THE ACORN TAKEDOWN VIDEO

EXPOSÉ

9/21/09

THE ACORN SCANDAL, in which two conservative activists posed as a pimp and prostitute and filmed ACORN representatives offering tax advice, has been brewing for nearly two weeks, but Obama's mention on the Sunday talk shows that he favors an investigation of ACORN keeps the story in the mainstream press. Multiple papers cover the Obama angle, and it is discussed by every major commentator and online political source.

9/14/09 The AP reports that the **two Brooklyn ACORN workers shown in O'Keefe videos were suspended.**

9/14/09 Fox News reports that **the Brooklyn D.A. is now investigating ACORN.**

9/14/09 The New York *Post* reports on a video of **O'Keefe's visiting a Brooklyn ACORN office.** It had surfaced online after midnight on biggovernment.com.

9/15/09 *Lou Dobbs Tonight* investigates **ACORN's ties to other organizations** nationwide.

9/15/09 **Another ACORN video surfaces** on biggovernment.com, and Fox News plays a clip.

9/15/09 Politico reports that ABC anchor Charles Gibson told radio hosts that **he hadn't heard of the ACORN tapes**, suggesting that the mainstream media had been "caught off guard."

9/16/09 Politico first reports that the House Republican Conference is forming a "**GOP ACORN Rapid Response Team.**"

9/16/09 *The Wall Street Journal* reports on **pressure in several political circles to sever ties with ACORN,** including on Capitol Hill.

9/16/09 The *Times* publishes its first original story on the matter. The public editor would later question **whether the paper was late to it.**

9/18/09 The Washington *Post* provides new information on how **Andrew Breitbart, a Drudge Report protégé, advised O'Keefe** and his collaborator, Hannah Giles.

9/19/09 The *Times* interviews James O'Keefe, creator of the video, and **recounts his rabble-rousing past.**

9/20/09 A Washington *Post* A1 story on ACORN **traces its scandal-plagued history** and uncovers minutes from a 2008 meeting.

9/10/09 Conservative filmmaker **James O'Keefe releases a video on the blog biggovernment.com,** a site that was launched the day before by Andrew Breitbart.

9/10/09 CNN.com is among the first to post **a detailed account of the contents of the video.**

9/10/09 The AP reports that **ACORN fires the two employees** shown in O'Keefe's videotape.

9/10/09 Glenn Beck devotes most of his show to the story and interviews **Hannah Giles,** who provides new background information on herself.

9/11/09 CNN reports that **two more ACORN employees have been fired.**

9/11/09 The AP reports that **the Census Bureau has terminated its relationship with ACORN.**

9/10/09 **Sean Hannity interviews** Andrew Breitbart.

A FOILED AL QAEDA SLEEPER CELL?

TERRORISM

9/21/09

A NEW YORK *Times* profile of Ahmad Wais Afzali, the Queens Imam who was arrested along with Zazi and his father in connection with an alleged terror plot, complements news that Zazi and his father will appear in court today. All three network morning shows recap the case. Throughout the day, the cable news shows, NPR, and the AP cover the court appearance, and reporters from the *Times* and the Denver *Post* are interviewed on PBS's *NewsHour.* That evening, CNN's *Situation Room* and *Lou Dobbs Tonight* broadcast similar segments on Afzali, relying on reporting that appeared in the *Times* piece that morning.

9/19/09 NBC News reports of **three impending arrests.**

9/19/09 Citing officials, the *Times* reports that Zazi admitted, during talks with the FBI, to "perhaps unwittingly" crossing paths with Al Qaeda allies in Pakistan.

9/19/09 The New York *Daily News* reports that men linked to the terror case, allegedly including the Imam Ahmad Afzali, **attempted to rent "the biggest truck"** at a U-Haul in Queens, just before Zazi's 9/10 visit to New York.

9/18/09 CBS News reports that sources say **a computer in Zazi's possession contained the formula** for the explosive TATP.

9/18/09 CNN.com reports that **Zazi admitted ties to Al Qaeda** during talks with the FBI.

9/18/09 The AP reports that **Zazi allegedly had contact with an Al Qaeda associate.**

9/17/09 The Denver *Post* reports that Zazi had been **questioned by the FBI for 8½ hours.**

9/16/09 The Yale *Daily News* reports that **police are monitoring a Super 8** in Cromwell, Connecticut, where Clark is staying.

9/17/09 The Yale *Daily News* and New Haven *Register* report that Clark will be arrested, after **a DNA test has linked him to the murder.**

9/18/09 The Hartford *Courant* reports that **Clark had been seen trying to hide lab equipment** that contained blood spatters.

9/18/09 The New York *Daily News* reports that swipe-card records indicate **Clark was with the body for nearly an hour** after the murder.

9/18/09 The *Times* reports on Raymond Clark's duties as an animal-services technician in a Yale laboratory, quoting a source that **he lied about having worked on a farm** when applying for the position.

9/15/09 A *Times* story on Clark's personality is posted online. It highlights control-freak tics such as his **insistence that lab workers wear shoe covers.**

9/15/09 WFSB-TV Hartford **first identifies Raymond Clark III** as a person of interest.

9/10/09 The AP runs its **first reported story about Le,** filling in biographical information and quoting her mentor.

9/9/09 The *Register,* WFSB-TV, and WTNH-TV soon **follow with their own online accounts,** quoting a colleague of Le's.

9/10/09 WTNH runs a story about **Le's authorship of an article** in Yale's *B* magazine called "Crime and Safety in New Haven."

9/11/09 The Yale *Daily News* quotes postings from **Le's Facebook page** indicating her excitement about her upcoming wedding.

9/9/09 The Yale *Daily News* is the first media outlet alerted about a **missing-persons report on Le,** last seen entering a lab at 10 Amistad Street, and it publishes a story online.

9/15/09 The Yale *Daily News* reports that **an unnamed suspect in the case failed to show up for work** that day at Yale's Animal Resources Center.

9/15/09 The Yale *Daily News* reports visiting the lab where Le's body was found and that **police are monitoring a small group of people** who had access to the lab where Le worked.

9/11/09 The AP reports news of **a $10,000 reward** from Yale for information about Le.

9/14/09 The Yale *Daily News* reports that **a vigil will be held** this day for Le.

9/12/09 The AP reports that investigators outside Le's lab **questioned a man.**

9/13/09 The AP reports that **investigators were searching a Hartford garbage incinerator** for clues.

9/12/09 The New York *Post* reports that Le's mother told a woman at a grocery store that **her daughter did not have "cold feet."**

9/13/09 Sunday evening, **Le's body is found;** the news comes in a late-evening press conference.

9/12/09 Fox 61-TV reports that a **Yale professor was questioned by cops** in the case.

9/13/09 The Yale *Daily News* and the *Register* **clarify early reports about bloody clothes found at the lab:** They were not what Le was wearing.

9/12/09 The Yale *Daily News* quotes a **Yale official denying** that the professor is a suspect.

9/12/09 The Hartford *Courant* reports that investigators were moving toward the theory that **Le was the victim of a violent crime,** rather than a runaway bride.

9/12/09 The *Register,* citing sources, reports that **bloody clothes were found above a ceiling tile** in the building Le was last seen entering.

MURDER AT YALE

CRIME

9/21/09

THE NEW YORK *Post*'s claim that Yale graduate student Annie Le's body was "Mashed—Bones Broken to Fit in Hole" would later be discredited, but it attracts media attention throughout the day. *The Early Show* and *Good Morning America* cover the story. The *Today* show reports details on Le's funeral. News shows return to the story repeatedly, and it is mentioned in a handful of blogs.

9/16/09 The New York *Post* reports that the Queens raids uncovered **a plan to detonate nine backpacks full of explosives.**

9/16/09 The *Times* fills in details about Zazi's trip to New York and quotes anonymous federal officials who say **the previous weekend's raids were rushed.**

9/16/09 9News Denver reports that FBI agents are **searching through receipts** at local Home Depot stores.

9/16/09 The Denver *Post* reports that **Zazi denies any terrorist ties** and, speaking with his friends, corrects an earlier AP report that he was born in Pakistan (he's an Afghan native) and is 25 (in fact, he's 24).

9/15/09 9News Denver is the **first outlet to interview Zazi.**

9/15/09 AP reports that Najibullah Zazi is **under surveillance.** His aunt claims he was born in Pakistan.

9/14/09 Senator Chuck Schumer confirms on WABC-TV that **FBI agents conducted predawn raids** on residences in Queens as part of a terror investigation.

9/14/09 WNBC-TV reports that a **document about making a bomb** is found.

9/14/09 The AP quotes two anonymous officials who say **the target is unknown.**

9/15/09 The New York *Post* reports that the FBI is upset that the **NYPD "tipped off" a terror suspect** and that he was under surveillance while in New York.

PHOTOGRAPHS: IDA MAE ASTUTE/AP (GIBSON); SCOTT M. LIEBERMAN/AP (HANNITY); PATRICK MCMULLAN (BECK); CHRIS SCHNEIDER/ZUMA/NEWSCOM (ARREST); ANDREW HERITAGE/PSG/NEWSCOM (ZAZI); NEWSCOM (BREITBART)

PHOTOGRAPHS: NEWSCOM (CLARK, CRIME SCENE, LE); CLOE POISSON/HARTFORD COURANT/MCT/NEWSCOM (ARREST); PATRICK MCMULLAN (SHUMER)