

Printed on 26/3/2010

Intelligence Report

URN: HCRR00003492

Subject: Diversion of 272 Cases WINSTON from IBCS to Jalat KHAN

Submitted by:

Source: MULTIPLE

Unit: BI Intelligence

Syndicate:

Summary:

According to Afghan cigarette trader Habib GULZAR, habib@habibgulzar.com, speaking in early September 2009, "reliable sources in Dubai" provided the attached documents dated 23 August 2009 confirming the sale of 272 cases of WINSTON by IBCS Trading and Distribution, PO Box 23489, Sharjah, UAE; Tel: +971 65723078, +971 65725109; email ibcs.sharjah@audeh-group.com to Jalat KHAN. [NB: IBCS is owned by Issah AUDEH and is a key distributor for WWDF, while Jalat Khan, principally through his firm JK International is a well known smuggler principally targeting the Iran market and also the owner of Arya Tobacco, which reportedly has manufactured counterfeit international brands. Khan also reportedly was linked to the February 2006 diversion of 450 cases of SEVEN STARS from Afghanistan to the Philippines via the firm Yau Lee Holdings. Habib Gulzar is the authorized ADF distributor in Afghanistan and receives shipments via TWLT. End NB]

Per the attached documents, a person named P. VENUGOPAL issued the letter to Khan on behalf of IBCS confirming the sale. Venugopal advises Khan that the 272 cases would be shipped to him via forwarder Steinweg Sharaf FZE, in Dubai. He also attached for Khan Invoice Number 1276 dated 19 August 2009 for the cigarettes, an Original Certificate of Origin issued by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce, and a Packing List.

The Invoice indicates that the cigarettes were sold by IBCS to Afghan Duty Free, Najeeb Zarab Complex, Kabul, Afghanistan, Tel: +937 9833333 and were to be delivered via Steinweg Sharaf FZE, PO Box 17013, Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai; Tel: +971 506858367.

The terms are FOB Dubai at US\$263 per case of WINSTON identified as produced in Switzerland 73 cases of WINSTON Filter KS Soft B/E No. 1-1-51-2904, 25 cases of WINSTON Filter Soft B/E No. 1-1-51-5987, 77 cases of WINSTON Lights KS Box B/E/ No. 1-1-51-5987, and 97 cases of WINSTON Ultra Lights Box B/E/ No. 1-1-51-5987. Total price is cited as US\$71,536.00 payable to IBCS Trading and Distributing, USD Account Number 052 400 260 070727 013 at Blom Bank - France, Sharjah, UAE.

According to Gulzar,

- In 2007, Gulzar purchased back 300 cases of SSCL from Jalat Khan in Dubai from the stocks which he had smuggled out of Afghanistan to the Philippines market. Gulzar claimed that Khan has been involved in smuggling out 1000's of SEVEN STARS CUSTOM Lights to Philippines and Taiwan for which JTI has the records in their files.

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- Khan together with the owner of Concord Tobacco (his cousin) is involved in producing fake cigarettes in Dubai. (NB: Concord Tobacco has been raided several times in the past five years and found to be counterfeiting JTI and Imperial Tobacco brands. End NB)
- Khan was also involved in importing fake MARLBORO from China
- Khan's purchase of 272 cases of WINSTON is likely bound for the Iran market.

Another source provided the following details on the members of the IBCS group possibly involved in diverting and/or smuggling JTI cigarettes:

Petros VARDAS - petros.vardas@audeh-group.com and possibly vardas.petros@audgroup.com

Issa AUDEH - ibcs_cy@audgroup.com and audeh.issa@audgroup.com

Bassam AUDEH - audeh.bassam@audgroup.com

Issa Michael MATAKA - mid-east@nol.com.jo

Images:

Linked Records

Printed on 26/3/2010

Intelligence Report

URN: HCRR00002126

Subject: Detention of CRXU2037769 Containing WINCHESTER & TRI STAR In Transit To Iraq

Submitted by:

Source: MULTIPLE

Unit: BI Europe

Syndicate: Turkey

Summary:

Based on our intelligence, Customs in Mersin, Turkey opened container # CRXU 203776-9 on Saturday 26 July 2008.

It contained 2 brands, WINCHESTER EXPORT LIGHTS & THREE STAR, which we believe to be a von Eicken of Germany brand. 2 other transit containers were also opened, however these turned out to be KARELIA SLIMS & ROTHMANS, not our brands.

The details of the container holding the WINCHESTER :

CONTAINER NO: CRXU 203776-9

SHIPPER: CIRCUIT LOGISTIC LIMITED SAL (OFFSHORE) BEIRUT LEBANON

CONSIGNEE : MCS DENIZCILIK NAKLIYAT TURIZM SAN.VE TIC LTD STİ .

CAKMAK CADDESİ GOKCE İŞ MERKEZİ NO:9 KAT 7 MERSİN TURKEY

NOTIFY : MIEL TRADING

VESSEL : MV ICE SUN

FLAG: GIBRALTAR

PORT OF LOADING: BEIRUT

LOAD: 425 MC

MERSIN TRANSIT TO IRAQ

There was no count done in front of us , as it was a Saturday Customs were not prepared to empty it out, however we were advised that there were 350 MC of WINCHESTER in the Container.

Also in the container according to Miel's invoice # 00310 was:

100 MC L&M LIGHTS

10 MC DAVIDOFF LIGHTS

65 MC THREE STAR LIGHTS

Samples were sent to Trier for lab analysis . The Lab later confirmed that they received a carton of WINCHESTER EXPORT LIGHTS CPB with US Vol. HW (QA code: 322-2008) - which was identified as Genuine product from Turkey produced on June 11, 2007 with Pack code: FFH11B05

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The goods were made in Turkey on 11 June 08 and the entire production run was sold to IBCS in Sharjah and delivered FOB Izmir Factory to Interworld SARL (Zone France Depot No 6105 in Beirut).

The sellers of the cigarettes was: Circuit logistics Ltd. Sal. Beirut. Tel +961 6470458. Fax +961 647????.

The buyer was Miel Trading Ltd. Famagusta Northern Cyprus.

The firm MCD Denizcilik Nakliyat Turizm San. Ve Tic. Ltd Mersin being the notify party. The fax number used on the invoice comes from Denizcilik and is +90 3242374555.

Interworld changed their selling practices post this detention to no more than 2 unopened master cases. Market they were targetting was Syria via chandlers and UN sales.

The cigarettes had to be released as they proved genuine and correctly declared there being no way of preventing their onward movement according to the Turkish Customs Code.

Images:

Linked Records

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Firm – Factory

URN: HCFJ00001631

Name: IBCS Trading and Distribution Co. Ltd

Address in English:
Sharjah

Comments:

Direct Tel : +357 25837140

Switchboard +357 25837000

Fax : +357 25343255

Web: www.audeh-group.com <<http://www.audeh-group.com/>>

Based on our intelligence, Customs in Mersin, Turkey opened container # CRXU 203776-9 on Saturday 26 July 2008.

It contained 2 brands, WINCHESTER EXPORT LIGHTS & THREE STAR, which we believe to be a von Eicken of Germany brand. 2 other transit containers were also opened, however these turned out to be KARELIA SLIMS & ROTHMANS, not our brands. Samples were sent to Trier for lab analysis. The Lab later confirmed that they received a carton of WINCHESTER EXPORT LIGHTS CPB with US Vol. HW (QA code: 322-2008) - which was identified as Genuine product from Turkey produced on June 11, 2007 with Pack code: FFH11B05

The goods were made in Turkey on 11 June 08 and the entire production run was sold to IBCS in Sharjah and delivered FOB Izmir Factory to Interworld SARL (Zone France Depot No 6105 in Beirut).

Images:

Linked Records

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Firm – Factory

URN: HCFJ00001632

Name: Interworld SARL

Address in English:

Interworld SARL ,
Zone France Depot No 6105,
Beirut
Lebanon

Comments:

Based on our intelligence, Customs in Mersin, Turkey opened container # CRXU 203776-9 on Saturday 26 July 2008.

It contained 2 brands, WINCHESTER EXPORT LIGHTS & THREE STAR, which we believe to be a von Eicken of Germany brand. 2 other transit containers were also opened, however these turned out to be KARELIA SLIMS & ROTHMANS, not our brands.

Samples were sent to Trier for lab analysis. The Lab later confirmed that they received a carton of WINCHESTER EXPORT LIGHTS CPB with US Vol. HW (QA code: 322-2008) - which was identified as Genuine product from Turkey produced on June 11, 2007 with Pack code: FFH11B05

The goods were made in Turkey on 11 June 08 and the entire production run was sold to IBCS in Sharjah and delivered FOB Izmir Factory to Interworld SARL (Zone France Depot No 6105 in Beirut).

Images:

Linked Records

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Firm – Factory

URN: HCFJ00001630

Name: Miel Trading Ltd

Address in English:
Famagusta free port - nctr
Northern Cyprus

Comments:

Named as the buyer of 350 master cases of original WINCHESTER EXPORT LIGHTS in July 2008 being sent to Iraq.

On 25 February it was named as the sender of a shipment of 400 master cases WINSTON Ultra Lights from Famagusta via Turkey to Iraq.

Images:

Linked Records

Printed on 26/3/2010

Intelligence Report

URN: HCRR00003468

Subject: 400 MC WINSTON via Turkey to Iraq

Submitted by:

Source: BRESFOR

Unit: BI MENA

Syndicate:

Summary:

On 23 February 2010, It was reported that a shipment of 400 master cases WINSTON Ultra Lights was transported on 22 February 2010 from Magosa (North Cyprus) to the Mersin Free Zone. A truck with the licence plate number TFN631648R was shipped from North Cyprus by the Ro/Ro vessel "İbris Gunesli" to the Mersin Free Zone.

The sender of the shipment was:

Miel Trading ltd. Famagusta free port -nctr and the receiver was registered as: Hiba Co., General Trading, Dohuk Office, Dohuk-Iraq.

The transport company responsible for further transportation from the Mersin Free Zone to the Habur border with Iraq was:

Teknotas Uluslararası Nakliyat (Teknotas International trade & transport ltd. co) <<http://www.teknotas.com.tr/bos1-enu.asp.htm>>. The cigarettes were transported with a different vehicle, brand Mercedes, color white with the license plate of the Truck / Trailer: 47KV550 / 47NC410 . The trailer had a grey color with the name / logo "Atak"

On Friday 26 February 2010 the mentioned truck was checked at the Habur border and the following details became known:

400 master cases WINSTON Ultra Lights.

It seems that a shipping company called UTI from Haifa - Israel, shipped them to North Cyprus.

The available code's of the WINSTON's are: One master case with the code: 00012300703109 and a Carton with the code: 00012300703130 . Also the following code of a Winston carton was mentioned: K9/5C1 9 /2K3 .

During the time of this inspection the customs officers at the Habur border noticed a second truck with the same logo / name "Atak" and also searched this truck / trailer and discovered 40 master cases CAMEL Lights. The details of the second truck / trailer are brand Daf, color white with the license plate number of the truck 33HV896.

After inspection by Customs both trucks passed the Habur border and drove into Iraq. The truck with the 400 master cases WINSTON drove to Iran (see attached Beagle report) and the truck with the 40 mastercases drove direction Central Iraq.

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Images:



Trucks at the Turkey - Iraq border



Trucks moving to Iraq





Linked Records

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Intelligence Report

URN: HCRR00003249

Subject: Background on Key Middle East Cigarette Producers and Traders

Submitted by:

Source: SANYO

Unit: BI Intelligence

Syndicate:

Summary:

As of 6 December 2009, the following information was available on select key Middle East producers and traders.

European Tobacco Jordan Ltd

The European Tobacco Group remains in business and is producing, selling, distributing and buying both legitimate products but also counterfeited cigarettes. The company European Tobacco Jordan Ltd (incorporated on Feb.11, 2002) is a 50/50 JV between the Nasri family through Union Inter Ocean Ltd (!) and Talat Marie family.

On the Nasri Group website - <http://www.ngcompanies.com/com/tobacco.html> - they still mention that the European Tobacco Jordan Limited company based in Amman would have annual capacities "of 1,440,000,000 cigarettes' sticks for the local domestic market" and export producing "Gauloises and Gitanes" under license of ALTADIS (this website does not seem to have been updated since a long time!).

The address of the company is HAY AL RAJEEM STREET / SAHEB AREA/PO BOX 11 118 JORDAN

It is true that the MARIE GROUP is one of the shareholders (50% through the father and the 4 sons). If you have a look at the website www.marie-group.com <<http://www.marie-group.com>>, you will get the picture of the executives of this Group and a 'nice' picture of the factory.

Concerning UNION INTEROCEAN LIMITED, it would seem that it is a ROMANIAN company (more information about that is to be found later in the text of the report).

On the website of the MARIE GROUP, there is a picture of what is supposed to be the EUROPEAN TOBACCO factory in Amman. We however already noticed that the NASRI GROUP was showing same pictures for factories located in different countries! Therefore, if the Client needs to know exactly where is the factory in Amman and what it looks like, a site visit has to be organized and many pictures taken. This is something FIP now can

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take care of if it is important for the Client because we have a full time correspondent in Amman.

It would seem that on the MARIE GROUP Website very little is said about EUROPEAN TOBACCO or the NASRI GROUP (as a matter of fact, the information provided on www.marie-group.com <<http://www.marie-group.com>> is exactly the same today except that they specified that ALTADIS is a subsidiary of the IMPERIAL TOBACCO GROUP):

Last year, on the Website of the NASRI GROUP, this tobacco company in Amman was reported as being a NASRI GROUP Company (NGC) and it is still the case today (although we have to admit that the website does not seem to be regularly updated).

Or (from www.ngcompanies.com/com/tobacco.html <<http://www.ngcompanies.com/com/tobacco.html>>):

EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN is therefore promoted by both groups as being their own. And this is in itself quite a surprising situation.

Based on information gathered, we know that the shareholders of the Jordan company are/were respectively:

- TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE
- Undisclosed shareholders 50% in the Marie Talat family
- RAMEZ NASRI (born on 26/02/1971) 50% through some offshore company

Therefore, there is at least one NASRI mentioned, RAMEZ NASRI who is the youngest brother of the famous NIZAR HANNA. RAMEZ NASRI is also known as being RAMEZ HANNA; he is supposed to be also in charge of the company EUROPEAN TOBACCO BAKU JSC in Azerbaijan.

European Tobacco Jordan Co Ltd

As mentioned at the beginning of this report, we had already undertaken several due diligences on the company EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN CO LTD in the framework of broader studies on the NASRI GROUP of companies. We have gathered updated information on the company and we have realized that most of the company's parameters are the same than in September of last year. We have displayed what we found here below, mentioning the relevant changes.

General information and principals

The head address and contact details of the company EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN CO LTD are still:

Hai Al Masanei (behind Mercedes Showroom)
Sahab Al Rajeeb Area
P.O. Box 800
Amman 11118
Jordan

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Tel: +962 64167301 and +962 64166200

Fax: +962 64167304

E-Mail: awartany67@yahoo.com

The company apparently owns its office premises, a 4,000 square meters production plant and storage facilities located at the heading address.

The company was created on 11 February 2001. It bears Companies Register number 6536 and National ID number 200012382.

The principals of the company are:

TALAT ABDUL JAWAD ALI MARIE, Chairman and General Manager

SAAD TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE, Deputy General Manager

ADEL TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE, Export Manager

AHMED ZADEH, Commercial Manager

ABDULRAHMAN DARWISH, Financial Manager

SAADI HAMED NASSER, Marketing Manager

The company employs approximately 110 people today compared to 150 last year.

Some financial figures

EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN CO LTD is a limited liability company with an authorized capital of JD 2,000,000 of which 100% is paid-up.

According to our local sources (since private companies in Jordan are not required to publish or disclose balance sheets), the company sales turnover was:

JD 18,000,000 in 2007 (1 JOD = 0.996495 EUR)

JD 24,000,000 in 2008

and the projected figures for 2009 are: JD 26,000,000. So far, despite the apparent reduction of workers, the production seems to progress.

No complaints have been heard regarding payments from local suppliers or banks and it has been confirmed by people on site that the company was indeed still a member of the MARIE GROUP. This is interesting for those who believe that there would now be Chinese walls between the Nasri family and the Talat Marie family.

COFACE, a credit rating agency that we sometimes use, considers it is acceptable to deal with subject for MEDIUM amounts, their opinion on maximum credit being JD 250,000. The trade risk assessment is considered as normal.

The company's principal banker is the JORDAN KUWAIT BANK based in Amman.

Ownership

According to the documents available at the Jordan Companies Registry, EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN CO LTD has the following shareholders:

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Names Value of Shares held

UNION INTER OCEAN LIMITED CO (United Kingdom) i.e. 50% JD 1,000,000
TALAT ABDUL JAWAD ALI MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID :
9331007175) JD 700,000
RAMZI TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9661031443)
JD 100,000
ABDUL JAWAD TALAT MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9581017962) JD
100,000
SAAD TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9621925905)
JD 50,000
ADEL TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9731038137) JD
50,000

Except for the company UNION INTER OCEAN LIMITED CO that belongs to the NASRI family, all the other shareholders are member of the MARIE family, more precisely, the father and his four sons.

It is interesting to note that last year, RAMEZ NASRI was directly named as being a shareholder of EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN CO LTD but now it is via one of the companies of the NASRI GROUP. In the official documents of the company available at the Jordan's Companies Registry, it is nevertheless clearly mentioned that the company UNION INTER OCEAN LIMITED is represented by RAMEZ HANNA NASRI, Deputy Chairman of the Board.

What is also interesting is that no company "UNION INTEROCEAN" (as displayed on a website of the NASRI family) has been found as being registered under that name in the United Kingdom. So, the "nationality" of this Union Inter Ocean Limited Co is still a mystery to date!

Previous information on Union Interocean

In one of our previous reports on the NASRI family dated October 5, 2008, we noted:

In the brief Memo, we mentioned the excerpt from the NGC website dealing with UNION INTEROCEAN. Here it is again:

This "Union Interocean" is reported by the Nasri Group as being "headquartered in Romania"!

It looks like being a large company operating in 50 countries but when we entered "Union Interocean" on the most popular search engine on the Web, we got two occurrences, not a great result for the "big" company:

In fact, the two leads come from Nasri Group websites! This just means that there must be a problem with this company like with any piece of information posted by the Nasri brothers on their websites.

We have tried many combinations to identify a company with a corporate name like UNION INTEROCEAN registered in Romania.

The National Trade Register Office located in Bucharest did its best to find something but no way.

Maybe UNION INTEROCEAN is an offshore company registered in the British Virgin Islands or in Panama or something similar with an unregistered representative office in Romania! We looked at international databases generally locating offshore companies and we tried the British Virgin Islands and Panama but nothing popped up.

Therefore, until further notice, we have to conclude that there is NO Union Interocean Company doing international business as claimed by the Nasri people.

Affiliated companies and activities

According to local sources, EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN CO LTD is at least affiliated with the following companies:

EUROPEAN TOBACCO INC, Papague 69, Voula 16673, Athens, Greece
EUROPEAN TOBACCO AZERBAIJAN, 1 Kondelen Street 21, Nizami district, Baku 370033, Azerbaijan
EUROPEAN TOBACCO TAJIKISTAN, Sughd Province District No. 27, Khojand City, Tajikistan
EUROPEAN TOBACCO A.S., Ismet Inonu Bulvari, Anadolu Hayat, Sigorta Ish. Kat 4 -404, 33100 Mersin, Turkey
MARI TRADING COMPANY, Amman

The subject company is involved in the trading as importers, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and exporters of cigarettes. It apparently produces the following brands: Gauloises, Gitanes and Brilliant.

What is interesting is that these brands are not advertised on the website of the NASRI people <http://www.europeantobacco.net/en/brand_portfolio.html> but the following are:

On the other hand, on the website of the MARIE family (<<http://www.marie-group.com/2009/etj/>>), the following brands are advertized:

It is most likely that one of the two websites is not updated and if it is not the case some clarifications may be needed, either by doing in depth investigations on site or by confronting the companies owning EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN.

According to our local sources, the company covers 15 % of the Jordanian local market of cigarettes consumption. It imports from France but does no longer export, all sales being domestic. This last detail is different from the previous year since it did mention that the company was exporting to Iraq and neighboring countries. Whether or not this is true on the ground, we cannot say at this stage.

Miscellaneous

Naturally, some information about EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN is also available via the website of the MARIE GROUP (see: www.marie-group.com/2009/etj/ <<http://www.marie-group.com/2009/etj/>>) but it actually provides very little information that we would not already know.

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The company is a member of the Amman Chamber of Industry (see: <<http://www.aci.org.jo>>). On this website, it presents RAMEZ NASRI as the Deputy Chairman of the company.

On the website of www.tobaccoreporter.com <<http://www.tobaccoreporter.com>>, EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN is defined as a joint venture between TALAT MARIE & SONS CO and EUROPEAN TOBACCO CO.

The Barzani Clan (KDP) continues to reign on the north west of the Iraqi Kurdistan and imposes its laws. There are fragile signs of some political opposition raising but the moneys collected by the Clan from illicit traffics mainly in cigarettes continues to fuel the financing of a private "army" of Peshmerghas and there is so much money involved that it will not change overnight. The North of Iraq is well known as being a black hole for all kinds of traffics and it would seem that the most reputed cigarettes producers are in a way or another present in this region for selling through local traders cigarettes to Iran in large quantities.

The Marie Group

The Marie Group is in business with Imperial Tobaccoe.

A review of the names (and variations thereof) of members of the MARIE family including TALAT MARIE, AISHA BARJOUS, ABDUL JAWAD MARIE, SAAD MARIE, RAMZI MARIE, ADEL MARIE, NADIA MARIE, NAJWA MARIE, and NIDA'A MARIE, in a proprietary database. This database provides coverage on known money launderers, fraudsters, terrorists, narcotics traffickers, organized crime, shell banks, plus individuals and businesses from over a dozen other categories including Politically Exposed Persons (as well as their family members and potentially high-risk associates worldwide). This database also correlates every known sanction and embargo list from around the world (including lists of debarred and banned parties) such as FBI, OFAC, Bank of England, European Union, UN, OSFI, FATF and the Australian DFAT, etc., as well as national and international media. The searches were recently undertaken and provided no relevant results.

Based on the information we have collected so far via our investigations, it would seem to us that the MARIE GROUP would face serious difficulties to separate the activities of its "new" dedicated company EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES from its activities in EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN unless it terminates its involvement with that company completely.

However, even if it does, it could not be a guarantee in practice. The MARIE family has been involved with EUROPEAN TOBACCO JORDAN and therefore with the NASRI family for almost ten years now, both families are composed of wealthy and influential businessmen in the region. It is hard to imagine that they will no longer be any contacts between the two clans especially when involved in the same extremely lucrative tobacco business. We have also seen across the media that they have had at least one other common (or close) interest in the past, in a construction project. Due to their respective position in the region, it is hard to believe that it is the only one.

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So to assess to what extent TALAT MARIE and sons will completely separate their tobacco activities from the NASRI family is quite a difficult task and we have seen no signs across our investigations that either one of these two families was going into that direction.

At this stage, we did not point out any special business between the Talat Marie & Sons Co (TMSG) and JTI in Jordan or Issa Audeh.

Eastern Tobacco & Cigarettes

The company EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES was established in Jordan on 12 February 2007 as a limited liability company. The Companies Register number of the subject company is 13706 and its national ID number is 200012876.

The subject company is located at the following address with the following contact details:

EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES

Hurriya Street
P.O. Box 800
Amman 11118
Jordan

Tel: (962 6) 420 5991 / 474 6453

Fax: (962 6) 420 5883

E-Mail: tmsc@nol.com.jo <<mailto:tmsc@nol.com.jo>>

The principals of the company are:

ABDUL JAWAD TALAT MARIE, Managing Director
GHASSAN ABU TAINA, Financial Manager

The Board of directors of the company is composed of the following individuals:

TALAT ABDUL JAWAD ALI MARIE, Chairman
ABDUL JAWAD TALAT MARIE, Vice-Chairman
SAAD TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE, member

The total number of employees of the company and its affiliate, EASTERN TOBACCO EST., is 55. This last company is officially known under the name EASTERN TOMBAC & TOBACCO MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENT and registered with the Companies Control Department on 6 August 1992. A certain confusion remains at this stage of our researches concerning this company because the MARIE GROUP seems to be using different denomination for it. For example, on one of its products that one of our contacts bought on August 18 in Amman it is mentioned: EASTERN TOMBAC & TOBACCO EST referring to the website www.alsultan.com.jo <<http://www.alsultan.com.jo>> (see below).

On the referred website (www.alsultan.com.jo <<http://www.alsultan.com.jo>>), the company advertised is called EASTERN TOBACCO & MOLASSES CO instead. This company being elsewhere (see below) referred to as: EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES & MOLASSES CO.

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As we will see in more details later in the present report, the subject company EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES is part of the MARIE GROUP composed of several companies including (as advertised on the Group's website, see: www.marie-group.com <<http://www.marie-group.com>>):

EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES & MOLASSES CO
EUROPEAN TOBACCO CO / JORDAN
TALAT MARIE & SONS CO
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR MANUFACTURING VETERINARY MEDICINES
MARIE BROTHERS TRADING COMPANY

Activities

The Company will be involved in the manufacture of cigarettes. The factory is still under construction and is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

According to local sources, the company is currently engaged in the import of tobacco manufacturing machinery and spare parts. It does not export.

Shareholders

The company EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES has the following shareholders sharing altogether the subscribed capital of JD 1,000,000.

The company ABDUL JAWAD MARIE AND PARTNERS CO put aside, all the shareholders listed are members of the MARIE family; the father, his wife and their seven children (four boys and three girls). More details about the family will be provided in the dedicated chapter later in the report.

Names Value of Shares held

ABDUL JAWAD TALAT MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9581017962)	JD 190,000
SAAD TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9621925905)	JD 190,000
RAMZI TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9661031443)	JD 190,000
ADEL TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9731038137)	JD 190,000
AISHA HAMAD HASAN BURJOOS (Jordanian national, National ID : 9362007989)	JD 85,000
ABDUL JAWAD MARIE AND PARTNERS CO	JD 70,000
TALAT ABDUL JAWAD ALI MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9331007175)	JD 40,000
NADIA TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9562014233)	JD 15,000
NAJWA TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9601201941)	JD 15,000
NIDA'A TALAT ABDUL JAWAD MARIE (Jordanian national, National ID : 9692032453)	JD 15,000

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Financial information

The authorized capital of EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES is JD 1,000,000 which is more or less the same in Euros (1 JOD = 0.996495 EUR) and the paid-up capital is currently JD 500,000.

According to local sources, the company, established in February 2007, has not yet started genuine commercial operations.

As the company has not yet started production, relevant financial information is not available and no complaints have been heard regarding payments from local suppliers or banks.

We have asked the advises of COFACE, a credit rating agency, and they told us that as the company has not yet commenced commercial operations and has no financial or payment track record, it is highly recommended to deal on fully secured terms with them.

The principal banker of the company today is the JORDAN KUWAIT BANK based in Amman.

Facilities

The Company has a factory with integrated offices and storage facilities located at the heading address, on Hurriya Street, which is currently under construction. The cigarette-manufacturing factory is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

Hurriya Street is an extremely long street of Amman (see picture below).

One of our contacts in Jordan has managed to identify the head offices of the company TALAT MARIE & SONS CO (they had a picture of their offices on their website, more about that will follow), located on that street also and maybe at the same address. While on site, he did not see any signs of the construction of a cigarettes factory, which may well have been somewhere else on that street! Further on site investigations will be needed to locate the factory if the Client finds it necessary to do so.

Others

In the course of our investigations, we found out that the company EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES CO registered in Amman, Jordan, is the owner of the trademark "AL-AFANDI". It has filed its trademark application with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on 5 July 2007.

The trademark concerns tobacco, namely: cigars, cigarettes and loose tobacco. All the documents related to the company's application are available at the following address:
<<http://tmportal.uspto.gov/external/portal/tow?SRCH=Y&isSubmitted=true&details=&SELECT=US+Serial+No&TEXT=77222638>>

We are not aware of any other trademark that the company would have filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Printed on 26/3/2010

We have also found out that a company named THE EASTERN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES CO owned a trademark in Romania (class 34 under the Nice Classification, which covers everything that has to do with tobacco). We have checked with the Romanian Companies Registry and there are no companies under that name registered in Romania. We have decided to make a quick search in the Madrid Express database for other eventual international trademark registrations under that company name but our search did not give any positive result. This last search was based on the names "EASTERN TOBACCO" or "TALAT MARIE" as trademarks' owner.

The Marie Group

Generalities

As mentioned on the Group's website (www.marie-group.com <<http://www.marie-group.com>>), the MARIE GROUP or T.M.S.G. (TALAT MARIE & SONS GROUP) is composed of several companies including:

MARIE BROTHERS TRADING COMPANY
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR MANUFACTURING VETERINARY MEDICINES
EUROPEAN TOBACCO / JORDAN
EASTERN TOBACCO & MOLASSES CO
TALAT MARIE & SONS CO

This group of companies belongs to the MARIE family and all of it was started by the patriarch of the family TALAT ABDUL JAWAD ALI MARIE. We can find the following historical information about the Group on the internet (www.marie-group.com/history.html <<http://www.marie-group.com/history.html>>):

TALAT MARIE was born in Palestine in 1933 at Alramlah. In 1948, he & his family were forced to immigrate from Palestine to Jordan when he was only 16 years of age. TALAT MARIE studied basic accounting in one of the institutes in Amman for a short period and during that time he started his Business Stages Development.

In 1950, he worked as an accountant for about one year but his desire to have his own business and his industrialized attitude and his ambition guided him to establish a small company, with some of his friends, specialized in cigarettes distribution, and some food items. This company continued growing up to the limit of having in 1980 40 % of cigarettes share distributions in the domestic Jordan market.

During the beginning of the sixties of last century, he established a small factory to produce Tombac & snuff. After a couple of years, TALAT MARIE added some other Tobacco products such as Molasses, Roll Your Own Tobacco & Water Pipe tobacco to his factory under the name of EASTERN TOMBAC & TOBACCO.

At the same time TALAT MARIE, invested his good relations with the tobacco companies and started importing & exporting the Tobacco Raw Materials beside some other items building a very solid relations with his tobacco colleague's producers all over the world.

In the Seventies of the last century, he decided to go to some other line of business and he launched a company with his younger brother for watches and accessories. This company started growing and now it is one of the biggest companies in the field of watch