

REPAIRING THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, 5A

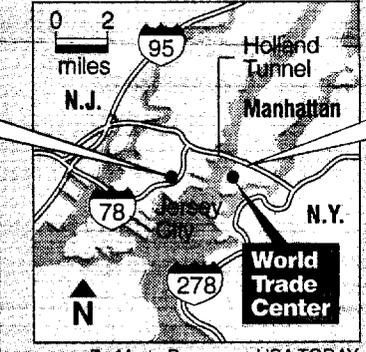
Break in case points to Muslim radicals



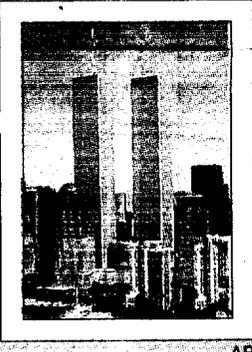
THE MOSQUE: Mohammed Salameh, arrested in connection with World Trade Center blast, worshipped at third-floor Masjid Alsalam Mosque, above, in Jersey City, N.J.



THE SUSPECT: Mohammed Salameh at arraignment Thursday in New York. Salameh is held without bail.



THE ROUTE: Officials investigating the New York bombing were pleasantly surprised by break that led them to N.J.



By Bethany Kandel and Bruce Frankel
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — The FBI, in the wake of an arrest Thursday, continues to seek suspects in the bombing of the World Trade Center.

"This investigation clearly is not finished, but a large step has been taken," Jim Callahan, head of the FBI's New York office, said Thursday night.

The bomb exploded in the garage of the 110-story towers a week ago, killing one person; one is still missing.

Mohammed Salameh was arrested after he tried to reclaim a deposit on a rental van that linked him to the bombing.

A second man was arrested and charged with obstructing justice in connection with the search warrant.

Prior to his arraignment, Salameh is an Israeli-born Arab and described as a Muslim fundamentalist.

He was charged with:
▶ Aiding and abetting the bombing and fire.

▶ Transportation of explosives across state lines.

He appeared calm but nervous during the hearing as charges were read in Arabic.

The Jersey City, N.J., defendant is being held without bail.

"The hysteria that is surrounding this case was in evidence at the hearing," Robert Precht, Salameh's court-appointed lawyer, said.

Other suspects are sought in what prosecutors call the most destructive act of terrorism ever committed in American soil.

Thursday's arrest was an unexpected break; a day earlier, authorities had said the van might drag on for months.

FBI agents arrested Salameh about 10:30 a.m. at a stop near a Jersey City truck rental agency.

He went there to reclaim a \$400 deposit on the van, which he had reported stolen the day of the blast.

The FBI said the van was one that carried the bomb.

Fragments — including an axle with a traceable identification number — were recovered at the blast site.

Traces of nitrates — found in some explosives — were reportedly found on papers Salameh presented to the agency.

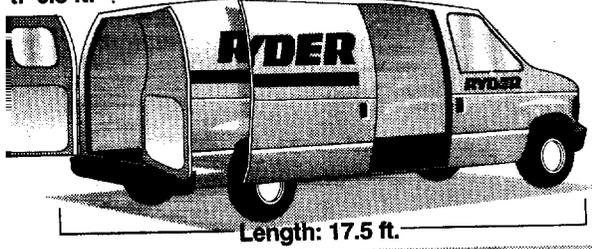
Traces of nitrates were also found at the blast site.

A telephone number Salameh used when he rented the van led agents to an apartment where they found tools, wires and instructions on bombing a building, Fox said.

Also: a specially trained dog detected explosives in a car.

Linked to the bombing

Mohammed Salameh, the suspect arraigned Thursday in the bombing of the World Trade Center, was arrested while trying to reclaim his \$400 deposit on the Ryder rental van police seized after he carried the explosives. The Ford E350 Econoline van is 6.5 ft.



Vehicle weight empty	5,500 lbs.
Maximum cargo weight	2,200 lbs. (The contents of a two-bedroom apartment)
Maximum cargo capacity	254 cubic ft.

COVER STORY

Cleric target of previous FBI probes

World Trade Center seen as 'symbol of the U.S.'

▶ Following the clues, 3A

By Judy Keen and Sam Vincent Meddis
USA TODAY

The Masjid Alsalam Mosque got scant attention from its neighbors in downtown Jersey City, N.J. — a check-cashing business, toy store and Chinese restaurant.

But three Islamic fundamentalists linked to violent crimes found their way to the

rundown building and climbed two flights of stairs to worship — and perhaps to talk of violence and revenge.

Mohammed Salameh, arrested Thursday in the World Trade Center bombing, worshipped there.

Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind Muslim cleric acquitted in Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat's 1981 murder, prayed