

# Murder Suspects Bugged

## Secret U.S. Inquiry Netted 'Chilling' Tape Of Killing

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Of the Post-Dispatch Staff  
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A couple charged with murdering their 16-year-old daughter were targets of a secret federal investigation that resulted in what a prosecutor called a "chilling" tape-recording of the killing picked up by an electronic bug in the couple's home, the Post-Dispatch has learned.

The murder suspects — Zein Hassan Isa, 58, and his wife, Maria M. Isa, 46 — were being monitored because of alleged strong ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization, law enforcement sources say. Zein Isa is a naturalized U.S. citizen from the Middle East who says he is a Palestinian; his wife is Brazilian.

The Isas are being held without bond. They are



**Zein Isa**



**Maria Isa**

charged with killing their daughter, Palestina "Tina" Isa, during a quarrel in their apartment at 3759 Delor Street in south St. Louis.

First Assistant Circuit Attorney Dee Joyce-Hayes, who is prosecuting the Isas on the murder charge, acknowledged that the electronic surveillance on the

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