

Mumbai conspirator testifies Pakistan's ISI aided militant group

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CHICAGO — The government's first and main witness, David Coleman Headley, who is cooperating with prosecutors after pleading guilty to taking photos and videos of targets in Mumbai before the rampage that killed 160 people, Rana is accused of providing cover for Headley, his longtime friend from boarding school, by allowing him to use his Chicago-based immigration-services business as a cover when he traveled to Mumbai to scout sites. Headley told jurors Monday he received weapons and leadership training with the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba since 2000. He said it was his understanding that Lashkar and the ISI, helped each other. "They coordinated with the ISI, helped each other. He said the two men were in communication with each other."

Headley described how once in Mumbai, he spent many hours doing surveillance including taking video of the Taj hotel and other sites. He also said he traveled frequently between India and Pakistan, where he met with a man by the name of "Major Iqbal," who was described as working for the ISI, and another man named Sajid Mir, who was described as Headley's Lashkar handler. He said the two men were in communication with each other.

CHICAGO — The government's key witness in the trial of a Chicago businessman accused in the 2008 Mumbai, India, attacks testified Monday he started training more than a decade ago with a Pakistani militant group that received help from the country's main intelligence agency. The trial of Tahawwur Rahman is being closely watched worldwide for what testimony might reveal about suspected links between the Pakistani militant group blamed in the rampage on India's largest city and the intelligence agency, which has come under more scrutiny since U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden on May 2 outside Islamabad. Of particular interest is

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each other and ISI provided assistance to Lashkar," said Headley, who spoke in a soft voice and with a slight British accent. He did not immediately give any specifics. Before moving to Mumbai in late 2006, Headley said he first came to Chicago, met with Rana and explained the plot in hopes of opening a branch of his immigration services business as a cover.

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