526 mandatory declassification review of the following document:

***The 2002 CIA report titled "Saudi-Based Financial Support for Terrorist Organizations."***

We have completed a thorough search of our records and determined that the document may be released in sanitized form. We have deleted material that must remain classified on the basis of Sections 1.4(c) and 1.4(d) of the Order. Additional information must be withheld because withholding is authorized and warranted under applicable law as provided by Section 3.5(c) of the Order. Enclosed is a copy showing our deletions and citing our exemptions.

As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Should you choose to do this, please include the basis of your appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Fong".

Allison Fong  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

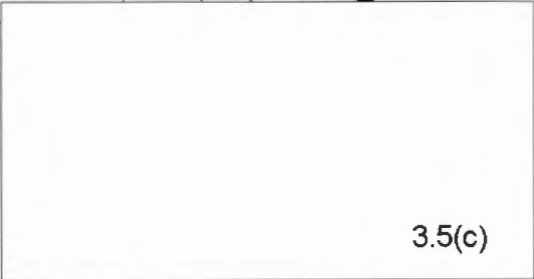
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



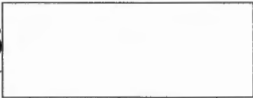
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE



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14 November 2002

# Saudi-Based Financial Support for Terrorist Organizations



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CTC 2002-40117CH



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**Saudi-Based Financial Support for Terrorist Organizations** [redacted]

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**Key Findings (U)**

Saudi Arabia is a key base of financial support for al-Qa'ida [redacted]

[redacted]

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Most of the money originates from wealthy individuals, fundraisers who solicit smaller donations, and diversions from non-governmental organizations (NGOs); a portion of the funding is derived from legitimate religious contributions.

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[redacted] fundraising for several years.

Saudi Arabia for the bulk of its

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[redacted]

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Since 9/11, Riyadh has responded to a number of US requests to staunch the flow of funds [redacted]

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[redacted] these actions, coupled with donors' fears of US and international actions, have led to a drop in money flowing from Saudi Arabia to al-Qa'ida

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[redacted]

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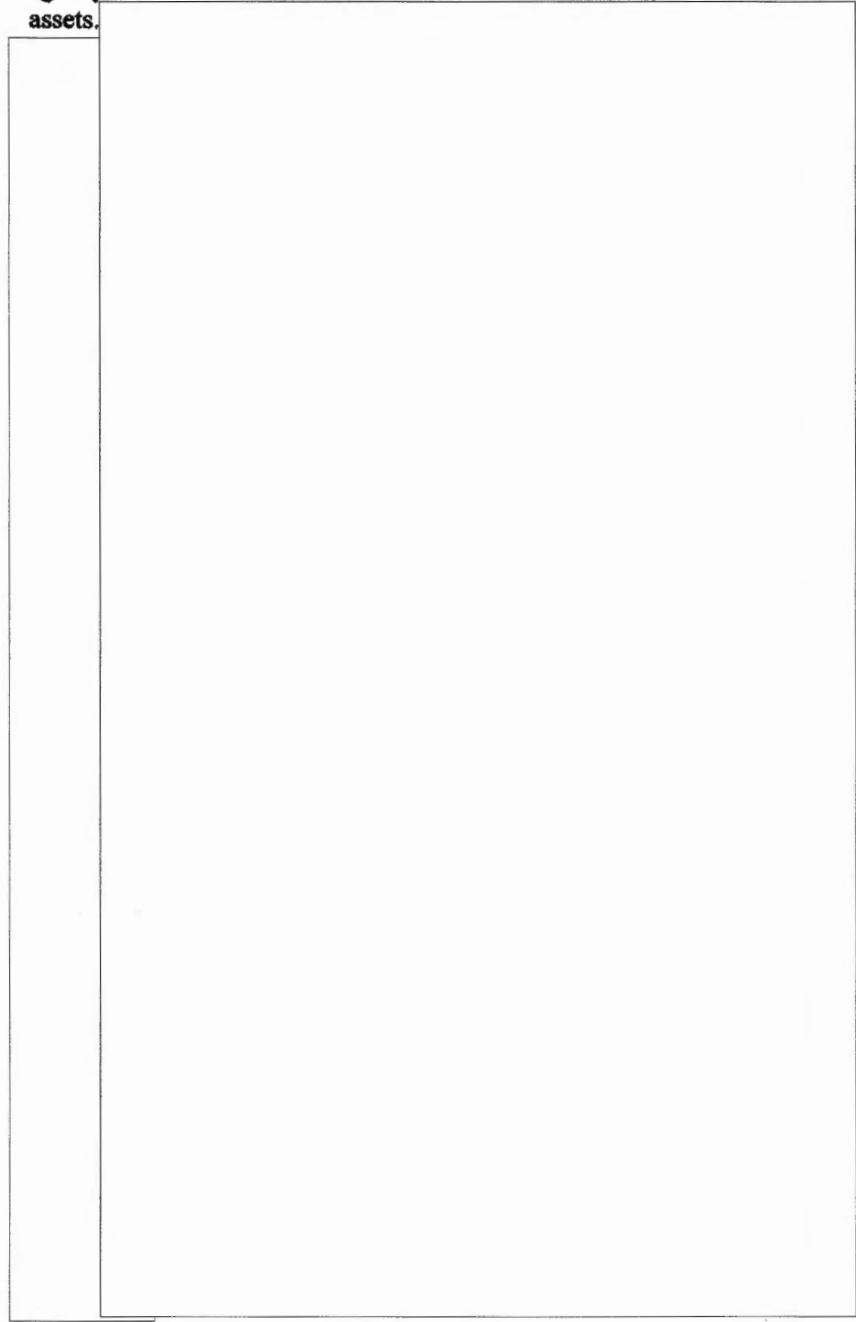
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- **SAMA—Saudi Arabia's central bank and chief financial enforcement agency—oversees Saudi banks efforts' to freeze and seize terrorist-linked assets.**



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**Scope Note (U)**

This paper is intended to provide an overview of Saudi-based sources of funds for al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups and to assess Rivadh's efforts to crack down on terrorist finances. [redacted]

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**Saudi-Based Financial Support  
for Terrorist Organizations**

[redacted]

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**A Major Source of Terrorist Funds** [redacted]

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[redacted]

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consider Saudi Arabia a key base of financial support.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] Most of the money originates from wealthy individuals, fundraisers who solicit smaller donations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

• The Kingdom has a conservative and—by developing country standards—an affluent populace inclined to bestow large grants on Islamic missionary groups to fulfill their religious obligation to contribute to charity and the propagation of Islam.

• As a result, a portion of the income that al-Qa'ida and other groups count on is derived from legitimate religious contributions, where the donor is either unwitting, misled, or inclined to look the other way.

[redacted] financiers, however, knowingly donate funds to al-Qa'ida and are witting that the money finances terrorist activity

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[redacted]

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This assessment was prepared by the DCI Counterterrorist Center's Office of Terrorism Analysis.

Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to [redacted]

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[Redacted]

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**Key Financial Base for Al-Qa'ida** [Redacted]

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**Bin Ladin's network** [Redacted] **Saudi Arabia for the bulk of its fundraising for several years**

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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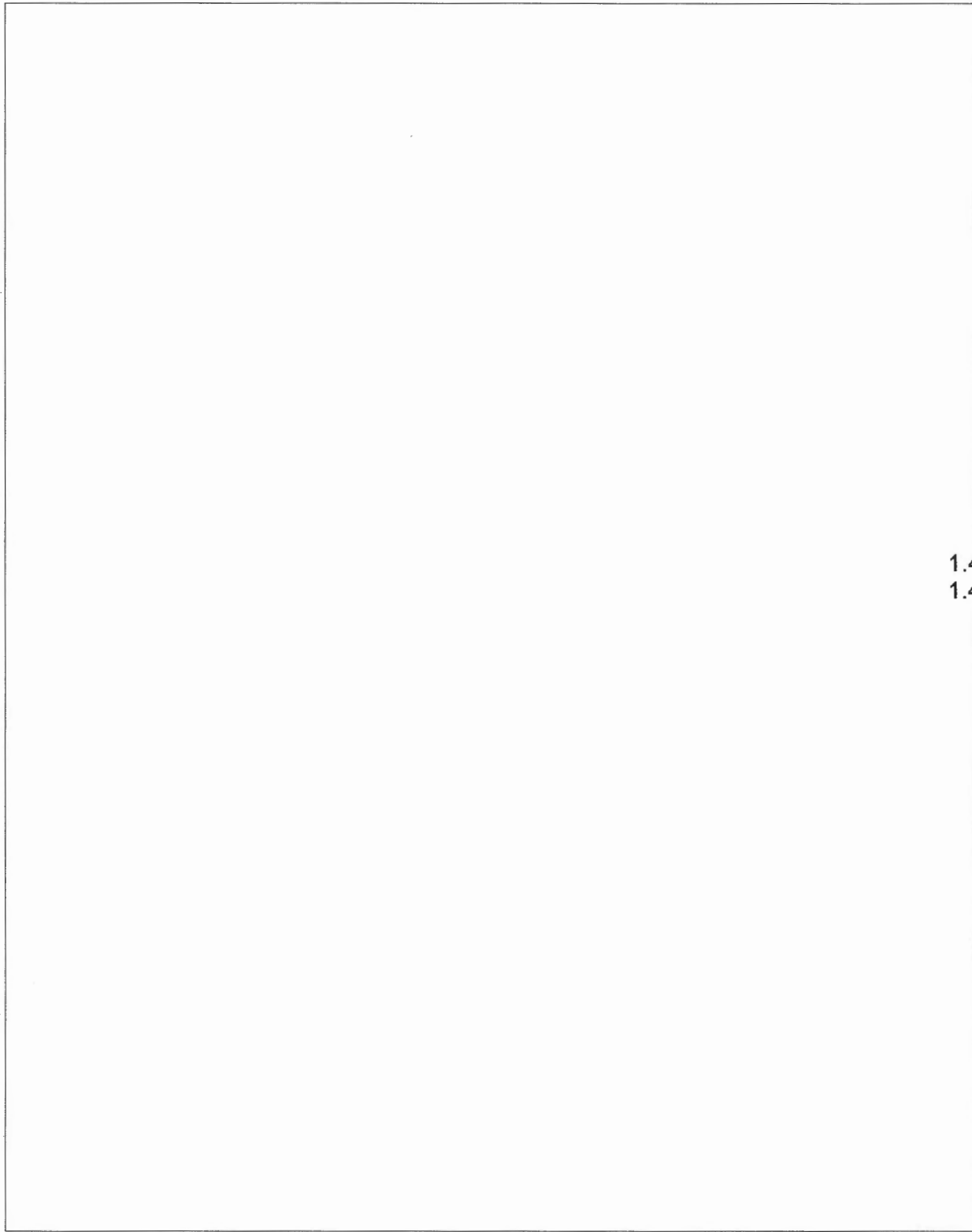
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[Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Islamic Charities**

[Redacted] has exerted influence on several Islamic NGOs, using them to raise and move funds [Redacted]

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[Redacted] several Saudi-based NGOs that al-Qaida has been able to exploit by diverting funds from legitimate activities to finance al-Qa'ida. [Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

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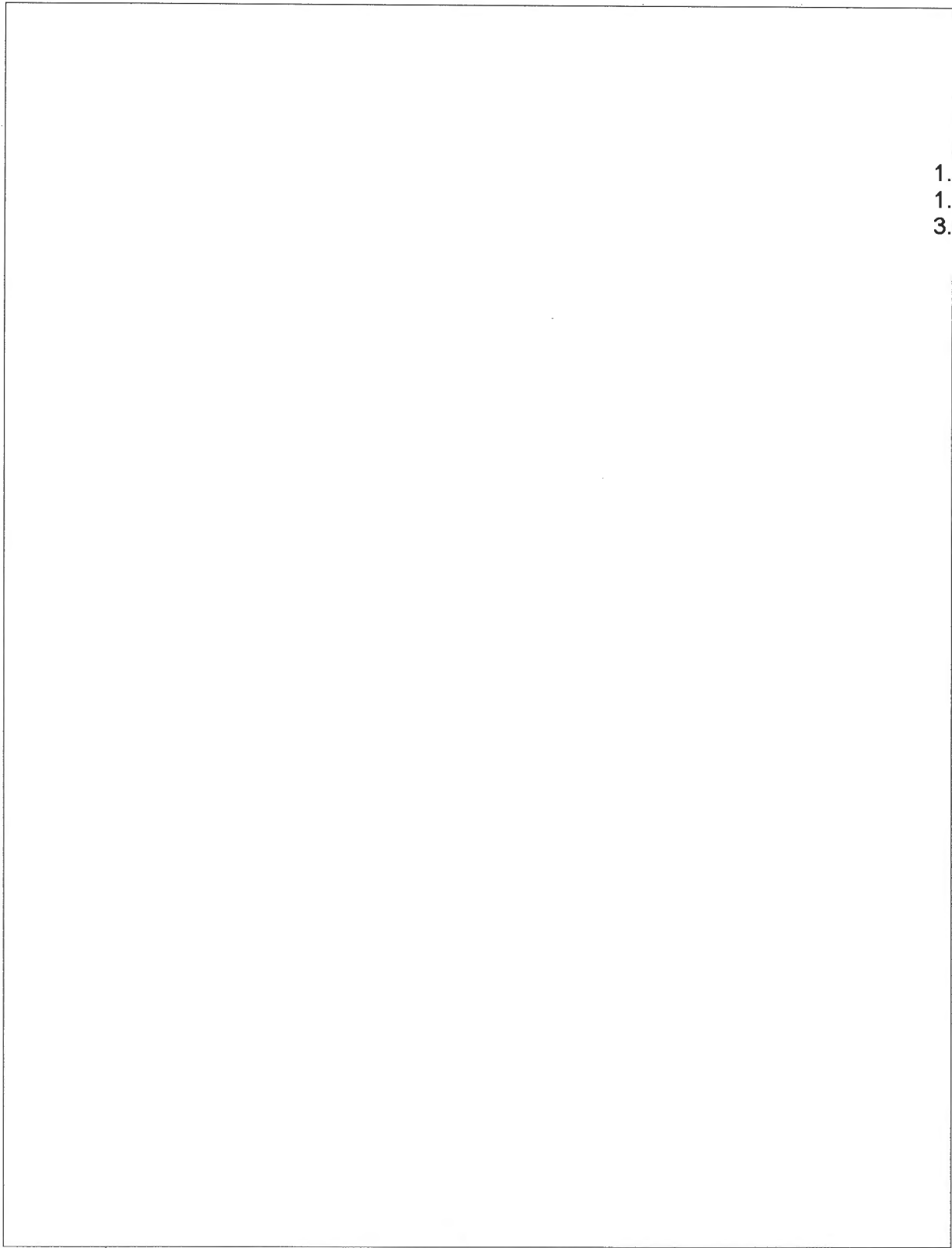
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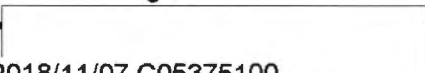
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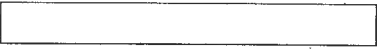


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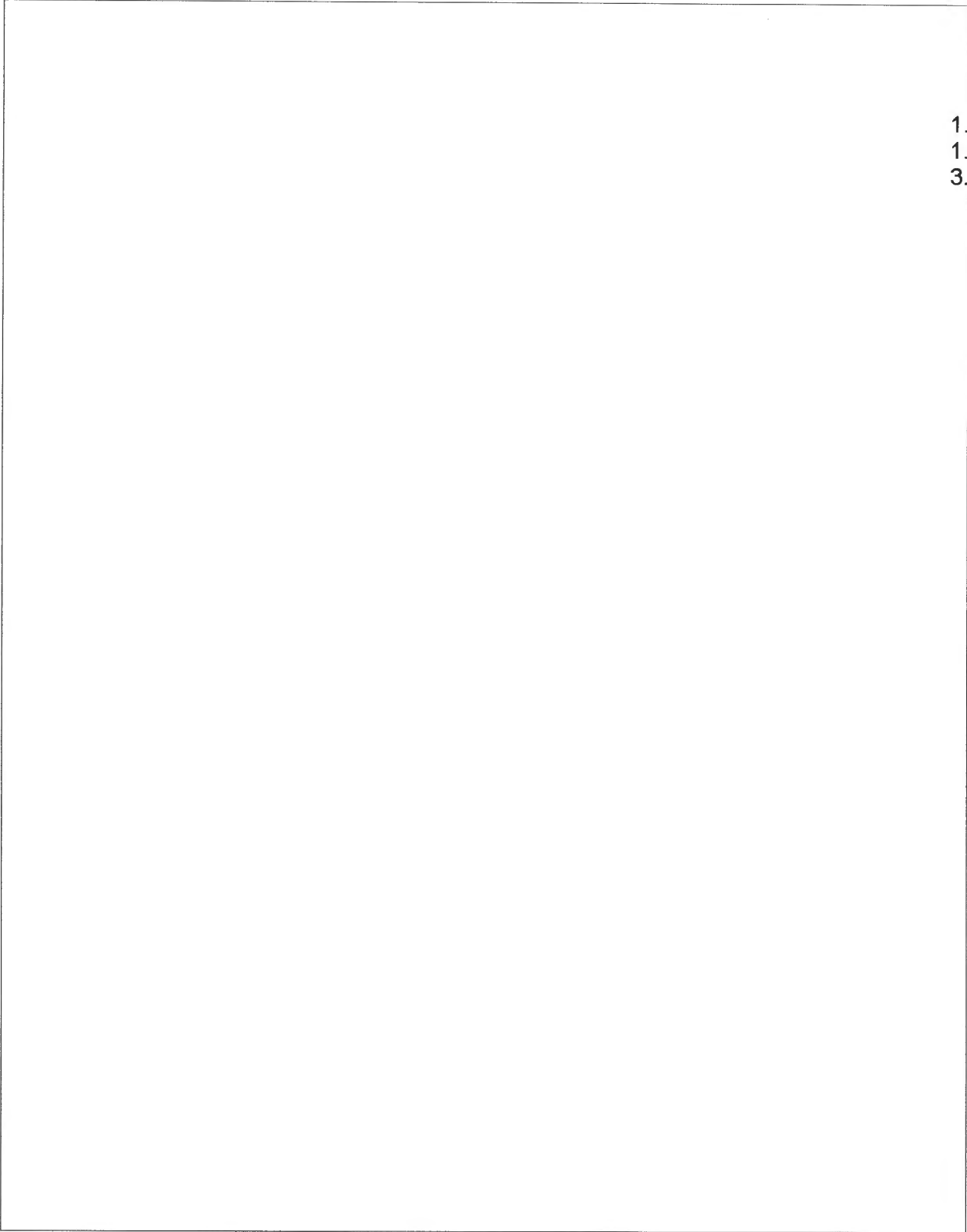


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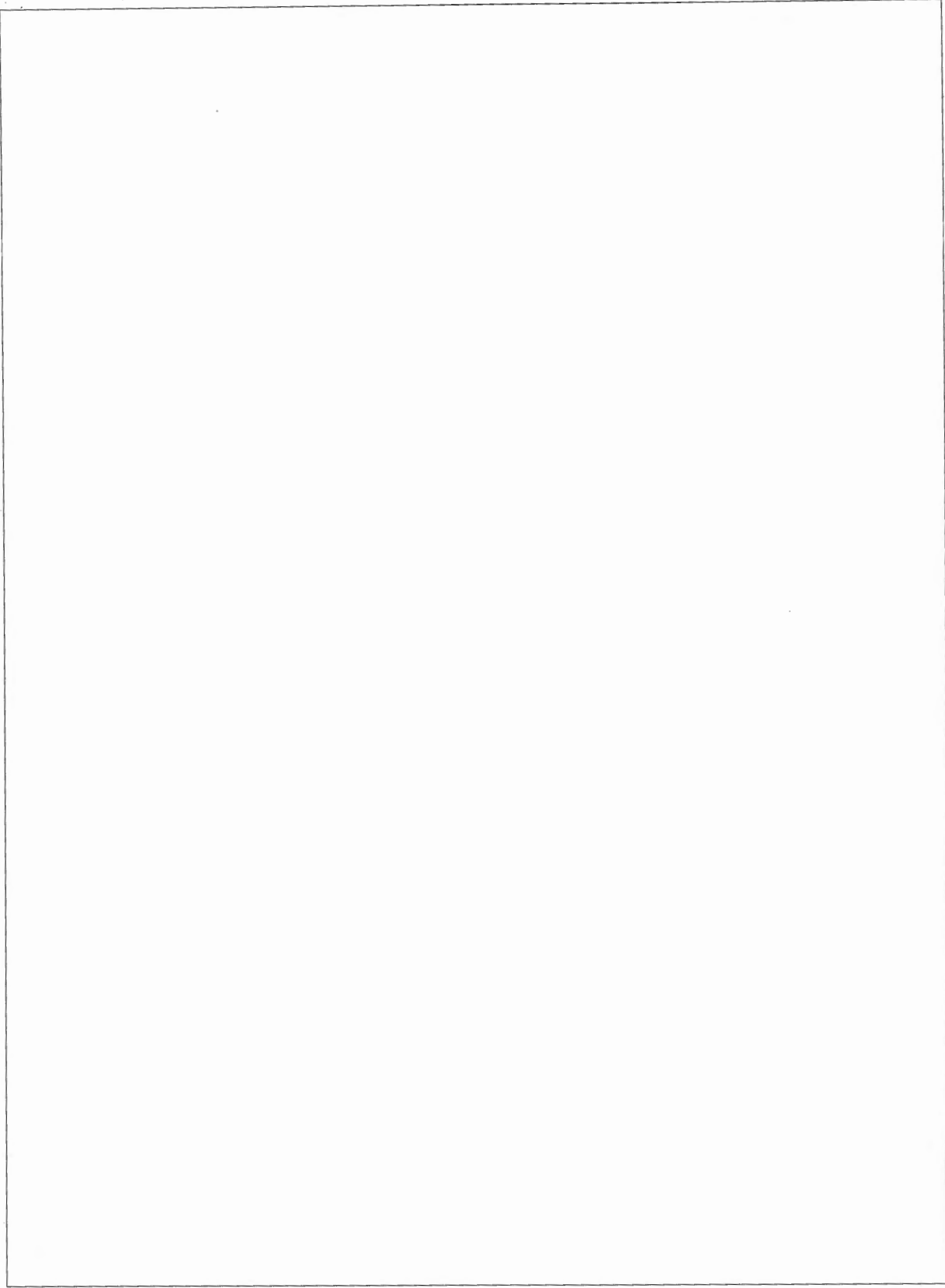
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• SAMA—Saudi Arabia's central bank and chief financial enforcement agency—oversees local banks' efforts to freeze and seize terrorist-linked assets.

[redacted]

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Since 9/11, Riyadh has responded to a number of US requests to staunch the flow of funds to terrorists from the Kingdom. [redacted]

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[redacted] these actions, coupled with donors' fears of US and international actions, have led to a drop in money flowing from Saudi Arabia to al-Qa'ida [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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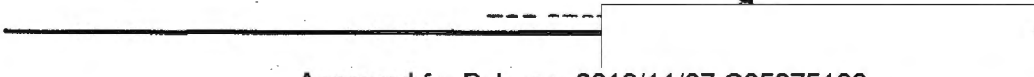
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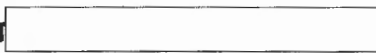


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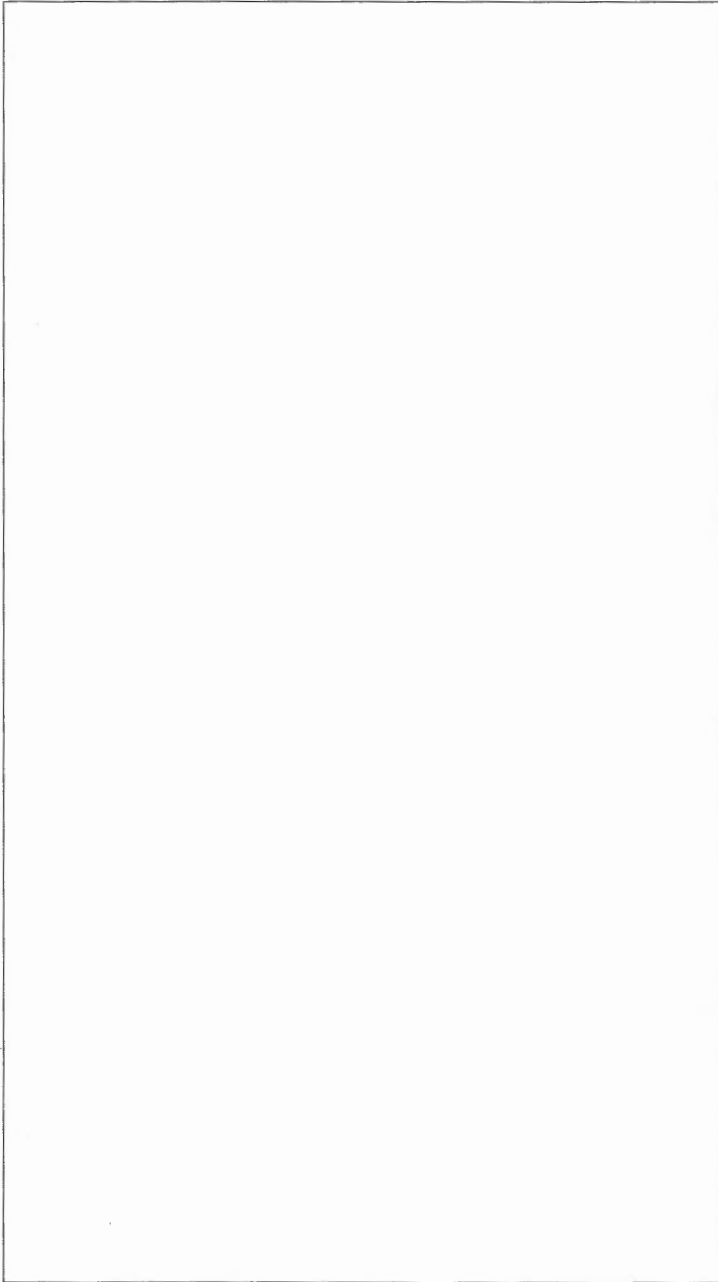


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**Appendix A**

**Collection Efforts** [redacted]

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US and Coalition efforts to identify donors and fundraisers will continue to be key to sustaining progress on terror finance and curbing the tens of millions of dollars of Saudi donations

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[redacted]

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Collecting against or disrupting conduits such as banks and NGOs will also be critical to identifying donors and crippling the financial networks supporting al-Qa'ida

[redacted]

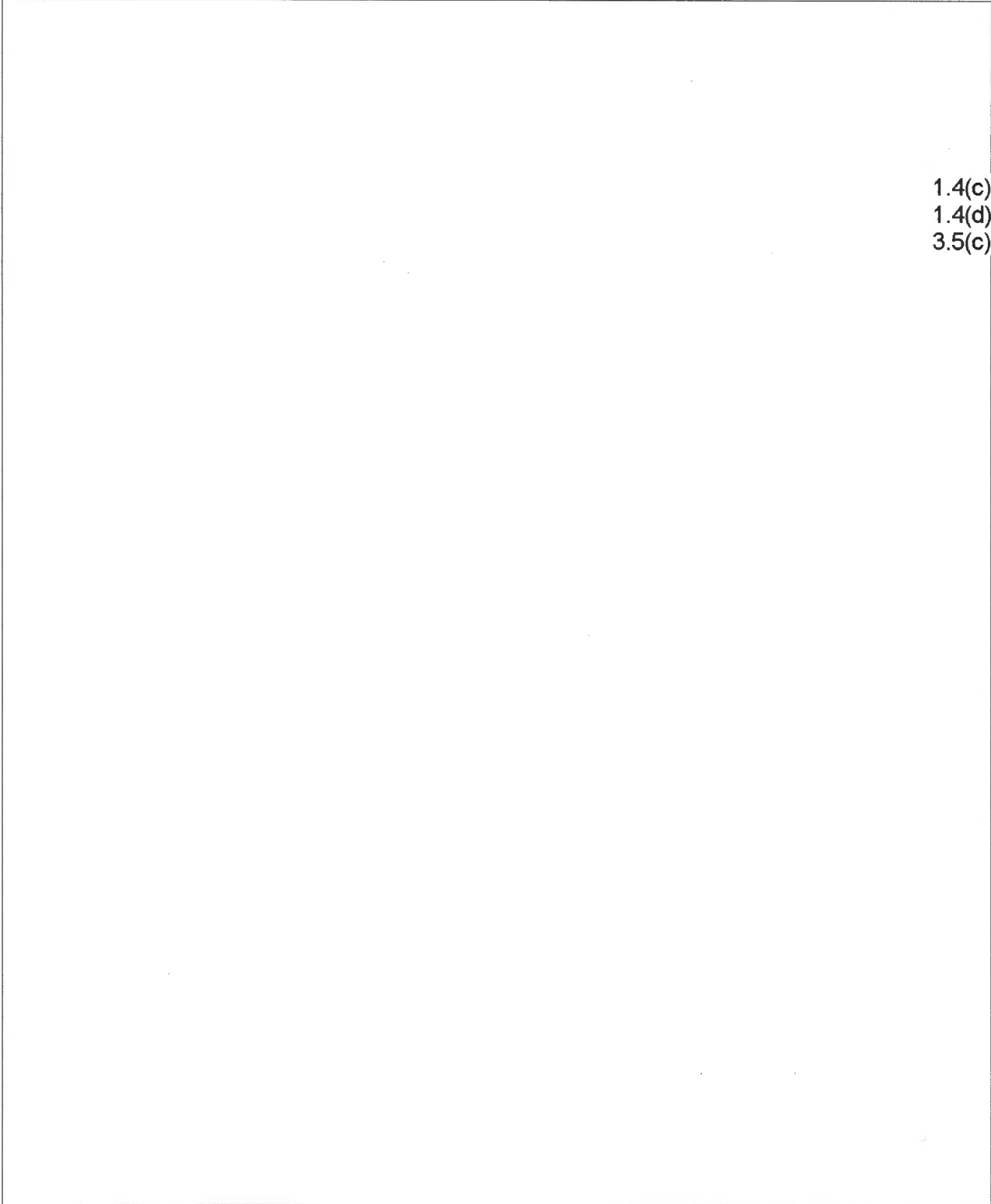
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