



## Former Blackwater Employees Found Guilty of Charges in Fatal Shootings in Iraq

Four former security guards for Blackwater USA were found guilty this month of charges stemming from the 2007 shooting at Nisur Square in Baghdad, Iraq, that resulted in the killing of 14 unarmed civilians and the wounding of numerous others. Blackwater USA was contracted by the U.S. government to provide protective services to U.S. officials in Iraq. During ten weeks, 71 witnesses testified, including 30 from Iraq. This represented the largest group of foreign witnesses ever to travel to the U.S. for a criminal trial. The witnesses included 13 people who were wounded in the shootings, as well as relatives of many of those who died and nine members of “Raven 23,” the Blackwater team that was on the scene on the day of the shootings. On Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007, several Blackwater security contractors, including the four defendants, opened fire in and around Nisur Square, a busy traffic circle in the heart of Baghdad. When they stopped shooting, 14 Iraqi civilians were dead and an additional 18 victims were injured. According to testimony, upon learning that a car bomb had detonated in central Baghdad near a location where a U.S. official was being escorted by a Blackwater personal security detail team, Raven 23 drove to a secured checkpoint between the Green Zone and Red Zone. Once there, in disregard of an order from Blackwater’s command, the team’s shift leader directed Raven 23 to leave the Green Zone and establish a blockade in Nisur Square. Once there, seven members of Raven 23, including the four defendants, fired their weapons, resulting in the deaths or injury of Iraqi civilians. [Read more](#)

## Vienna Investment Adviser Pleads Guilty To Defrauding Numerous Elderly and Widowed Clients

This month, Ismail Elmas of Vienna, Va., plead guilty to defrauding more than 10 of his investment advisory clients—many of whom were seniors and widows—of more than \$1 million in funds they entrusted to him to invest on their behalf. Elmas admitted to having worked as an investment adviser at Apple Financial Services. He owned and operated a bank account in the name of “I.E. Financial Solutions” and admitted that from 2012 through Aug. 2014, he misappropriated client funds given to him for legitimate investments in his capacity as an investment adviser, and he used those funds for his own purposes by way of his I.E. Financial Solutions bank account at Navy Federal Credit Union. Elmas withheld the fact that I.E. Financial Solutions was his own bank account, never telling his clients that they were giving their money to his own purported investment vehicle.

## Five Army National Guard Officials Charged with Bribery

Four retired and one active-duty Army National Guard (ANG) officials and one civilian were charged for their alleged participation in bribery schemes related to the awarding of millions of dollars of ANG marketing, retention and recruitment contracts. Two of the retired ANG officials and the civilian plead guilty for their roles in the schemes. The National Guard Bureau (NGB), located in Arlington, Va., oversees the distribution of millions of dollars in federal funding provided to the ANG and its state units for advertising, marketing and sponsorships in order to recruit new members. The NGB uses these funds to promote the ANG by entering into advertising, marketing and sponsorship contracts. The NGB can avoid a competitive bid process by awarding these federally-funded marketing contracts to Small Business Administration certified minority-owned businesses. The indictments allege that the defendants evaded the bid process by using these companies to steer and award contracts in exchange for bribes. [Read more](#)

## WFO Remembers Service Martyrs on Twentieth Anniversary of Shooting

Next month, WFO and MPD will host memorial services honoring the anniversary of a deadly shooting that took the lives of three of our own. Twenty years ago, on Nov. 22, 1994, FBI Special Agents Martha Dixon-Martinez and Michael John Miller, and MPD Police Sergeant Henry Joseph “Hank” Daly, were shot and killed inside MPD’s Headquarters building by a lone gunman, Bennie Lee Lawson. Lawson entered the “cold case” squad room on the third floor of MPD HQ and opened fire with a TEC-9 assault weapon. FBI Special Agent John Kuchta was shot and seriously wounded, and a 15-year-old boy was shot in the leg. In the week prior, Lawson had been questioned as a suspect in a triple homicide. Lawson died of gunshot wounds sustained during the incident. WFO and MPD will host memorial services for Dixon-Martinez, Miller and Daly on Friday, Nov. 21, at 9:00 am, at St. Patrick’s Church in Washington, D.C. A wreath laying ceremony at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial will follow.

