

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
)
 v.) No. 1:01cr455
)
)
 ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI)
 a/k/a "Shaqil,")
 a/k/a "Abu Khalid)
 al Sahrawi,")
)
 Defendant.)

ORDER

On April 27, 2005, defense counsel forwarded to the Court a handwritten document titled "Ineffective Assistance of Defence Counsel," which appears to be an attempt by defendant to file a pro se pleading requesting the dismissal of his counsel as ineffective. Although the represented defendant does not have permission to file pleadings independently, because of the nature of the allegations, the Court has reviewed the document, in which it finds no basis for defendant's claim of ineffective assistance. The difficulties faced by defense counsel have stemmed largely from defendant's unwillingness to cooperate with them. Furthermore, the concerns expressed by defendant may be partly mooted by Mr. Dunham's recent withdrawal from the case, which now requires expertise in issues regarding the penalty, not the guilt,

phase. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that defendant's document be filed for the record;
and it is further

ORDERED that the relief sought be and is DENIED.

The Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Order to
counsel of record and the Court Security Officer.

Entered this 3rd day of May, 2005.

_____/s/_____
Leonie M. Brinkema
United States District Judge

Alexandria, Virginia