

Zein Isa Denies Being A Member Of Abu Nidal's Terrorist Group

Ringed by five federal marshals, Zein Isa emerged Friday from Missouri's death row to plead not guilty to charges that he is a member of the terrorist organization of Abu Nidal.

With the help of a translator, Isa, 61, appeared under guard at the Federal Courthouse in St. Louis and told a judge he understood the charges against him.

U.S. Magistrate Catherine D. Perry noted the government's request that Isa be held without bond. She took no action on the request because Isa is in state prison.

He was convicted of first-degree murder in 1991 for stabbing his daughter, Tina Isa, on Nov. 6, 1989, at the family's apartment in St. Louis.

The government alleges that Isa and three other men of Palestinian heritage conspired to kill Tina because she knew too much about her father's involvement with Abu Nidal.

A federal indictment returned last week also alleges that the four men are members of Abu Nidal's group who plotted terrorist acts, stockpiled guns and sent money illegally to the occupied West Bank.