

The Americans wanted someone to build a police station in Abu Ghraib, another no-go zone for Western contractors. They were willing to pay \$700,000 for the construction of the station, which they named Victory and Peace.

"We made a deal with the local leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq," Mr. Mohsin said. "They agreed not to destroy the station, and we promised to cut them in on the profit." When the project was completed, however, he gave the Qaeda leader's name to the Americans, and the man was arrested, Mr. Mohsin said, adding that he kept the entire \$350,000 profit.

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