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MEDIA REPORTS

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Al-Hiyari has BiH citizenship, but not a valid BiH passport

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Moroccan national Younus Mohamed Al- Hiyari, the senior activist on the new list of 36 terrorists whose names were released by the Saudi Ministry of Interior on Tuesday, has BiH citizenship, but not a valid BiH passport.

“After receiving military training in BiH, he entered the Kingdom with a BiH passport”, Halil Abdallah Halil, member of the Advisory Council’s Security Commission said, Arab media reported.

The BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs stated on Thursday that Younus Mohamed Al- Hiyari received BiH citizenship based on Article 9.5 (participation in armed forces) of the RBiH Citizenship Law.

At the time of submitting the request for BiH citizenship, August 23 1996, he had Kuwaiti citizenship, and was registered in Konjic since June 13 1994.

The Commission for reviewing the status of foreign nationals who received BiH citizenship between the BiH Constitution and the BiH Citizenship Law went into force (covering the period between 1996 and 1998) sent a request to the BiH Parliament to provide legal interpretation of Article 9.5 of the BiH Citizenship Law. The BiH Parliament also requested OHR two months ago to provide legal interpretation of this article.

Article 9.5 of the RBiH Citizenship Law allows BiH citizenship to be granted to members of the armed forces, but the military annex to the Dayton Agreement demanded that all foreign members of the armed forces were to leave BiH within 30 days.

The further status of foreign nationals who received BiH citizenship will depend on OHR’s legal interpretation, the BiH Civil Affairs Minister’s Cabinet stated today.

According to reports by local newspapers on Wednesday Younus Mohamed Al- Hiyari has been identified by the Saudi Ministry of Interior as the most dangerous activist and one of the leaders of the local branch of Al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia.

Hiyari entered Saudi Arabia in February 2001 to attend the Hajj in Meka and is still in the Kingdom, more specifically Riyadh, together with his wife and daughter, the Saudi Ministry stated.