

# New York Times

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The New York Times (by Arthur Greenspan)

**ARRESTED IN PLOT:** Ahmed Rageh Namer, at left, and his sons Abdo A., center, and Hussein at the 75th precinct house on Liberty Avenue in Brooklyn. They allegedly were plotting to assassinate President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

## Nixon-Plot Figure 'Nice' to Neighbors

By EARL CALDWELL

Ahmed Rageh Namer, accused along with two sons of conspiring to assassinate President-elect Richard M. Nixon, was described by his neighbors yesterday as "a nice man" who appeared to have many friends.

"I was definitely surprised when I heard about this," Isador Flum said. "We never had any trouble with him."

Mr. Flum is the superintendent of a neat, cream-colored apartment house at 496 Hinsdale Street in the East New York section of

Brooklyn, where the Namers have lived for two years.

"They paid their rent on time and they got along with everybody," Mr. Flum continued. "They were very nice. They never had any complaints. But you know, I didn't know him so good. I never went into his house."

Most of those who admitted being acquainted with the Namers said that they did not know them well.

Ahmed Alazb, who lives in a second-floor apartment in the building, said he knew Mr. Namer as a countryman.

"We spoke all the time," Mr. Alazb said. "I knew him like somebody else being from Arabia. We were friends, but we did not go around together. He had a lot of friends. He had a lot of people coming in all of the time."

Mr. Alazb said that he generally spoke with Mr. Namer when he saw him going in and out of the building. And on occasion, he said, he would see him on Rockaway Avenue. "At the Arab busi-

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nesses over there," he added. "There are not too many of us here, and we stop there to talk sometimes."

Most of the shops on Rockaway Avenue were closed yesterday, and none of the friends that others attributed to Mr. Namer could be found.

"You know how that is," Mr. Alazb explained. "Nobody wants to admit that they know him now. Something like this gives us all a bad name."

Another resident of the building, Charles Flock, who lives in a fourth-floor apartment, was like most of the others expressing only shock at the arrests.

"I saw a lot of them," he said. "I didn't talk much with the young fellows, though. They had heavy accents. But I was surprised. Definitely surprised."

Mr. Namer and his sons, Abdo, 16, and Hussein, 20, occupied apartment C-6 at 496 Hinsdale Street, a three-room flat that rented for \$59 a month.

"It was just some place where you put your head down and go to work," a resident of the building said in describing the apartment.

Two of the three rooms were used as bedrooms. One contained two beds, and the other a bed and metal cot. In addition there was a small kitchen-dinette.

#### A Drab Apartment

The apartment was in disarray yesterday, apparently having just been searched by local and Federal authorities.

A number of bottles of pills were found scattered about the rooms. There were also some application forms for Civil Service employment. Three inexpensive lithographs hung on the walls. A large television set, a record player and some Arabic records and a broken tape recorder were also found.

Unlike the neat, freshly painted exterior of the building, the Namer apartment was drab, and had peeling linoleum on the floors.

The apartment that the Namers occupied is on Hinsdale Street between Livonia and Riverdale Avenues.

It is on the fringe of some of the worst slums in the East New York-Bronxville section of Brooklyn.

Less than three blocks away, there are scores of abandoned and boarded-up tenement houses. Many others have been burned out and are unoccupied.

In general, the homes in the

400 block of Hinsdale Street are better kept than the others. They are uniform three-story brick dwellings, most of them with freshly painted window trim.

The general area is occupied mainly by Negroes and Puerto Ricans, although one neighbor of the Namers said that "there are more Arabs around here than I've ever seen."

The apartment house where the Namers lived is something of an international house itself. The superintendent said that occupants included Negroes, Italians, French, Jamaicans, Panamanians, Columbians and Arabians.

Although Mr. Namer was said to have many friends, little could be found about his background yesterday.

It could not be learned immediately where he was employed, or what he did with his leisure time.

However, one resident of the building did say that "he lectured a lot." He could not recall the discussions Mr. Namer had participated in, or what positions he had defended.

The Namers were not known around the Pappas Bar at 801 Franklin Avenue, where a still unidentified caller was said to have notified the police of the alleged plot against the President-elect.

George Menedis, the owner of the bar, did remember the man the police had picked up and described him as being about 36 years old and thin. He said the man did not appear to be Arab.

Mr. Menedis said that the asserted informer had been a regular customer at his bar for about a month.