

[Skip to comments.](#)

World Terrorism: News, History and Research Of A Changing World #7 Security Watch

[Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich](#) ^ | 23 February 2007 | Sam Logan for ISN Security Watch

Posted on **27 febbraio 2007 1:18:14 GMT+01:00** by [DAVEY CROCKETT](#)

No one to counter Chavez In a region where the leading ideology is Bolivarianism, there is not one leader positioned to offer a better idea for a brighter future.

Commentary by Sam Logan for ISN Security Watch (23/02/2007)

For over two decades, the prevailing ideology in Latin America was neo-liberalism, a Washington-born idea that claimed the power of open markets would lift the region's poor from misery. It did not, and corruption ran rampant.

While democracy still remains strong, resentful voters ushered in a new generation of neo-populist leaders touting a new idea: a form of socialism, called Bolivarianism, that has slowly but surely become the loudest and most prevalent ideology.

Bolivarianism is anti-capitalist, supports nationalization, regional trade with like-minded countries and above all, suggests that a country should rely on itself or fellow socialist states, not imperialist powers, as a source of the economic growth that will lift all from poverty. It is a sort of refurbished socialism that is not a guiding light for the future.

Latin America cannot readily absorb the economic shock of open markets, nor can it get bogged down in the trappings of old socialist ideas. A blended ideology must be promoted, but the problem is that no one is strong enough to counter Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the leader of Bolivarianism.

Chavez calls it Socialism for the 21st Century. Cuba's Fidel Castro passed him the torch. Leaders around the region pay homage to their own past as socialist upstarts through hugging and laughing with Chavez on the international stage while taking care of often pro-capitalist, neo-liberal business at home.

Brazilian President Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva is a perfect example. He has the leftist background and eye for fiscal conservatism to become a great ideological counterweight to Chavez. His politics represent an ideal blend for the region. But his politically weak position at home and strong voices from his own left deter any would be shouting match with Chavez.

Within a week after winning his second term in office, Lula visited Chavez for a photo opportunity on a bridge linking both countries. That was in November, and it looks like Lula's administration will remain bogged down until March as he struggles to get past his party's sordid past and form a working cabinet willing to share the same table.

Argentina of the past could have been a counter weight to the Bolivarian ideology. But since Nestor Kirchner has come to power, Argentina has become a Venezuelan puppet.

Chavez has literally bought the support of his southern neighbor with over US\$3 billion in purchases of Argentine debt. The most recent purchase occurred on 16 February, when Venezuela dumped another US\$750 million into Argentine government coffers.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe has the politics to promote an ideological battle with Chavez. Colombia has been a model of economic growth through a mixture of neo-liberal policies and social programs. But Uribe has serious problems.

Political allies are falling like dominos due to links with former paramilitary leaders. And if Uribe took the time to speak out for neo-liberalism and against Chavez, he would be dismissed as another of

Washington's puppets. Colombia is a top recipient of US aid.

The only other leader who could take up an ideological fight with Chavez is Mexican President Felipe Calderon. He has the right politics and his country has a history of not blindly supporting the US. Voting against the US invasion of Iraq at the UN is a clear indication. But Calderon won on the thinnest possible mandate. His opposition controls enough seats in the Mexican Congress to block any unwanted initiative, and his focus is on Mexican organized crime, not on verbal sword play with Chavez.

Finally, the US has launched a diplomatic offensive in the region. This is to be a year of engagement, but the US president is clearly obsessed with the war in Iraq, not with putting a muzzle on Venezuela's leader for the sake of the region's future. Washington is doubly discredited, first for promoting an ideology that clearly did not work, and second for doing nothing about it.

Latin America needs an independent leader willing to stand up to Chavez, but that leader does not exist on the region's geopolitical map. Bolivarianism will continue to seep into the minds and hearts of millions across Latin America. Chavez and his pool of allies will control the headlines until the next round of presidential elections tell the world how the region has embraced this new ideology.

As Chavez puts it, Socialism for the 21st Century is just getting started. If that is true, then he will continue to trumpet his ideology until Latin Americans learn, the hard way, that Bolivarianism did not carry them much farther from poverty than neo-liberalism. Disillusionment with reality may then spread faster than hope for the future.

Sam Logan is an investigative journalist who has reported on security, energy, politics, economics, organized crime, terrorism and black markets in Latin America since 1999. He is a senior writer for ISN Security Watch based in Brazil.

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author only, not the International Relations and Security Network (ISN).

TOPICS: [Crime/Corruption](#); [Extended News](#); [News/Current Events](#); [War on Terror](#)

KEYWORDS: [globaljihad](#); [kt](#); [research](#); [russia](#); [terrorist](#); [wot](#); [wt](#)

Navigation: use the links below to view more comments.

[first](#) [previous](#) [1-50](#) ... [2,451-2,500](#), [2,501-2,550](#), [2,551-2,600](#) ... [5,101-5,139](#) [next](#) [last](#)

To: **All**

US warns on corporate terror payments after Chiquita fine

http://rawstory.com/news/afp/US_warns_on_corporate_terror_paymen_03192007.html

US warns on corporate terror payments after Chiquita fine
Published: Monday March 19, 2007

US authorities warned companies Monday they can never deal with terrorists after fruit giant Chiquita agreed to a hefty fine for paying protection money to Colombian paramilitaries.

Chiquita Brands International admitted to the US government in 2003 that it had been paying the money for years to the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), a right-wing paramilitary group on the US list of

terrorists.

Under a settlement confirmed by the US Department of Justice Monday, the Cincinnati-based company agreed to pay a fine of 25 million dollars and to bolster its internal compliance and ethics program.

Chiquita pleaded guilty before Judge Royce Lamberth of the US District Court in Washington to one count of engaging in transactions with a designated global terrorist group.

Judicial officials paid credit to Chiquita's cooperation in their investigation but stressed the gravity of the offense.

"Funding a terrorist organization can never be treated as a cost of doing business," US Attorney Jeffrey Taylor said in a statement.

"American businesses must take note that payments to terrorists are of a whole different category. They are crimes," he said.

Chiquita, through its wholly owned Colombian subsidiary C.I. Bananos de Exportacion S.A. (Banadex), paid the AUC in exchange for protection in the banana-producing areas of Uraba and Santa Marta, Colombia.

In the past, the company had also made payments to leftist rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN), both also listed as terror groups, US prosecutors said.

Chiquita, which sold Banadex in 2004, said it had voluntarily disclosed that its subsidiary "had been forced to make payments to right- and left-wing paramilitary groups in Colombia to protect the lives of its employees."

"The payments made by the company were always motivated by our good-faith concern for the safety of our employees," Chiquita chief executive Fernando Aguirre said in a statement last week.

"Nevertheless, we recognized -- and acted upon -- our legal obligation to inform the DoJ of this admittedly difficult situation."

According to the US investigation, Chiquita made over 100 payments to the AUC amounting to more than 1.7 million dollars, masked in its corporate records as contributions for "security."

2,501 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:34:15 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

HAMAS 'Spokesman' Cited on War Preparation

Israel: HAMAS 'Spokesman' Cited on War Preparation, Says Shalit Case 'Unrelated'

Article by Amit Kohen: "The Green Army"

Originally published on 3/16/2007 by Ma'ariv (Shabat Supplement) in Hebrew

As soon as the sun sets over Gaza, that is when the shooting begins in long, rhythmical volleys. Then silence prevails, and again the shooting resumes. This happens every night and continues well into its wee hours. Even now, with a calm vis-à-vis Fatah and a cease-fire with Israel, the incessant firing persists. This is training, intended to prepare HAMAS's next fighters course. When the big clash comes, the Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, still considered "a military arm", wish to present before the opponent an army as orderly and in shipshape form as possible.

"We have the privilege of improving our capabilities; this is a religious precept and a national duty," Abu-Ubaydah, the media spokesman for HAMAS's military arm, tells Ma'ariv. "We can dispatch trainers for training and instruction courses overseas or try to improve our weapons. We have no intention of providing details on the matter because we are a military organization that maintains secrecy. We cannot discuss such matters. This is a red line."

Last year, HAMAS discovered that on the two occasions it confronted the IDF - during Operations Summer Rains and Autumn Clouds - neither it nor the rest of the organizations were able to make Israel pay the heavy bloody toll they had hoped for. The IDF's superiority, both on the technological plane as well as in war doctrine, was found to be categorically better. Consequently, HAMAS investigated the fighting against the IDF and began to draw conclusions. HAMAS's military leadership decided to organize and institutionalize the military commands according to a geographical division.

Over the past year, HAMAS has likewise established the "operational force," the police force subordinate to the Interior and National Security Ministry, which in effect serves as another militia affiliated with the organization. Involved are some 6,000 armed activists, organized in regional military frameworks.

Naturally, HAMAS also had the war in Lebanon and Hizballah's achievements in mind. "We drew lessons from previous battles we were engaged in opposite the Israeli Army as well as from what had taken place in Lebanon," admits Abu-Ubaydah, "but there is a great difference between southern Lebanon and Gaza. The nature of the military campaign here is very different: in terms of the topography, the use of camouflage from against the enemy, and the size of the territory on which the fighters move. In the final analysis, the Gaza Strip is a small territory, it is not mountainous, and it is exposed because the enemy has been operating advanced technology. Besides all that, Lebanon is an independent country, whereas we live in a besieged area. We hope one day to be able to attain their level."

In the event of a conflict, HAMAS's aspiration - possibly in contrast with Hizballah - is to drag the IDF into combat inside the refugee camps and the densely populated cities at the end of a preliminary halt and delay stage. HAMAS reached this conclusion in light of the fact that in previous operations, its men had tried to engage in direct contact with the IDF soldiers. Acknowledging that they had failed to harm the soldiers at a short range, they reverted to sniper and antitank fire and to deploying mortars and explosive charges against the soldiers.

"If a war breaks out, this will not be topographical combat like it was in Lebanon," assesses an Israeli source, "but rather a demographic struggle inside one of the world's most densely populated areas." HAMAS's men intend to operate from inside the crowded refugee camps, in the narrow alleys, and from tunnels and bunkers. They know very well that Israel will exercise caution before it uses its power so as to avoid causing heavy damage among the civilian population. Yes, the video and stills cameras will serve as a weapon in the hands of HAMAS.

In anticipation of a possible confrontation, HAMAS has set up a "defense alignment" around the cities, based on a network of bunkers and tunnels located in very close proximity to the populated territory. Among others, HAMAS has dug tunnels to enable activist movement inside the Gaza Strip. These tunnels connect houses and other structures and enable the activists to shoot at the forces, quickly withdraw into a house, and slip away to another area via the tunnel. This step is intended to help contend with the Air Force's helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and to curtail activist movement above the ground as much as possible.

In parallel, underground weapon depots and bunkers have similarly been dug. These tunnels were

constructed inside populated areas to prevent the IDF from attacking them from the air. The defense establishment knows that HAMAS has also built a number of tunnels that lead to Israel. These can serve as booby traps or as "pipelines" for terrorist penetration into Israel.

In Honor of HAMAS's Chief of Staff

The turning point in HAMAS's approach was reached after Israel decided to carry out the disengagement plan. Once HAMAS realized that Israel was planning to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, the organization's leadership decided it was time to institutionalize the Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions - which had thus far constituted an underground terrorist arm - and turn them into a military body. For that purpose, it established the Martyr Salah Shihadah Military Academy in commemoration of HAMAS's "chief of staff", who was liquidated by the Israel in 2002. Abu-Ibrahim, a senior member of the military arm, was appointed as head of the academy.

The training bases of HAMAS's academy were dispersed all over the Gaza Strip, mainly on the remains of the Israeli settlements. Every training camp got its own code name. Thus, for instance, Bisan 1 and Bisan 2, located in the Qatif Bloc area, not far from Khan Yunus. Other bases were established on the ruins of Nezzarim and Rafiah-Yam, and this is where HAMAS's new recruits undergo infantry and antitank training, as well as on explosives, firing rockets, and even intelligence gathering and analysis. Every graduate receives an enlisted person's card with his rank, service number, and date of mobilization.

The HAMAS trainer infrastructure is based on organization activists who had undergone military training abroad and come back to Gaza to implant the know-how among their comrades. The defense establishment believes that between dozens and hundreds of activists have already passed training overseas. In some cases, these are intensive courses that last several months or longer. The Palestinian intelligence has comparable data. "We have information about 500 HAMAS activists who have passed military training in Syria and Iran and have come back to the Gaza Strip," reports a senior Palestinian officer.

"Their training is actually directed against us," assesses the Palestinian officer. "They drill raids on command headquarters and the takeover of buildings. Do you think they are going to conquer IDF bases in the western Negev? Their goal is the command headquarters of the national security apparatus and other bodies. HAMAS plants explosives and digs booby-trapped tunnels, but not everything is intended against the IDF. Some of these tunnels lead toward our command headquarters or other Fatah targets."

Simultaneously with improvements in the war doctrines, HAMAS has been investing great efforts toward upgrading the weapons at its disposal. Here, too, the trainers returning from abroad play a key role. "We have classified the introduction of this know-how as the greatest risk, more than any type of weapon that may be smuggled into Gaza," claims an Israeli security source. "Upgrading capabilities is a critical matter." This fear has increased particularly in light of the fact that the Iranians have been assisting HAMAS in building its power.

That improvement can be seen in the field. If, until three or four years ago, HAMAS converted old, used solar-boiler tanks to produce large anti-vehicle bombs, now they have been demonstrating a totally different level. "The Shawwaz, for example, is a roadside bomb with an especially high penetration capability, based on Iranian technology. These bombs, four of which had been activated against IDF units in the course of its latest operation in the Gaza Strip, are manufactured in lathe shops according to precise measurements and clear specifications.

HAMAS has also long been engaged in developing its Qassam rockets and improving them. It claimed that the rockets would become a strategic weapon in lieu of the suicide attacks, and the war in Lebanon helped elucidate the importance of the issue for HAMAS. "The last rocket we launched reached a distance of 12 km," says Abu-Ubaydah, "but the Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's 'production unit' has promised us that the rockets' range can reach even beyond. Our rockets have demonstrated a marked improvement."

The upgrade can be felt not only in the range but also in the extent of the damage they cause. A Qassam rocket carries between 5 and 7 kg of explosives. Over the past few months, HAMAS "engineers" have

worked on enlarging the rocket's warhead, with the aim of manufacturing rockets that could carry more than 20 kg of explosives. At the same time, the rockets' "shelf life" has also been extended, mainly by upgrading the explosives that thrust the rocket forward. The implication is that HAMAS is capable of stockpiling rockets for a longer period of time to increase the number of volleys.

Thirty Metric Tons of Explosives

As became evident in 2006, HAMAS' rocket launching capability exceeds that of all the other terrorist organizations put together. In the course of that year, an average of 50 rockets were fired every month, but on those occasions when HAMAS joined in and also launched rockets, as during the IDF operations, the number of launchings rose substantially. Thus, for example, during Operation Summer Rains, 191 rockets were launched, while 157 were fired during Operation Autumn Clouds.

Over the past year, HAMAS has stepped up the arms smuggling into the Gaza Strip, simultaneously increasing both their quantity and quality. "We know they want to procure improved rocket-propelled grenades like the ones possessed by Hizballah, as well as LAW missiles," says the Palestinian officer. "The Bedouins smuggle them into the Sinai through the Red Sea, and from there it is introduced through the tunnels in Rafah."

According to Israeli intelligence data, last year, some 30 metric tons of standard explosives have been introduced into the Gaza Strip - six times more than in 2005. As part of another lesson HAMAS has learned from the war in Lebanon, it has also been trying to upgrade its antitank and rocket launching capabilities: It purchased advanced Concours antitank missiles as well as 122-mm Grad rockets, with a maximum range of 20 km. All the same, these quantities are still nowhere near the caches accumulated by Hizballah.

This frightening statistics notwithstanding, Abu-Ubaydah attempts to keep things in proportion. "It would be a mistake to claim that the two parties are preparing for war," he says in a kind of candiness. "Such a statement would intimate that we are talking about two armies, but this would be a misinterpretation. We are still not an army. Our readiness is higher than before, but the means at our disposal are limited. We have proved in the past that we can stop the enemy and block its path, but we are not saying we can halt it altogether. At any rate, we will not stand there with our hands tied behind our backs. The path of resistance is the path chosen by the Palestinian people."

Finally, Abu-Ubaydah explains that even if Israel invades the Gaza Strip, this will not affect the fate of Gil'ad Shalit. "I believe the Gil'ad Shalit case is unrelated to all other matters," he expresses his opinion. "We are not linking the issue of the captive soldier with other questions, such as an Israeli invasion or the unity government. These are totally separate subjects."

: Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew -- Independent, second largest circulation Hebrew-language paper

2,502 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:35:56 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Taliban Statement on Release of Italian Journo for Two Mujahidin

Taliban Announces Release of Italian Journalist in Exchange for Two Mujahidin

Originally published on 3/19/2007 by Jihadist Websites -- OSC Summary in Arabic

Terrorism: Taliban Announces Release of Italian Journalist in Exchange for Two Mujahidin

On 19 March, a jihadist website posted a statement issued by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan-Taliban in which the group announced that with the help of a third party in Helmand, it released an Italian

journalist named Daniel along with his interpreter in exchange for two mujahidin who had been detained for two years on 18 March 2007. The statement was attributed to the "official spokesmen" of the Islamic Emirate-Taliban.

A translation of the statement follows:

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

"Release of Italian Journalist in Exchange for Two Mujahidin

"18 March 2007

"Al-Hafidh Muhammad Yusuf: Around noon today, the mujahidin of the Islamic Emirate released the Italian journalist (Daniel) along with his personal interpreter whom the mujahidin had imprisoned since approximately two weeks ago. This was done in exchange for the mujahid Ustadh Muhammad Yasir and the mujahid Mufti Latifallah (Hakimi). They had been prisoners in the Pul-e-Charkhi Prison for two years. It is worthy mentioning that the exchange took place through a third party in the province of Helmand.

"And when they are told, 'Do not spread corruption on earth,' they answer, 'We are but improving things!'" [Koranic verse; Al-Baqarah 2:11]

"Oh, verily, it is they, they who are spreading corruption but they perceive it not?" [Koranic verse; 2:12]

"Official Spokesmen of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan-Taliban

"Qari Muhammad Yusuf (Ahmadi), for the southwestern and northwestern areas of the country
"Dhabihallah (mujahid), for the southeastern and northeastern areas of the country "God is great and glory be to God, to His prophet, and to the faithful.

"The Media Front for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan-Taliban

"Source: Sawt al-Jihad webpage, 18 March 2007

"Official Site of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan-Taliban"

2,503 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:37:57 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?
Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; milford421**

Schools allowed to ban face veils

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/6466221.stm

girl wearing niqab

Teachers need to be able to see pupils' faces, the DfES says

Schools will be able to ban pupils from wearing full-face veils on security, safety or learning grounds under new uniforms guidance set to be issued.

In February, a 12-year-old girl failed in her High Court attempt to overturn her Buckinghamshire school's niqab ban.

Ministers promised revised guidance for England taking that into consideration.

It says efforts should be made to accommodate religious clothing but stresses the importance of teachers and pupils being able to make eye contact.

We feel very strongly that this was a matter of principle that there shouldn't be barriers to communication between students and teachers

Head teacher

Veil court case school

Why Muslims wear the veil

The issue of religious dress has become an increasingly complicated one for schools in recent years, with a handful of high profile cases going to court.

But it is the victory by the Buckinghamshire school, which cannot be named for legal reasons, that has prompted the updated guidance.

The school argued the veil made communication between teachers and pupils difficult and thus hampered learning.

Teachers needed to be able to tell if a pupil was enthusiastic, paying attention or even distressed but full-face veils prevented this, it said.

This position was upheld by the High Court - which refused to grant a judicial review - and is expected to form a key part of the guidance.

Guidance welcomed

Schools need to be able to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and to identify intruders, it is expected to say.

Find out about different styles of Muslim headscarf

In graphics

"If a pupil's face is obscured for any reason the teacher may not be able to judge their engagement with learning or secure their participation in discussions and practical activities," it adds.

The head teacher of the Buckinghamshire school, who also cannot be named, said it would be very useful to have some clear guidance from the DfES.

"It's not right that schools should have to be arguing this out case by case," she told the BBC News website.

"Obviously there's a trade-off between schools retaining autonomy over school uniform decisions, on the other hand we will have some very clear guidance from the DfES within which to work."

'Equality'

She said she did not regret the school's decision to fight the case.

"We feel very strongly that this was a matter of principle, that there shouldn't be barriers to communication between students and teachers.

"We also feel the young people in our school should be educated on an equal basis and be prepared for their role as adults in a modern society in which we expect there to be equality between men and women."

The Muslim Council of Britain has not yet responded to the guidance, but in a 72-page document released in February the organisation stopped short of endorsing niqabs for girls.

It did, however, urge schools to take into account Muslim pupils' needs to dress modestly and avoid

tight-fitting or transparent garments.

Massoud Shadjareh, chairman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, said successive ministers had failed to give proper guidance about schools' obligations regarding religious dress.

"To now proceed to issue guidance against Muslim communities is simply shocking," he said.

Financial hardship

Ayshah Ishmail, a teacher at a Muslim girls' school in Preston who wears the niqab away from the classroom, told the BBC that wearing the veil promotes equality.

She said: "You're judged for who you are and not what you are, so I think there are two arguments to the whole equality issue."

There were misconceptions that women who wore the veil were being oppressed, she added.

The DfES guidance also instructs schools to be sensitive to the cost implications of their choice of uniform which should be available at high street shops.

A recent letter to all schools from the Office of Fair Trading says they can be prosecuted for engaging in exclusive agreements with specific retailers.

The guidance also reiterates schools' right to discipline pupils for not wearing the proper uniform.

But they should carefully investigate the reasons behind this and be sensitive in cases of financial hardship.

2,504 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:40:55 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Turkish Police Raids Net 39 Al-Qaeda Members; Police Find Al-Qaeda Pledge in Turkish School

<http://www.thememriblog.org/image/474.jpg>

The Turkish daily Hurriyet reports that a police raid in several locations against Turkish Al-Qaeda netted 39 Al-Qaeda members.

The operation also turned up report cards from a school in Konya attended by the children of Al-Qaeda members that include a pledge "to Koran, to jihad, and to martyrdom."

One side of the report cards contained the student's name and grade along with some Koranic verses, but the other side contained a pledge to the Koran, to jihad, and martyrdom. Some writing on the report cards is in Arabic instead of Turkish.

Also found was an amended, radical Islamist version of Turkey's national

pledge, the original of which is recited daily in all Turkish schools.
 This amended version, which was found to be recited every day by the Al-Qaeda children aged four to nine, reads:

I pledge that I am a Muslim, hardworking, patient and determined.

My rules are to learn and understand the Koran, to live the Koran, to teach and spread the Koran, to obey its commandments, and to love the creation [of Allah].

As a Muslim, I dedicate my existence to my cause, to humanity, and to the way of Allah.

Oh Allah, we pray to live like shahids [martyrs] and to become shahids.

Also found in Konya was a site used as a madrassa where children over nine studied Koran and adults were taught about jihad and martyrdom.

Source: Hurriyet, March 16, 2007

2,505 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:43:49 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
 [[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

The invisible man

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article1511700.ece>

Five years ago the Americans had the world's most wanted man in their sights but failed to pull the trigger. Since then the trail has gone stone-cold, despite history's biggest manhunt and a \$25m reward. So where is Osama Bin Laden? And just how hard is the US trying to find him?

"You're a great guy but you ain't that clean," says the American, spraying his hands with sanitiser after slipping some dollars into the palm of one of his local informants.

The American is dressed in long baggy shalwar kameez and sports a beard. But he will never be taken for a local, here in the frontier town of Peshawar. We have met before, two years ago in the bar of the Mustafa hotel in

Kabul,
where such characters hung out amid its marbled walls and mirrored
ceilings,
pulling out knives and guns to see whose weapon was the largest.

His name is "Dave" and he works in "private security", and maybe it is
and
maybe he does. But what he is really is a bounty hunter in search of
the
\$25m payday: Osama Bin Laden.

On one thigh is strapped a Glock pistol and out of his pocket he pulls
a
packet of Cipro, a powerful antibiotic used by the military, which he
swallows between visits to the bathroom. "Occupational hazard," he
grimaces.

Over time most of his fellow bounty hunters have given up, despite the
high
prize. But "Dave" has ended up here in Green's hotel, where last night
in
bed a cockroach crawled across his face and the windows look out onto
the
jagged mountains of the Khyber Pass. "This is the place," he says. "Not
Afghan-land."

continued.....

2,506 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:49:23 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?
Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; milford421**

Radical cleric to speak here

http://www.news.com.au/sundayheraldsun/story/0,,21399450-663,00.html?from=public_rss#

http://www.news.com.au/sundayheraldsun/story/0,,21399450-663,00.html?from=public_rss

A RADICAL Muslim cleric linked to the World Trade Centre bombing is
coming
to Melbourne as a key speaker at a major Islamic conference.

Sheik Bilal Philips is listed by the US Government alongside Osama bin
Laden
as an accused conspirator in the 1993 Twin Towers car bombing which
killed
six and injured more than 1000.

Australian authorities are now considering the sheik's application to
enter
Australia next month.

But investigations have revealed the sheik:

ADVOCATES marriage to pre-pubescent girls.

IS a former "foot soldier" of the militant group the Black Panthers.

STUDIED urban military tactics while a Communist and considered going to China to learn guerilla warfare.

Controversial British convert Yvonne Ridley is also billed to speak at the event which will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre over the Easter long weekend.

Ms Ridley has called suicide bombings "martyrdom operations" and described hook-handed firebrand Abu Hamza al-Masri, who was jailed for inciting terror, as "quite sweet really".

The conference has been promoted by Muslim group Mercy Mission as a positive invitation to Australia's Muslims and non-Muslims.

But the inclusion of Sheik Philips has members of the local Islamic community concerned.

Muslim leader Yasser Soliman said the sheik's views on young girls were distasteful, unfortunate and not a true reflection of Islam.

Mr Soliman, who was also invited to speak at the conference, said he did not want to be associated with extremism, but might still attend the event to provide a contrary view.

Sheik Philips recently said on a British documentary that because the prophet Mohammed married a nine-year-old girl, it was permissible.

"The prophet Mohammed practically outlined the rules regarding marriage prior to puberty," he said.

To marry under Australian law a person must be at least 18, or 16 if they have a magistrate's permission.

Sheik Philips later said he was not advocating breaking state laws on marriage.

The 1st Annual Australian Islamic Conference is expected to attract hundreds of Muslims from Australia and overseas.

2,507 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:52:08 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Former Taliban Ambassador Interviewed on Peace Talks, Experience in Guantanamo

Interview with Afghan Mullah Haji Abdul Salam Zaif, "the last Taliban ambassador to Pakistan," by Fausto Biloslavo in Kabul on 16 March: "We Taliban Agree With D'Alema's Proposal"

Originally published on 3/17/2007 by Il Giornale in Italian

Kabul -- He was sporting a black turban, his beard was the same color, and his tunic was white. Mullah Haji Abdul Salam Zaif was the Taliban's last ambassador to Pakistan in 2001. [historical passage omitted] In this interview with Il Giornale, he discussed [Rome daily] La Repubblica correspondent Daniele Mastrogiacomo's abduction, and he voiced the hope that the Taliban, too, will be invited to the international conference on Afghanistan that our government is promoting. [passage omitted in which Zaif discusses journalist's abduction]

[Biloslavo] In your view, can an exchange of prisoners resolve the dramatic situation?

[Zaif] Everything is possible, but apart from the Afghan Government, also the United States must agree. Perhaps the solution is an exchange between the journalist and the Taliban spokesmen captured in Pakistan and sold to the United States (they are in jail in Kabul today -- Il Giornale editor's note).

[Biloslavo] Should the international community's troops, with the Italians heading the list, stay on in Afghanistan or should they leave?

[Zaif] Those foreigners who do not respect our country or our people, and who do not allow us to freely make decisions, must leave. Otherwise they can stay, but first the Afghans must elect a good government and set a deadline on the foreign soldiers' presence.

[Biloslavo] Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema wants to call an international conference on Afghanistan open to all. Do you think that such a thing is useful?

[Zaif] It is a good idea, because the foreigners in Afghanistan today are taking the part of only one side, which is bent on defeating the other side. Peace forces should be neutral, not only in Afghanistan but everywhere. If the Italian Government wants to organize a conference, inviting all the parties involved in order to find a solution, it will be successful, but the Taliban, who are part of this country, must be included too. It would be a mistake to ignore them.

[Biloslavo] By that, do you mean also representatives of the Taliban who are fighting in south Afghanistan, armed to the teeth?

[Zaif] I am not with them, but if the international community were to guarantee that they will not be arrested, transferred to Guantanamo, or killed, I think that they would accept.

[Biloslavo] Do you still like Mullah Omar?

[Zaif] I have not changed my mind and I have never killed anyone. That was my rule under the emirate (the Taliban state in Afghanistan -- Il Giornale editor's note).

[Biloslavo] Is a compromise possible between the Karzai government and the Taliban, in such a way as to put an end to the clash?

[Zaif] The problem is not sharing out government posts. At this juncture the Taliban are fighting throughout the country, because they have lost power and they want to win it back. Right now the Taliban reject negotiations with the government, and the United States does not want to negotiate with them.

[Biloslavo] You have written a book on your time in jail in Guantanamo. Is it true that many youngsters in the south joined the Taliban after reading it?

[Zaif] I did not write it to swell their tanks, but to denounce the lack of respect for human rights on the

United States' part, and to press for better treatment of the prisoners. I was forced to eat, to pray, and to sleep in the toilets. When they wanted to punish me, they showed disrespect for the holy book (the Qu'ran -- Il Giornale editor's note) by kicking it, by writing foul language on it, or by throwing it down the toilet.

[Biloslavo] There is heavy fighting in Helmand province. Could the clashes spread also to neighboring provinces such as Farah, which is under Italian control?

[Zaif] When a fire starts in one place, if there is enough wood, then it can spread elsewhere as well.

: Milan Il Giornale in Italian -- right-of-center daily owned by the Berlusconi family

2,508 posted on **20 marzo 2007 16:55:18 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

National Socialism and Anti-Semitism in the Arab World

<http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/national-socialism-and-anti-semitism-in-the-arab-world?print=y>

Jewish Political Studies Review, Spring 2005

National Socialism and Anti-Semitism in the Arab World

By Matthias Küntzel

Anti-Semitism based on the notion of a Jewish world conspiracy is not rooted in Islamic tradition but, rather, in European ideological models. The decisive transfer of this ideology to the Muslim world took place between 1937 and 1945 under the impact of Nazi propaganda. Important to this process were the Arabic-language service broadcast by the German shortwave transmitter in Zeesen between 1939 and 1945, and the role of Haj Amin el-Husseini, the Mufti of Jerusalem, who was the first to translate European anti-Semitism into an Islamic context. Although Islamism is an independent, anti-Semitic, antimodern mass movement, its main early promoters – the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the Mufti and the Qassamites in Palestine – were supported financially and ideologically by agencies of the German National Socialist government.

continued.....

This is a good history, lots of new details.....

2,509 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:01:37 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
 [[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; FARS**

Iranian Guard's mission evolves

March 19, 2007

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

<http://insider.washingtontimes.com/articles/normal.php?StoryID=20070319-124826-4695r>

Iran's Revolutionary Guard has been restructuring its military capabilities and taking an increasingly prominent role in the nation's political life as the United States builds political and military pressure on the Islamic republic.

A number of former commanders have assumed political positions or become involved in shaping foreign policy, even as the military force -- known formally as the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) -- prepares itself for "asymmetrical warfare" and the possibility of internal unrest. The involvement in national politics has been evidenced by a series of recent statements more appropriate to diplomats than to soldiers. On Feb. 21, the overall commander of the IRGC declared that the United States was not able to make any security changes in the Middle East without the cooperation of Iran, according to IRNA, the state news agency. Gen. Yahya Safavi was echoed by Ali Said, supreme leader Ali Khamenei's personal representative to the IRGC. He said on Jan. 31 that "if America abandons its self-centeredness, and village headman position, Iran ... could fulfill its role in the region and help resolve regional issues."

continued.....

2,510 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:04:15 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
 [[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Muslims Forcing Christian Assyrians in Baghdad Neighborhood to Pay 'Protection Tax'

<http://www.aina.org/news/20070318132901.htm>

Muslims Forcing Christian Assyrians in Baghdad Neighborhood to Pay 'Protection Tax'

Posted GMT 3-18-2007 18:29:1

Baghdad (AINA) -- Muslims in the Dora neighborhood of Iraq are forcing Assyrians (also known as Chaldeans and Syriacs) to pay the jizya, the poll tax demanded by the Koran which all Christians and Jews must pay in exchange for being allowed to live and practice their faith as well as being entitled to 'Muslim protection' from outside aggression.

At least two cases have been reported to a government employee -- who wishes to remain anonymous -- in which the Christian Assyrian wives were instructed to go to a certain mosque and pay, which they did out of fear. The stated reason for the payment was "we do the fighting and you pay to support."

The jizya has been collected since the arrival of Islam in 630 A.D. The last systematic collection was by the Ottomans (Turks), which came to an end only in 1918, when the Ottoman empire was defeated and partitioned in World War One.

2,511 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:06:25 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; Founding Father; FARS; milford421**

Pak Article: Iran 'Just An Excuse', Islamabad US' 'Real Target'

Pakistani Article: Iran 'Just An Excuse', Islamabad US' 'Real Target'

Article by Arif Bahar: "Pakistan Real Target; Iran Just Excuse"

Originally published on 3/15/2007 by Jasarat in Urdu

Despite sacrificing all of its strategic interests for the US injunctions one after the other, and making passages into its own fortresses and making holes in its own wall, Pakistan still stands at the pedestal of the US disfavor. The situation cannot be compared even with the countries targeted by the US in the recent past. No comparison with Afghanistan six years ago, or Iraq four years ago, or today's Iran can be made with Pakistan. However, the Americans do have an answer. The high-ranking US officials, members of law-making institutions, and media are hanging Pakistan in such a frame in which they hung the UK two centuries ago.

The New York Times has published a statement of a high-ranking US official, "The United States has not faced such an awful situation after 1814, when Britain burnt Washington to ashes." The US official repeated another sentence, "Pakistan is the most dangerous country for the United States. Iran is at number two." The same reporter quotes the words of the US official, "US Vice President Dick Cheney had gone [to Pakistan] with a tough message for General Pervez Musharraf that nothing concrete had been taking place despite assurance by Gen Musharraf. Now the United States wants action and result in place of assurances."

The same report of The New York Times quotes the US intelligence as saying, "Terrorist infrastructure has again been established in Pakistan. During this period, Pakistan attacked some camps and that is Pakistan's only performance." The same report of The New York Times breaks news about cutting aid for Pakistan as punishment for showing laxity in launching operations against Al-Qa'ida. Seymour Hersh is an informed American journalist. His news reports are not only exclusive but it can be said that whatever the US establishment wants to say appears before the world in the form of Seymour Hersh's news reports.

Seymour Hersh writes in the recent issue of The New Yorker, "Pakistan is emerging as the most dangerous ally for the US." Seymour Hersh terms Pakistan as the most dangerous ally. According to Seymour Hersh, the US is not only preparing for the Spring Offensive but has already launched it. The target in this operation will be Taliban as well as Pakistan's Tribal Areas. Highly trained commandoes of the special task force 121 have been shifted to South Asia. A final operation can be launched in the Pakistani territory to arrest Usama bin Laden. However, Pakistan is still refusing to give permission to the US to enter its territory to launch operations.

At the same time another important newspaper of the US, The Washington Times, has warned President Bush, "Don't trust Pakistan regarding Usama bin Laden's issue. The editorial of The Washington Times writes, "It will be foolishness if the US accepts Pakistan's offer of arresting Usama bin Laden in exchange for overlooking nuclear program." The paper says, "There is no truth in Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's claim that Pakistani authorities were not aware of his activities of selling nuclear technology."

A US newspaper has published these remarks of a high-ranking US official, "India is playing an important role in Afghanistan via Iran. However, Pakistan is irritated by the Indian role instead of Taliban."

It is being said that the US gives an annual grant of \$850 million to Pakistan and the grant can be slashed by \$350 million for Islamabad's failure to act against the Taliban and Al-Qa'ida. This was a briefing of the analysis, comments and reviews in the US media published in recent days continuously. It denotes the enraged attitude, designs, intentions, and plans of the US establishment. The US media is acting as a mouthpiece for the worldwide plans of their administration. It is showing as much freedom as it considers necessary for the American people. Before undertaking an adventure, the US establishment paves way by creating an environment and raising the temperature through startling reports by its media.

The direction of the US guns is toward Tehran but the attitude of the US media shows that Iran is just an excuse, the real target is Pakistan. If Iran reaches some understanding with the US on its nuclear issue, there will be harmony in the interests of Iran and the US in moves to reshape the Middle East. It is because Iran is still far away from producing atom bomb and according to US reports, it can take Iran four years to achieve this goal. However, Pakistan has failed to fulfil US expectations from the Kashmir issue to Afghanistan, and from Al-Qa'ida to nuclear program, despite obeying it [the US] fully.

Pakistan failed to get emancipation despite handing over all of its cards in Afghanistan to the US. Rather it was given the target of eliminating the Taliban and Al-Qa'ida. The target was not achieved yet when pressure was mounted on Pakistan to seek conciliation on Kashmir at Indian conditions and accept India as its patron. When Pakistan became willing under Islamabad and Havana declarations, the eyes of the Americans were focused on Kahuta. Pakistan's nuclear program became the topic of discussion. If Pakistan agrees on any sort of deal on Kahuta, the downsizing of army will be the next target.

Then demand will be made of Pakistan to end its influence in the region, give up its philosophy of strategic depth and to become as obedient as Nepal and Bhutan. However, it does not appear that the story will end there. Pakistan's geographical integrity and unity can be the next target because South Asia cannot ward off the effects of the reshaping the map of the Middle East.

The Americans have reached the conclusion that Pakistan is more interested in the life of Usama bin Laden than his death or arrest in a bid to divert attention from Kahuta. The Americans have found easy solution to cross over the Torkham gate, enter into Pakistan in the name of hunting or pursuing Usama Bin Laden. They would reach Kahuta as stray travelers. It is perhaps the definite target of the United States. The Americans believes that if they make delay in reaching Kahuta, Usama Bin Laden will take the lead in reaching there. That is why, the Americans are exploring avenues, and finding excuses to reach Kahuta before Usama Bin Laden on a first-come-first-served basis.

: Karachi Jasarat in Urdu -- Urdu daily owned by Islamic party Jamaat-e Islami; circulation 15,000.

2,512 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:08:31 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

The Politics of Naming: Genocide, Civil War, Insurgency
 Mahmood Mamdani, London Review of Books
 March 8, 2007

<http://www.uruknet.de/?p=m31240&hd=&size=1&l=e>

<http://www.uruknet.de/?p=m31240&hd=&size=1&l=e>

The similarities between Iraq and Darfur are remarkable. The estimate of the number of civilians killed over the past three years is roughly similar. The killers are mostly paramilitaries, closely linked to the official military, which is said to be their main source of arms. The victims too are by and large identified as members of groups, rather than targeted as individuals. But the violence in the two places is named differently. In Iraq, it is said to be a cycle of insurgency and counter-insurgency; in Darfur, it is called genocide. Why the difference? Who does the naming? Who is being named? What difference does it make?

The most powerful mobilisation in New York City is in relation to Darfur, not Iraq. One would expect the reverse, for no other reason than that most New Yorkers are American citizens and so should feel directly responsible for the violence in occupied Iraq. But Iraq is a messy place in the American imagination, a place with messy politics. Americans worry about what their government should do in Iraq. Should it withdraw? What would happen if it did? In contrast, there is nothing messy about Darfur. It is a place without history and without

politics; simply a site where perpetrators clearly identifiable as 'Arabs' confront victims clearly identifiable as 'Africans'.

A full-page advertisement has appeared several times a week in the New York Times calling for intervention in Darfur now. It wants the intervening forces to be placed under 'a chain of command allowing necessary and timely military action without approval from distant political or civilian personnel'. That intervention in Darfur should not be subject to 'political or civilian' considerations and that the intervening forces should have the right to shoot - to kill - without permission from distant places: these are said to be 'humanitarian' demands. In the same vein, a New Republic editorial on Darfur has called for 'force as a first-resort response'. What makes the situation even more puzzling is that some of those who are calling for an end to intervention in Iraq are demanding an intervention in Darfur; as the slogan goes, 'Out of Iraq and into Darfur.'

What would happen if we thought of Darfur as we do of Iraq, as a place with a history and politics - a messy politics of insurgency and counter-insurgency? Why should an intervention in Darfur not turn out to be a trigger that escalates rather than reduces the level of violence as intervention in Iraq has done? Why might it not create the actual possibility of genocide, not just rhetorically but in reality? Morally, there is no doubt about the horrific nature of the violence against civilians in Darfur. The ambiguity lies in the politics of the violence, whose sources include both a state-connected counter-insurgency and an organised insurgency, very much like the violence in Iraq.

The insurgency and counter-insurgency in Darfur began in 2003. Both were driven by an intermeshing of domestic tensions in the context of a peace-averse international environment defined by the War on Terror. On the one hand, there was a struggle for power within the political class in Sudan, with more marginal interests in the west (following those in the south and in the east) calling for reform at the centre. On the other, there was a community-level split inside Darfur, between nomads and settled farmers, who had earlier forged a way of sharing the use of semi-arid land in the dry season. With the drought that set in towards the late 1970s, co-operation turned into an intense struggle over diminishing resources.

As the insurgency took root among the prospering peasant tribes of Darfur, the government trained and armed the poorer nomads and formed a militia - the Janjawiid - that became the vanguard of the unfolding counter-insurgency. The worst violence came from the Janjawiid, but the insurgent movements were also accused of gross violations. Anyone wanting to end the spiralling violence would have to bring about power-sharing at the state level and resource-sharing at the community level, land being the key resource.

Since its onset, two official verdicts have been delivered on the violence, the first from the US, the second from the UN. The American verdict was unambiguous: Darfur was the site of an ongoing genocide. The chain of events leading to Washington's proclamation began with 'a genocide alert' from the Management Committee of the Washington Holocaust Memorial Museum; according to the Jerusalem Post, the alert was 'the first ever of its kind, issued by the US Holocaust Museum'. The House of Representatives followed unanimously on 24 June 2004. The last to join the chorus was Colin Powell.

The UN Commission on Darfur was created in the aftermath of the American verdict and in response to American pressure. It was more ambiguous. In September 2004, the Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, then the chair of the African Union, visited UN headquarters in New York. Darfur had been the focal point of discussion in the African Union. All concerned were alert to the extreme political sensitivity of the issue. At a press conference at the UN on 23 September Obasanjo was asked to pronounce on the violence in Darfur: was it genocide or not? His response was very clear:

Before you can say that this is genocide or ethnic cleansing, we will have to have a definite decision and plan and programme of a government to wipe out a particular group of people, then we will be talking about genocide, ethnic cleansing. What we know is not that. What we know is that there was an uprising, rebellion, and the government armed another group of people to stop that rebellion. That's what we know. That does not amount to genocide from our own reckoning. It amounts to of course conflict. It amounts to violence.

By October, the Security Council had established a five-person commission of inquiry on Darfur and asked it to report within three months on 'violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur by all parties', and specifically to determine 'whether or not acts of genocide have occurred'. Among the members of the commission was the chief prosecutor of South Africa's TRC, Dumisa Ntsebeza. In its report, submitted on 25 January 2005, the commission concluded that 'the Government of the Sudan has not pursued a policy of genocide . . . directly or through the militias under its control.' But the commission did find that the government's violence was 'deliberately and indiscriminately directed against civilians'. Indeed, 'even where rebels may have been present in villages, the impact of attacks on civilians shows that the use of military force was manifestly disproportionate to any threat posed by the rebels.' These acts, the commission concluded, 'were conducted on a widespread and systematic basis, and therefore may amount to crimes against humanity' (my emphasis). Yet, the commission insisted, they did not amount to acts of genocide: 'The crucial element of genocidal intent appears to be missing . . . it would seem that those who planned and organised attacks on villages pursued the intent to drive the victims from their homes, primarily for purposes of counter-insurgency warfare.'

At the same time, the commission assigned secondary responsibility to rebel forces - namely, members of the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement - which it held 'responsible for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law which may amount to war crimes' (my emphasis). If the government stood accused of 'crimes against humanity', rebel movements were accused of 'war crimes'. Finally, the commission identified individual perpetrators and presented the UN secretary-general with a sealed list that included 'officials of the government of Sudan, members of militia forces, members of rebel groups and certain foreign army officers acting in their personal capacity'. The list named 51 individuals.

The commission's findings highlighted three violations of international law: disproportionate response, conducted on a

widespread and systematic basis, targeting entire groups (as opposed to identifiable individuals) but without the intention to eliminate them as groups. It is for this last reason that the commission ruled out the finding of genocide. Its less grave findings of 'crimes against humanity' and 'war crimes' are not unique to Darfur, but fit several other situations of extreme violence: in particular, the US occupation of Iraq, the Hema-Lendu violence in eastern Congo and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Among those in the counter-insurgency accused of war crimes were the 'foreign army officers acting in their personal capacity', i.e. mercenaries, presumably recruited from armed forces outside Sudan. The involvement of mercenaries in perpetrating gross violence also fits the occupation in Iraq, where some of them go by the name of 'contractors'.

The journalist in the US most closely identified with consciousness-raising on Darfur is the New York Times op-ed columnist Nicholas Kristof, often identified as a lone crusader on the issue. To peruse Kristof's Darfur columns over the past three years is to see the reduction of a complex political context to a morality tale unfolding in a world populated by villains and victims who never trade places and so can always and easily be told apart. It is a world where atrocities mount geometrically, the perpetrators so evil and the victims so helpless that the only possibility of relief is a rescue mission from the outside, preferably in the form of a military intervention.

Kristof made six highly publicised trips to Darfur, the first in March 2004 and the sixth two years later. He began by writing of it as a case of 'ethnic cleansing': 'Sudan's Arab rulers' had 'forced 700,000 black African Sudanese to flee their villages' (24 March 2004). Only three days later, he upped the ante: this was no longer ethnic cleansing, but genocide. 'Right now,' he wrote on 27 March, 'the government of Sudan is engaged in genocide against three large African tribes in its Darfur region.' He continued: 'The killings are being orchestrated by the Arab-dominated Sudanese government' and 'the victims are non-Arabs: blacks in the Zaghawa, Massalliet and Fur tribes.' He estimated the death toll at a thousand a week. Two months later, on 29 May, he revised the estimates dramatically upwards, citing predictions from the US Agency for International Development to the effect that 'at best, "only" 100,000 people will die in Darfur this year of malnutrition and disease' but 'if things go badly, half a million will die.'

The UN commission's report was released on 25 February 2005. It confirmed 'massive displacement' of persons ('more than a million' internally displaced and 'more than 200,000' refugees in Chad) and the destruction of 'several hundred' villages and hamlets as 'irrefutable facts'; but it gave no confirmed numbers for those killed. Instead, it noted rebel claims that government-allied forces had 'allegedly killed over 70,000 persons'. Following the publication of the report, Kristof began to scale down his estimates. For the first time, on 23 February 2005, he admitted that 'the numbers are fuzzy.' Rather than the usual single total, he went on to give a range of figures, from a low of 70,000, which he dismissed as 'a UN estimate', to 'independent estimates [that] exceed 220,000'. A warning followed: 'and the number is rising by about ten thousand a month.'

The publication of the commission's report had considerable effect.

Internationally, it raised doubts about whether what was going on in Darfur could be termed genocide. Even US officials were unwilling to go along with the high estimates propagated by the broad alliance of organisations that subscribe to the Save Darfur campaign. The effect on American diplomacy was discernible. Three months later, on 3 May, Kristof noted with dismay that not only had 'Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick pointedly refused to repeat the administration's past judgment that the killings amount to genocide': he had 'also cited an absurdly low estimate of Darfur's total death toll: 60,000 to 160,000'. As an alternative, Kristof cited the latest estimate of deaths from the Coalition for International Justice as 'nearly 400,000, and rising by 500 a day'. In three months, Kristof's estimates had gone up from 10,000 to 15,000 a month. Six months later, on 27 November, Kristof warned that 'if aid groups pull out . . . the death toll could then rise to 100,000 a month.' Anyone keeping a tally of the death toll in Darfur as reported in the Kristof columns would find the rise, fall and rise again very bewildering. First he projected the number of dead at 320,000 for 2004 (16 June 2004) but then gave a scaled down estimate of between 70,000 and 220,000 (23 February 2005). The number began once more to climb to 'nearly 400,000' (3 May 2005), only to come down yet again to 300,000 (23 April 2006). Each time figures were given with equal confidence but with no attempt to explain their basis. Did the numbers reflect an actual decline in the scale of killing in Darfur or was Kristof simply making an adjustment to the changing mood internationally?

In the 23 April column, Kristof expanded the list of perpetrators to include an external power: 'China is now underwriting its second genocide in three decades. The first was in Pol Pot's Cambodia, and the second is in Darfur, Sudan. Chinese oil purchases have financed Sudan's pillage of Darfur, Chinese-made AK-47s have been the main weapons used to slaughter several hundred thousand people in Darfur so far and China has protected Sudan in the UN Security Council.' In the Kristof columns, there is one area of deafening silence, to do with the fact that what is happening in Darfur is a civil war. Hardly a word is said about the insurgency, about the civilian deaths insurgents mete out, about acts that the commission characterised as 'war crimes'. Would the logic of his 23 April column not lead one to think that those with connections to the insurgency, some of them active in the international campaign to declare Darfur the site of genocide, were also guilty of 'underwriting' war crimes in Darfur?

Newspaper writing on Darfur has sketched a pornography of violence. It seems fascinated by and fixated on the gory details, describing the worst of the atrocities in gruesome detail and chronicling the rise in the number of them. The implication is that the motivation of the perpetrators lies in biology ('race') and, if not that, certainly in 'culture'. This voyeuristic approach accompanies a moralistic discourse whose effect is both to obscure the politics of the violence and position the reader as a virtuous, not just a concerned observer.

Journalism gives us a simple moral world, where a group of perpetrators face a group of victims, but where neither history nor motivation is thinkable because both are outside history and context. Even when newspapers highlight violence as a social phenomenon, they fail to understand the forces that shape the agency of the perpetrator. Instead, they look for a clear and uncomplicated moral

that describes the victim as untainted and the perpetrator as simply evil. Where yesterday's victims are today's perpetrators, where victims have turned perpetrators, this attempt to find an African replay of the Holocaust not only does not work but also has perverse consequences. Whatever its analytical weaknesses, the depoliticisation of violence has given its proponents distinct political advantages.

The conflict in Darfur is highly politicised, and so is the international campaign. One of the campaign's constant refrains has been that the ongoing genocide is racial: 'Arabs' are trying to eliminate 'Africans'. But both 'Arab' and 'African' have several meanings in Sudan. There have been at least three meanings of 'Arab'. Locally, 'Arab' was a pejorative reference to the lifestyle of the nomad as uncouth; regionally, it referred to someone whose primary language was Arabic. In this sense, a group could become 'Arab' over time. This process, known as Arabisation, was not an anomaly in the region: there was Amharisation in Ethiopia and Swahilisation on the East African coast. The third meaning of 'Arab' was 'privileged and exclusive'; it was the claim of the riverine political aristocracy who had ruled Sudan since independence, and who equated Arabisation with the spread of civilisation and being Arab with descent.

'African', in this context, was a subaltern identity that also had the potential of being either exclusive or inclusive. The two meanings were not only contradictory but came from the experience of two different insurgencies. The inclusive meaning was more political than racial or even cultural (linguistic), in the sense that an 'African' was anyone determined to make a future within Africa. It was pioneered by John Garang, the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south, as a way of holding together the New Sudan he hoped to see. In contrast, its exclusive meaning came in two versions, one hard (racial) and the other soft (linguistic) - 'African' as Bantu and 'African' as the identity of anyone who spoke a language indigenous to Africa. The racial meaning came to take a strong hold in both the counter-insurgency and the insurgency in Darfur. The Save Darfur campaign's characterisation of the violence as 'Arab' against 'African' obscured both the fact that the violence was not one-sided and the contest over the meaning of 'Arab' and 'African': a contest that was critical precisely because it was ultimately about who belonged and who did not in the political community called Sudan. The depoliticisation, naturalisation and, ultimately, demonisation of the notion 'Arab', as against 'African', has been the deadliest effect, whether intended or not, of the Save Darfur campaign.

The depoliticisation of the conflict gave campaigners three advantages. First, they were able to occupy the moral high ground. The campaign presented itself as apolitical but moral, its concern limited only to saving lives. Second, only a single-issue campaign could bring together in a unified chorus forces that are otherwise ranged as adversaries on most important issues of the day: at one end, the Christian right and the Zionist lobby; at the other, a mainly school and university-based peace movement. Nat Hentoff of the Village Voice wrote of the Save Darfur Coalition as 'an alliance of more than 515 faith-based, humanitarian and human rights organisations'; among the organisers of their Rally to Stop the Genocide in Washington last year were groups as diverse as the American Jewish World Service, the American Society for Muslim

Advancement, the National Association of Evangelicals, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the American Anti-Slavery Group, Amnesty International, Christian Solidarity International, Physicians for Human Rights and the National Black Church Initiative. Surely, such a wide coalition would cease to hold together if the issue shifted to, say, Iraq.

To understand the third advantage, we have to return to the question I asked earlier: how could it be that many of those calling for an end to the American and British intervention in Iraq are demanding an intervention in Darfur? It's tempting to think that the advantage of Darfur lies in its being a small, faraway place where those who drive the War on Terror do not have a vested interest. That this is hardly the case is evident if one compares the American response to Darfur to its non-response to Congo, even though the dimensions of the conflict in Congo seem to give it a mega-Darfur quality: the numbers killed are estimated in the millions rather than the hundreds of thousands; the bulk of the killing, particularly in Kivu, is done by paramilitaries trained, organised and armed by neighbouring governments; and the victims on both sides - Hema and Lendu - are framed in collective rather than individual terms, to the point that one influential version defines both as racial identities and the conflict between the two as a replay of the Rwandan genocide. Given all this, how does one explain the fact that the focus of the most widespread and ambitious humanitarian movement in the US is on Darfur and not on Kivu?

Nicholas Kristof was asked this very question by a university audience: 'When I spoke at Cornell University recently, a woman asked why I always harp on Darfur. It's a fair question. The number of people killed in Darfur so far is modest in global terms: estimates range from 200,000 to more than 500,000. In contrast, four million people have died since 1998 as a result of the fighting in Congo, the most lethal conflict since World War Two.' But instead of answering the question, Kristof - now writing his column rather than facing the questioner at Cornell - moved on: 'And malaria annually kills one million to three million people - meaning that three years' deaths in Darfur are within the margin of error of the annual global toll from malaria.' And from there he went on to compare the deaths in Darfur to the deaths from malaria, rather than from the conflict in Congo: 'We have a moral compass within us and its needle is moved not only by human suffering but also by human evil. That's what makes genocide special - not just the number of deaths but the government policy behind them. And that in turn is why stopping genocide should be an even higher priority than saving lives from Aids or malaria.' That did not explain the relative silence on Congo. Could the reason be that in the case of Congo, Hema and Lendu militias - many of them no more than child soldiers - were trained by America's allies in the region, Rwanda and Uganda? Is that why the violence in Darfur - but not the violence in Kivu - is named as a genocide?

It seems that genocide has become a label to be stuck on your worst enemy, a perverse version of the Nobel Prize, part of a rhetorical arsenal that helps you vilify your adversaries while ensuring impunity for your allies. In Kristof's words, the point is not so much 'human suffering' as 'human evil'. Unlike Kivu, Darfur can be neatly integrated into the War on Terror, for Darfur gives the Warriors on Terror a valuable asset with which to demonise an enemy: a genocide perpetrated by Arabs. This was the third and most valuable

advantage that Save Darfur gained from depoliticising the conflict. The more thoroughly Darfur was integrated into the War on Terror, the more the depoliticised violence in Darfur acquired a racial description, as a genocide of 'Arabs' killing 'Africans'. Racial difference purportedly constituted the motive force behind the mass killings. The irony of Kristof's columns is that they mirror the ideology of Arab supremacism in Sudan by demonising entire communities.[*]

Kristof chides Arab peoples and the Arab press for not having the moral fibre to respond to this Muslim-on-Muslim violence, presumably because it is a violence inflicted by Arab Muslims on African Muslims. In one of his early columns in 2004, he was outraged by the silence of Muslim leaders: 'Do they care about dead Muslims only when the killers are Israelis or Americans?' Two years later he asked: 'And where is the Arab press? Isn't the murder of 300,000 or more Muslims almost as offensive as a Danish cartoon?' Six months later, Kristof pursued this line on NBC's Today Show. Elaborating on the 'real blind spot' in the Muslim world, he said: 'You are beginning to get some voices in the Muslim world . . . saying it's appalling that you have evangelical Christians and American Jews leading an effort to protect Muslims in Sudan and in Chad.'

If many of the leading lights in the Darfur campaign are fired by moral indignation, this derives from two events: the Nazi Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide. After all, the seeds of the Save Darfur campaign lie in the tenth-anniversary commemoration of what happened in Rwanda. Darfur is today a metaphor for senseless violence in politics, as indeed Rwanda was a decade before. Most writing on the Rwandan genocide in the US was also done by journalists. In We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families, the most widely read book on the genocide, Philip Gourevitch envisaged Rwanda as a replay of the Holocaust, with Hutu cast as perpetrators and Tutsi as victims. Again, the encounter between the two seemed to take place outside any context, as part of an eternal encounter between evil and innocence. Many of the journalists who write about Darfur have Rwanda very much in the back of their minds. In December 2004, Kristof recalled the lessons of Rwanda: 'Early in his presidency, Mr Bush read a report about Bill Clinton's paralysis during the Rwandan genocide and scrawled in the margin: "Not on my watch." But in fact the same thing is happening on his watch, and I find that heartbreaking and baffling.'

With very few exceptions, the Save Darfur campaign has drawn a single lesson from Rwanda: the problem was the US failure to intervene to stop the genocide. Rwanda is the guilt that America must expiate, and to do so it must be ready to intervene, for good and against evil, even globally. That lesson is inscribed at the heart of Samantha Power's book, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. But it is the wrong lesson. The Rwandan genocide was born of a civil war which intensified when the settlement to contain it broke down. The settlement, reached at the Arusha Conference, broke down because neither the Hutu Power tendency nor the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) had any interest in observing the power-sharing arrangement at the core of the settlement: the former because it was excluded from the settlement and the latter because it was unwilling to share power in any meaningful way.

What the humanitarian intervention lobby fails to see is that the US

did intervene in Rwanda, through a proxy. That proxy was the RPF, backed up by entire units from the Uganda Army. The green light was given to the RPF, whose commanding officer, Paul Kagame, had recently returned from training in the US, just as it was lately given to the Ethiopian army in Somalia. Instead of using its resources and influence to bring about a political solution to the civil war, and then strengthen it, the US signalled to one of the parties that it could pursue victory with impunity. This unilateralism was part of what led to the disaster, and that is the real lesson of Rwanda.

Applied to Darfur and Sudan, it is sobering. It means recognising that Darfur is not yet another Rwanda. Nurturing hopes of an external military intervention among those in the insurgency who aspire to victory and reinforcing the fears of those in the counter-insurgency who see it as a prelude to defeat are precisely the ways to ensure that it becomes a Rwanda. Strengthening those on both sides who stand for a political settlement to the civil war is the only realistic approach. Solidarity, not intervention, is what will bring peace to Darfur.

The dynamic of civil war in Sudan has fed on multiple sources: first, the post-independence monopoly of power enjoyed by a tiny 'Arabised' elite from the riverine north of Khartoum, a monopoly that has bred growing resistance among the majority, marginalised populations in the south, east and west of the country; second, the rebel movements which have in their turn bred ambitious leaders unwilling to enter into power-sharing arrangements as a prelude to peace; and, finally, external forces that continue to encourage those who are interested in retaining or obtaining a monopoly of power.

The dynamic of peace, by contrast, has fed on a series of power-sharing arrangements, first in the south and then in the east. This process has been intermittent in Darfur. African Union-organised negotiations have been successful in forging a power-sharing arrangement, but only for that arrangement to fall apart time and again. A large part of the explanation, as I suggested earlier, lies in the international context of the War on Terror, which favours parties who are averse to taking risks for peace. To reinforce the peace process must be the first commitment of all those interested in Darfur.

The camp of peace needs to come to a second realisation: that peace cannot be built on humanitarian intervention, which is the language of big powers. The history of colonialism should teach us that every major intervention has been justified as humanitarian, a 'civilising mission'. Nor was it mere idiosyncrasy that inspired the devotion with which many colonial officers and archivists recorded the details of barbarity among the colonised - sati, the ban on widow marriage or the practice of child marriage in India, or slavery and female genital mutilation in Africa. I am not suggesting that this was all invention. I mean only to point out that the chronicling of atrocities had a practical purpose: it provided the moral pretext for intervention. Now, as then, imperial interventions claim to have a dual purpose: on the one hand, to rescue minority victims of ongoing barbarities and, on the other, to quarantine majority perpetrators with the stated aim of civilising them. Iraq should act as a warning on this score. The worst thing in Darfur would be an Iraq-style intervention. That would almost certainly spread the civil war to other parts of Sudan, unravelling the peace process in the east and south and dragging the whole country into the global War on Terror.

Footnotes

* Contrast this with the UN commission's painstaking effort to make sense of the identities 'Arab' and 'African'. The commission's report concentrated on three related points. First, the claim that the Darfur conflict pitted 'Arab' against 'African' was facile. In fact, the commission found that many Arabs in Darfur are opposed to the Janjawiid, and some Arabs are fighting with the rebels, such as certain Arab commanders and their men from the Misseriya and Rizeigat tribes. At the same time, many non-Arabs are supporting the government and serving in its army.' Second, it has never been easy to sort different tribes into the categories 'Arab' and 'African': 'The various tribes that have been the object of attacks and killings (chiefly the Fur, Massalit and Zeghawa tribes) do not appear to make up ethnic groups distinct from the ethnic groups to which persons or militias that attack them belong. They speak the same language (Arabic) and embrace the same religion (Muslim). In addition, also due to the high measure of intermarriage, they can hardly be distinguished in their outward physical appearance from the members of tribes that allegedly attacked them. Apparently, the sedentary and nomadic character of the groups constitutes one of the main distinctions between them' (emphasis mine). Finally, the commission put forward the view that political developments are driving the rapidly growing distinction between 'Arab' and 'African'. On the one hand, 'Arab' and 'African' seem to have become political identities: 'Those tribes in Darfur who support rebels have increasingly come to be identified as "African" and those supporting the government as the "Arabs". A good example to illustrate this is that of the Gimmer, a pro-government African tribe that is seen by the African tribes opposed to the government as having been "Arabised".' On the other hand, this development was being promoted from the outside: 'The Arab-African divide has also been fanned by the growing insistence on such divide in some circles and in the media.'

Mahmood Mamdani is Herbert Lehman Professor of Government and a professor of anthropology at Columbia University. His most recent book is Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War and the Roots of Terror.

2,513 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:13:19 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?)

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

The Brotherhood and America Part Two

13/03/2007

By Manal Lutfi

<http://www.aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=3&id=8297>

<http://www.aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=3&id=8297>

Related Links: The Brotherhood and America Part One

<http://www.aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=3&id=8286>

<http://www.aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=3&id=8286>

Washington D.C, Asharq Al-Awsat- Despite what may be considered a 'stalling' in the interactive activities between the Americans and the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) members in the region by virtue of the Iraqi war (2003), there still remain talks between America and the Brotherhood in various capitals whenever the need arises or interests dictate. The US claims to have 'fixed standards' for dealing with Islamic organizations in the region – but the picture is more elaborate and involved. Essentially, there are five criteria that define the relationship with such organizations:

- 1- Their state of legitimacy in their native counties
- 2- Their position on the US State Department list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations
- 3- Their agenda and ideological discourse
- 4- Their actions on the ground
- 5- Interests resulting from engaging in dialogue with the organizations in question

However, in political practice, these standards ravel to the point where they enter 'grey' domain. According to what American officials, both current and former, have revealed to Asharq Al-Awsat, the American administration does not hold talks with groups that are legally banned, which is not entirely true as it is known that the past two years have seen unofficial and unannounced meetings between US officials and the MB group in Syria, despite Damascus' refusal to recognize the Brotherhood in Syria as a legitimate organization. While it is assumed that the legal recognition is amongst the requisite standards for establishing a relationship with Washington, there remain two important exceptions: Hamas in Palestine and Hezbollah in Lebanon, which despite being present on the US terrorist list, America still refuses to engage in dialogue with them even though they are both legitimate groups in their native countries.

And while talks between the Americans and Jordan's Islamic Action Front (IAF) [Jabhat al Amal al Islami, the political wing of the MB in Jordan] are supposedly strong by reason of their legitimacy and their absence from the terrorist list, it is not the case, as indicated by an American official.

Agreeing to speak on condition of anonymity, the official told Asharq Al-Awsat that this was because the IAF, despite not advocating violence directly, like its Egyptian counterpart; it too supported suicide-bombing operations that the Palestinians execute in Israel. As a consequence, the official said that the US relationship with Jordan's MB is one of the "weakest" among the legitimate organizations in the region with which Washington has direct relations.

In contrast is Morocco's Justice and Development party [PJD - Parti de la Justice et du Développement], with which Washington has a good relationship and which conforms to the five aforementioned standards. Perhaps the best way to describe the degree of accord in the relationship between the Americans and the PJD, is what was stated by Marina Ottaway, director of the Middle East Program and senior associate in the Democracy and Rule of Law Project at the Carnegie Endowment when she said that many non-Islamic political activists in Morocco had told her on her latest visit that Washington wants the PJD to govern Morocco. Ottaway indicated that it may not be entirely accurate.

Despite the majority of American officials and researchers that Asharq Al-Awsat interviewed stressing the importance of the legitimacy factor in determining the ability to hold talks with these Islamic organizations, illegitimacy does not mean the 'severance of relations'. Regarding this matter, a US official told Asharq Al-Awsat that their clear policies state that banned groups are not to be dealt with, he cited the MB in Egypt as an example and said that in order to avoid awkward situations or stir up sensitivities the organization is not dealt with in an official manner or capacity. He added that meetings may be held between Egyptian MPs who are affiliated to the MB or figures who are close to the group on an individual basis but not as members of the MB. He also clarified that the US administration does not associate between the Brotherhood groups in Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan or Morocco and that the US had previously engaged in talks with the Brotherhood in Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco and that the members of these groups had indeed met with US officials, but that opening dialogue depended on certain issues and particular interests.

The official explained that aside from the legitimacy element, the presence or absence of a given group on the US State Department list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations similarly plays a defining role in dialogue with the Islamists, such as Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad with whom no

dialogue exists. The same applies to the armed groups that engage in violence or who support it elsewhere.

The outcome of the interviews conducted by Asharq Al-Awsat revealed that the

content and understanding of these proposed standards when dealing with the agendas and ideologies of Islamic organizations have two ceilings: there are some who view issues such as renouncing violence, tolerating diversity and respecting public freedoms to be the measure by which to judge Islamic organizations in order to determine the likelihood of establishing dialogue with them, while others view that the ceiling must be raised to include issues such as the group in question's stance on the rights of women, religious- and racial- minorities, and the application of Shariah penalties.

Dennis Ross, formerly the special Middle East coordinator and envoy during Bill Clinton time in office, adopts the first basic approach; he sees that the renunciation of violence should be the point of entry which would enable dialogue with the external world. He told Asharq Al-Awsat that in all matters related to dialogue, the definitive factor is the denouncing violence as a means to achieve political goals. He added that if the MB were to make that announcement that his position towards them would change but that as long as violence comprised a part of their ideology that there would be little hope for dialogue, or any other relationship to be established for that matter. He said that he believed dealing with such groups is wrong because it sends out a message that the US somehow feels, in some way or another, that they are the future.

Ross stressed that he preferred to establish dialogue with those who possess a vision about the future of the Middle East, one that is founded on economic prosperity, tolerance and the acceptance of diversity. He continued to say that the majority of Muslims in the Middle East did not want a world steeped in violence and animosity and that they wanted a better life for themselves. He stated that although perhaps these organizations often criticize the US on a number of aspects that this fact does not make partnership impossible. It is not necessary that they should agree with the US on everything as it is not infallible but that there must be political regulations accepted by all, he said. According to Ross, the use of

violence for political ends is not a legitimate method to achieve political goals because it means that you possess the ability to decide that you are right while all else is wrong and thus justify imposing your way on others. There are some who criticize American policy worldwide because they think that we want to impose our way on all, he said, adding that he believed that it was an erroneous assumption because one cannot enforce their ways on others.

However, current officials in the US administration admit that the picture is greyer than that and say that the obscure areas between the black and the white provoke much misunderstandings and ambiguity. According to one senior official the positions and viewpoints towards the Islamic organizations vary. He told Asharq Al-Awsat that there are no clear factors to differentiate between moderate and extremist Islamic groups and that there were figures in the administration who adopted a more rigid approach towards the Islamists while others were less rigid, and that it was also pending the situation of the country in question. He stated that in the case where the choice was between the MB party in a particular country or a bloodthirsty takfiri [Muslims holding fellow Muslims to be infidels] group that they would choose the former although they may not agree with the MB's political ideas. So far, he said, there is still no broad unanimity within the US administration regarding the Islamists in the Arab world. He questioned the possibility for there to be major participation by the citizens of a given country and whether other Islamic parties would allow for this participation. He emphasized that their objective was for the region to have complete freedom for all, including the leftists and the secularists whom the Islamists consider disbelievers.

The senior official who agreed to be interviewed on condition of anonymity said the interaction between the US administration and the MB takes place on an individual basis, adding that he speaks from experience since he occupied a diplomatic post in Jordan some years ago and that they had normal relations and contact with the IAF and dealt with it as they did with other political parties despite the fact that it had a definite position against the US, but that there was normal communication between the two sides.

He said that he had personally visited the IAF's newspaper office [the weekly Islamist Al Sabil newspaper] and that he used to have discussions with the people working there. He added that the situation is different in Egypt as there is delicacy surrounding the US's relationship with the MB by reason of the party's illegitimacy in the country.

There is a conviction that we deal with Brotherhood organizations in the region as a single broad position, he explained, refuting it by saying that these organizations are dealt with in accordance to several criteria. The first of which is the state and the political situation in each given state. He added that the proof of this was that the relations with Jordan's MB were normal, while issues existed with their Egyptian counterparts – which applies to all countries where the MB is banned as an organization of a political party, such as Tunis or Syria. He said that while he was in Syria he knew various Islamists but did not know whether or not they were affiliated to the Brotherhood, who were then, as they still are, an illegitimate organization. Another exception to the rule is the Brotherhood in Iraq where there is significant communication and deliberations between Americans and the MB members who participate in Iraq's present government and who also considerably engage in civil life – Iraq's MB group are the only ones who have their own television channel, Baghdad satellite channel.

The US senior official stated that in their view and dealings with the Islamists, the second factor is these groups' agendas regarding democracy. We are not against the Islamists as such, neither are we against the Muslim Brotherhood, he said. He added that the question was one about the rules of participation and that Washington does not regard the presence of the MB in politics or political life to be the problem, whether in Egypt, Jordan, or elsewhere, in fact it views it as a positive thing because we want everyone to participate. The main question is: do the rules of the game allow for the equal participation of concerned parties, Islamists and secularists, liberals and leftists? Or does the Islamic trend manipulate the rules of the game to practice a form of blackmail and extortion against those not affiliated to it? To Washington, this formulates the important question, a

more important one than the existence of Islamists or the lack thereof, he said.

The official revealed that they were aware that the Islamists have a strong public appeal on the Arab street for a number of different reasons, among them the fact that they have an advantage by not being the governments in these countries. Regarding the grey areas in dealing with the MB organizations in the region, the senior official cited Hamas as a good example and said that they had no problem with the party's participation as a civil political organization. Likewise, he said they had no problem with Hezbollah's participation as a civil party that has a presence in civil life and that the problem was that they considered Hamas a terrorist organization that has practiced – and will continue to practice – terrorism.

He added: This was the former American stance regarding the Palestinian elections; if Hamas had decided its participation would be as a political

party rather than an oppositional organization then there would be no problem. He explained that this did not mean that they supported the ideologies of Islamists in Palestine and that the problem was the use of violence, furthermore adding that they were not against Hamas in principle.

He added that they were not sympathetic to communist ideals because fundamentally they were against communism but Washington had no issues with the participation of communist parties in the Arab world or anywhere else.

The same applies to the Islamists, he said, differentiating between the use of violence on the one hand, and the belief in religious or conservative ideas in politics on the other. He stated that the latter was the citizens' choice and that the US does not interfere in this matter.

Marina Ottaway, director of the Middle East Program and renowned researcher at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace shares a similar view, she told Asharq Al-Awsat that the official position that the US administration adopts in dealing with Islamists in the region is that they are subject to the laws of the countries in which they have a presence. If the Islamic organizations are not banned in their countries of origin, the US administration sees no problem in contacting them and establishing relations, she said. Citing Morocco's PJD as an example, which is recognized by the US, she added that leaders from the party had been invited to the

American embassy in Morocco to mark the occasion of America's independence anniversary on the 4th of July.

She negated claims by political activists in Morocco who were not affiliated to Islamic organizations that the PJD was touted as the next party to come to power and added that the PJD is viewed as moderate and legitimate, which is why America converses with it, she said. Although the IAF is a legitimate party that is officially registered in Jordan, Ottaway said that the US did not favor it and yet it still held talks with it as it does with Islamic organizations in Iraq, such as the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), led by Abdulaziz al Hakim or any other Sunni or Shia organization that is legally authorized to operate. She explained that the official position is that if an organization is legally registered, it is contacted and dialogue is established. Like US officials, Ottaway states that Palestine's Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah are the exceptions to the rule as their respective situations are complicated. The result is that you have two legitimate parties that the US does not recognize; in the case if Hamas the reason being its refusal to recognize the state of Israel while in the case of Hezbollah, the main reason is the fact that it is backed by Syria and Iran, which connotes a lot more than just being a religious party. She affirmed that the US only deals with Egypt's MB on an individual basis, the 'independent MPs' affiliated to the party since it is officially banned. Ottaway added that to the best of her knowledge, American diplomats have not held talks with Egyptian MPs affiliated to the MB.

Although American officials stress that Washington deals with the MB presence in the region on an individual basis so that the policies that apply to one country may not apply to another, they emphasize that the US has its eyes on the regional intra-relationships between the various MB organization groups worldwide.

2,514 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:21:51 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Habib: Egyptian Regime Increases Political Tensions

Al Saeed Abbadi, Ikhwanweb - Cairo, Egypt
Tuesday, March 13, 2007

The Muslim Brotherhood group lashed out at the Egyptian regime's measures that stoke tensions in the country following Monday's unjustified detentions.

In the first reaction from the Muslim Brotherhood towards the latest crackdown in which the security services arrested Dr. Mahmoud Ghazlan, a members of the MB Executive Bureau, and other 9 MB leaders, Dr. Mohamed Habib, the deputy chairman of the group, said in a statement to Ikhwanweb that: "The latest sweep of arrests is unjustified and is only increasing tensions, specially under the current conditions the require a national consensus towards many various issues .

"The Egyptian government is only increasing the state of public anger towards its policies through directing more blows to the Muslim Brotherhood, the biggest and most important political group in Egypt" added Habib.

Habib pointed out that this campaign is the government's only response to the Muslim Brotherhood MP's rejection to the constitutional amendments and announcing that they will boycott the sessions of the People's Assembly on 19 to 20 March, in which the constitutional amendments will be voted in it.

The MB first deputy leader added that this campaign aims also at directing strong blows to the MB leaders in order to cause confusion inside it and to cut off contacts among its leaders nationwide, specially during this stage.

And Habib denied that there is any deal between the Muslim Brotherhood group and the Egyptian government and that the continuous detentions against the group practically prove this .

Regarding the the MB's reported silence towards the military courts and the continuous detentions, Habib said the Muslim Brotherhood did not and will never stop short of fighting the injustice carried out by the regime against; but the group is studying the situation well and gives the appropriate reactions that achieve its targets.

It is worth mentioning that the security forces arrested on Monday evening:

Dr. Mahmoud Ghazlan, a member of the MB Executive Bureau,
Mohamed Al Qassas, an MB young leader
Dr. Mohamed Saad Eleiwa, MB leaders in the governorate of Giza,
Dr. Mohie Hamed, from governorate of Sharqiya,
Dr. Mostafa Al Ghoneimi, from governorate of Gharbiya,

And they broke into the house of Dr. Gamal Nassar, but they didn't find him and he went to them and surrendered on Tuesday morning.

The security forces arrested on Tuesday predawn, March, 13 , 2007, three Muslim Brotherhood young men from the governorate of Damietta: Sherif Al Sayed Ahmed, an engineer in Damietta port,

Ahmed Al Nagar, an employee in Damietta port,
Amr Zaki, graduate from the faculty of commerce.

Muslim Brotherhood Leaders, Members Detained Tuesday March, 13, 2007

Name - Job - Governorate

Dr. Mahmoud Ghozlan MB Executive Bureau member, agronomy professor at
Zagazig University Giza

Dr. Mohamed Saad Eleiwa Urologist at Boulaq Hospital Giza

Dr. Gamal Nassar PhD in philosophy Giza

Dr. Muhi Hamed Otorhinolaryngologist Sharqiya

Dr. Mostafa Al Ghoneimi gynecologist Gharbiya

Mohamed Al Sorougi Al-Geel Al-Muslim school principal Gharbiya

Mohamed Al Qassas Works in artistic production Cairo

Eng. Sherif Al Sayed Ahmed Engineer in Damietta port Damietta

Eng. Ahmed Al Nagar Engineer in Damietta port Damietta

Amr al-Zaki Graduate from the faculty of commerce Damietta

Ibrahim Ramadan Azhar teacher Shubra

Mohamed Raafat Teacher Shubra

Ahmed Al Hit Social worker Shubra

Ramadan Abdelcader Teacher Shubra

.....

Egyptian MP: Torture Is Systematic Under Current Regime

Ikhwanweb - Cairo, Egypt

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

[http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?](http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=6607)

zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=6607

[http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?](http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=6607)

A Muslim Brotherhood MP confirmed that the torture exercised inside police stations is similar to what the Israelis did against the Egyptian POWs.

Hussein Mohamed Ibrahim., the undersecretary-general of the Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary bloc, said that the torture in police stations resembles what the Israelis were doing against Egyptian prisoners of war during the 1967 war !

The MB parliamentarian added, while the Human Rights Committee was discussing in its Sunday meeting the report of the National Council For Human Rights 2006/2007, that this report proves that torture is a systematic method; Ibrahim read paragraphs from the report showing that a group of citizens were killed pot of torture inside police stations, including citizen Mohamed Khairi Ata- Abu Zabal police station, and citizen Mohamed Siddik – in Sahil Salim police station.

Ibrahim pointed out that the human rights report convicts and implicates the Interior Ministry and he demanded the Interior Ministry officials to come to respond to these accusations mentioned in the report, and that the response should be accompanied by documents not with empty speeches.

Ibrahim demanded doing surprise visits to police stations to see the

situation on the ground; responding to this suggestion, Edward Ghali, the committee chairman, said: "this is the job of the public prosecution" adding that "yes there are violations which are committed by the Interior Ministry; the perpetrators of these violations must be hunted and held accountable for their actions."

The independent MP Mohamed Amer demanded officials of the National Council For Human Rights to appear before the committee to clarify the cases of torture which are mentioned in the report " so that we can confront the Interior Ministry officials."

For his part, Hussein Ibrahim told Ikhwanweb that cases of torture in prisons and police stations have become a systematic phenomenon under the current regime that has violated human rights in an unprecedented method in Egypt.

Ibrahim added that the recently revealed cases of torture are only a tip of the iceberg of a very tragic status quo that the Egyptians are obliged to live under this autocratic regime.

.....

Ghozlan Detained Because MB Rejects Constitutional Amendments

Abdul Moneim Mahmoud, Ikhwanweb - Cairo, Egypt
Tuesday, March 13, 2007

[http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?
zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=6614](http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=6614)

<http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?>

The State Security forces arrested Dr. Mahmoud Gohzlan, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) Executive Office; he is also married to sister of Mohamed Khairat Al Shater, the second deputy chairman of the MB.

A huge number of plainclothed policemen broke into Ghozlan's house at 8.30 AM on Monday, March, 12, 2007, headed by Osama Al Gabali who introduced himself as a state security officer in Zayed's branch in Giza; he told Dr. Ghozlan that he is under arrest and refused to show him any arrest warrant or prosecution permit.

They ransacked the house in a provocative way, seeking any papers or documents inside wardrobes to the extent that they searched pockets of shirts and suits; they took the house's PC and a laptop of Mohamed, the elder son of Dr. Ghozlan.

The forces that broke into the flat held two women, who were in a visit to Dr. Ghozlan's wife, inside a room for three hours so that they don't make any phone calls making them fear that they may be detained.

The residents of the building in which Dr. Ghozlan is living were provoked by the scene that they witnessed for the second time in less than two months, as Dr. Essam Hashish, a professor at the Faculty of Engineering Cairo University was detained and transferred

to later to a military tribunal.

The residents asked mockingly the campaign officers whether Dr. Ghozlan is the one who made Al-Salam 98 ferry boat sink (a tragedy that claimed thousands of lives and was blamed on the government negligence), is Dr. Ghozlan the one who polluted the blood bags; one of the residents shouted in front of the soldiers and said: "I wished I were in Mauritania" and the crowds around the house shouted "state security: why are afraid of the Muslim Brotherhood", and "state security are security of the state of Egypt or the state of Israel.

The people stopped in front of the car in which Dr Ghozlan was taken and prevented it from moving until a special forces unit took Dr. Ghozlan out of the car and move him to in front of people to another car outside the cordon made by the crowds.

Mohamed, the oldest son of Dr. Ghozlan, said: "The regime confirms its repressive policy against opposition; my father was released only a year ago after serving five years due to a groundless charge and an oppressive military ruling that violates the competent judiciary and principles of human rights; he confirmed that "the regime insists on intimidating us through arresting our father again; what is paradoxical is that arresting my father, a university professor, coincides with releasing Dr. Hani Sorour who is accused of spreading polluted and infected blood bags among Egyptians; Dr. Ghozlan's son asked mockingly also" is my father Al-Maadi serial killer whom the security services failed to identify or arrest.

In a provocative act from officer Osama Al Gabali, he stormed into the house of Dr. Essam Hashish, who is currently jailed, and he ransacked the flat and mocked at his wife who he threatened at the beginning with breaking the flat door unless she opens it quickly.

Dr. Mahmoud Ghozlan, 58 years, is a professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, Zagazig University, and he is specialized in a rare branch in biochemistry; he was previously jailed for five years by a ruling of a military court on the 2001 case dubbed as "the case of university professors".

Ghozlan is suffering from hypertension and heart disorder which he developed during the previous five-year prison sentence.

The detention of Dr. Ghazan is considered by analysts as the first reaction from the regime on the declared outright rejection of the Muslim Brotherhood and other political powers to the constitutional amendments proposed by president Mubarak and their declaration that they will boycott the sessions of the legislative committee in the people's Assembly.

.....

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Arresting Ghazan, 17 Others

Ikhanweb - Cairo, Egypt
Wednesday, March 14, 2007

[http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?
zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=6618](http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=6618)

<http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?>

The Muslim Brotherhood group has issued a statement in which it criticized the Egyptian regime's latest crackdown that included arresting 18 MB leaders and members, topped by Dr. Mahmoud Ghozlan, the MB Executive Bureau member.

The following is the text of the statement:

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Arresting Ghozlan, 17 Others

The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) expresses its full condemnation to the security services crackdown launched on Tuesday March, 13, 2007, and included arresting Dr. Mahmoud Ghozlan, MB executive bureau member, and seventeen others from governorates of Giza, Cairo, Al-Qalyubia, Sharqiya, Gharbiya and Damietta, and it considers this an aggression on rights, justice and freedoms.

The Muslim Brotherhood group denounces this repressive method which the regime is using against the group, aiming at marginalizing its political and social roles, and even paralyzing the Egyptian political life to worsen the state of academic, cultural and technological backwardness that Egypt is witnessing; using this dictatorial measure, this regime proves itself to be a failure in successfully handling the down to earth problems facing Egyptian citizens in the political, economic and social aspects, after marginalizing Egypt's pivotal and strategic role regionally and internationally.

This crackdown is seemingly the regime's direct reaction immediately after the Muslim Brotherhood MPs declared their outright rejection to the constitutional amendments and that they will boycott the People's Assembly sessions on March 18-19, 2007, during which the these amendments will go to vote before it.

It's worth mentioning that these amendments will be very harmful to the political atmosphere, due to the restrictions that they will impose on private and public freedoms, violations to the principle of citizenship, making president remain in office for ever, establishing corruption and tyranny and setting the scene for rigging people's will through excluding judges from a complete and real supervision over the general parliamentary elections.

The Muslim Brotherhood urges all political and national powers to declare their rejection to and protest at this repressive method that will only complicate matters, specially during the current tensions which Egypt is witnessing.

The Muslim Brotherhood confirms that it will remain steadfast to its peaceful and reformist method through constitutional and legal channels (And Allah hath full power and control over His affairs, but most of men know not)
(Those who do wrong will come to know by what a (great) reverse they will be overturned)

Mohamed Mahdi Akef
Chairman of the Muslim Brotherhood

2,515 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:30:45 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; FARS**

Analysis: Iran: Paper tiger or real threat?

By CLAUDE SALHANI
UPI International Editor

<http://www.upi.com/InternationalIntelligence/view.php?StoryID=20070319-061811-5012r>

WASHINGTON, March 19 (UPI) -- Responding to a UPI article published last week on Saudi Arabia's worries over mounting Iranian influence in the Arab world, a well-informed Saudi source told United Press International that the reality on the ground offered a very different picture.

"The situation has radically changed in the Gulf, and especially between the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia) and Iran. Iran is at best a second-grade power and slowly slipping into a third-grade power," said the source, who requested anonymity. He added, "Saudi Arabia is more than ready at present to directly deal with the Iranians in many different ways, and this is what has got them so nervous.

"It is Iran that is on the defensive and has realized it has way overplayed its hand," said the official. This fits with recent reports from Iran that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was accused by some mullahs of "making enemies" for Iran.

"Iran has already tried many times to stir trouble in our eastern province and failed for many reasons," said the source. "So we are not very concerned about this currently."

Now it is Iran who is worried, said the Saudi source. "They are very worried about the 8 million-plus Sunni community in Iran and the recent unrests in the Sunni areas."

Refuting earlier UPI analysis that stated Saudi Arabia would be dependent on the U.S. military to guarantee its independence, the Saudi source said: "Saudi Arabia does not need to be supported by anyone to deal directly

with
Iran."

Saudi Arabia's lack of fear of Iran has been proven "over and over again over the past several weeks," added the source, referencing a "dressing down" of Ahmadinejad during his recent visit to the kingdom by King Abdullah as "the most recent and visible example of this."

In stressing Saudi Arabia's position of strength vis-à-vis Iran, the Saudi source pointed to the following statistics:

While it's true that Iran dwarfs Saudi Arabia in population -- 68 million vs. 25 million -- and its military is far more powerful, developed and experienced in combat than the Saudi military, the Saudis carry greater economic, diplomatic and strategic clout.

The Saudis dwarf Iran in gross domestic product. According to the CIA's 2006 estimates, the Saudi per capita GDP is \$13,800; Iran's is \$8,900.

Economically, Saudi Arabia's free-market economy is no match for Iran. Iran's economy is plagued by a bloated and inefficient state bureaucracy that is over-reliant on the oil sector. Its statist policies further hamper development. Private-sector activity is typically limited to small-scale workshops, farming and services.

Saudi Arabia leads in oil production and exports. In a report carried by Arab News, Abdullah Jumah, the president and chief executive of Saudi Aramco, said the kingdom's oil output reached 10.7 million barrels per day by the end of 2006. Aramco also added an additional 3.6 billion barrels of oil to its reserves in 2006 and boosted its natural-gas holding by 10.4 trillion standard cubic feet, more than double its initial target.

Iran, according to Oil Minister Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh, increased its crude-oil production by 55,000 barrels per day in the last year, bringing total output to 4.08 million bpd.

Additionally, unlike Saudi Arabia, Iran lacks the capability of refining its own crude oil, relying instead on foreign refineries, principally India.

To the world's 1.4 billion Muslims, Saudi Arabia carries greater religious importance as the center of Islam's two holiest shrines -- Mecca and Medina -- where Sunnis and Shiites carry out their pilgrimage, one of Islam's five

requirements. The holy shrines in Najaf and Karbala in Iraq, as well as in Qom and Mashhad in Iran, are generally exclusively sacred to the Shiites. While Iran has a Shiite majority, Shiites account for only about 15 percent of the Muslim world. And repeated attempts by Iran to drum up support among the Saudi Shiite population of approximately 1 million yielded little success.

A Saudi security expert instead sees Iran's Sunni community of close to 8 million as a "huge fifth column." The expert remarks on the differences between Saudi Shiites, who are Arabs and thus ethnically similar to Saudis, and Iranian Sunnis who, unlike the country's Shiites, are not Persian but Arab.

Counter to what many Arabs fear, according to this usually very reliable source, "The hypothesis that they (Iran) are or will become the regional power is laughable and highly delusional."

Leading U.S. military strategist Anthony Cordesman thinks Iran's current military capabilities are "outdated" and "present little current threat to its neighbors."

"Iran has exaggerated its military capabilities," Cordesman, of the Washington-based Center for Strategic & International Studies, said during a recent speech to a group of military experts in Abu Dhabi.

"Iran is more focused on national defense than using military power to boost its influence in the region," he said. Iran represents "a force that has to be taken seriously in the defense of its country, but it has very little capacity to project outside the country," Cordesman said.

He maintained that Iran's nuclear program could someday pose a danger but that "any serious threat lies a decade or so away."

"Iran cannot seriously engage the U.S. for any length of time. Its army possesses about 1,600 mainly obsolete tanks and armored vehicles that would be no match for the U.S. Abrams M1-A1 battle-tested tank. Similarly, the Islamic republic's aged air force of some 260 warplanes, many of which have parts cannibalized from other planes just to keep them flying."

Iran's ballistic missiles use 1960s technology, making them only

accurate
 enough to "probably" strike a large city, Cordesman said. Their small warheads might only damage a few buildings.

The most sophisticated weapons system in Iran's arsenal is defensive: the Russian-made TOR-M1 air defense systems just purchased from Russia.

Cordesman also contended that tensions in the Gulf were being worsened by U.S. and Israeli leaders overstating the Iranian threat. "The real danger Iran poses would be in an asymmetric capacity perhaps, but not in conventional warfare," he said.

But it is precisely this asymmetric capacity that has many U.S. and European Union officials worried. Iran has the ability to disrupt -- albeit temporarily -- the oil flow in the Gulf. And it has the ability to create trouble in Lebanon through Hezbollah. One area of particular concern to the Europeans, primarily the French and Italians, is the vulnerability of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, where Iran could demonstrate its power precisely through asymmetric warfare.

--

(Comments to Claude@upi.com)

2,516 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:33:29 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
 [[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; FARS**

Hamas-Iran links full of contradictions, but also mutual interest

<http://www.losangeleschronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=22408>

Hamas-Iran links full of contradictions, but also mutual interest
 By SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI Associated Press Writer
 BEIRUT, Lebanon
 When Iraq hung Saddam Hussein, furious Sunni Muslims in the militant group
 Hamas held mourning ceremonies. That did not sit well with Shiite Muslim
 Iran, one of Hamas' key backers but also a strong Saddam foe.

Yet the dispute over Saddam's execution did not break the Hamas-Iran alliance, either.

Instead the two _ bound by common strategic interests _ have solidified their relationship in the last year, creating a growing worry for both some Arab countries and for Israel.

Israel has in recent weeks accused Iran of training Hamas militants from Gaza and smuggling weapons to Hamas. The weekend formation of a Palestinian coalition government between Hamas, which won a democratic election a year ago, and the more moderate Fatah is sure to bring new attention to the issue.

At their core, Iran and Hamas are far apart ideologically: Iran espouses a fundamentalist Shiite version of Islam, while Hamas adheres to an equally strict rival Sunni version.

But when it comes to Hamas, Iran's interests are based primarily on its rivalry with Washington and with its Arab allies for influence in the region.

"Political Islam is very pragmatic," said Beirut-based Palestinian analyst Souheil Natour. "They are playing realpolitick."

Iranian analyst Saeid Leylaz said Iran's strategic goals are based on its perception that the United States is a threat to its survival.

"The Iranians are trying to use all the means at their disposal to cripple American efforts ... If Iran and America sit down at the negotiating table and discuss their strategies, I promise you that all Iran's actions in the Middle East, including Palestine, will change," he said.

Iran rushed to the aid of Hamas last year after most Arab states went along with an international boycott against the Hamas government, imposed by the U.S. and Europe because of Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel or renounce violence.

At first, Iran pledged \$50 million to the near-bankrupt Palestinian Authority. Since then, it is believed to have promised another \$250 million to be paid in monthly installments.

After the Palestinian coalition government's formation, however, some Western governments, including key donor Norway, are likely to resume payments to the Palestinians, which could lessen the need or desire for Iranian aid.

Meanwhile, Arab states _ worried about Iran's growing regional

influence _
have in recent months tried to blunt Iran's role by reaching out to Hamas.

Last month, Saudi King Abdullah mediated a truce in the bloody fighting between Hamas and President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement at a summit in Mecca, and persuaded them to agree on forming the Palestinian unity government.

Hamas viewed the Mecca meeting as a sign of its reintegration into Arab politics.

"It was a recognition of the election results and (Arab) cooperation with Hamas," said Mousa Abu Marzouk, a Hamas spokesman in Damascus, Syria.

But the Mecca meeting did not mean Hamas would abandon Iran as an ally, either, he said.

"Ties remain strong with Iran," Abu Marzouk said. "Iran's position is the closest to Hamas."

Indeed, relations between the two were tight even before Hamas' election win.

Iran and Hamas forged a united front against Israel during Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal's visit to Tehran in December 2005, when Mashaal pledged to step up attacks against Israel if it took military action against Iran.

"We are part of a united front against the enemies of Islam," Mashaal said then.

The position contrasts that of the moderate Fatah faction, which regard Arab states such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia as the Palestinians' natural allies.

The ties between Iran and Hamas first began in the early 1990s when Israel expelled 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists to southern Lebanon.

The exiled Palestinians camped out in Marj al-Zohour, a no-man's land controlled by Iranian-backed Hezbollah, a Shiite Lebanese guerrilla group. Before that, Hamas had been wary of Shiite Iran but ties gradually warmed.

"The psychological taboo against Shiism was broken in Marj al-Zohour, where the Palestinians came into close contact with Hezbollah and actually got along," said Sakr Abu Fakher, editor of the Palestinian Studies magazine in Beirut.

Ties strengthened and financial support grew after the 2000 Palestinian uprising against Israel. A historic visit to Tehran in 1998 by Hamas' late spiritual leader, Ahmed Yassin, also helped.

After Syria, Tehran's closest Arab ally, became the main base for senior Hamas exiles in 1999, the contacts between Iran and Hamas increased even more.

Yet Hamas "has never considered itself as part of the Syria-Iran axis, as Hezbollah has," said Beirut-based Palestinian expert Majed Azzam.

He and others note that Hamas has taken independent positions from Tehran, such as when it participated in the 2006 Palestinian elections against Iran's objections.

In addition, he said, Hamas is not prepared to take a "hostile position against other Arab countries, even against those that have peace treaties with Israel."

2,517 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:36:36 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; Founding Father**

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/>

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/>

Christian-Arab Predicts World Islam Takeover - Unless...

By Hillel Fendel

"When will you Westerners realize that half-measures don't work with people who are willing to die by the thousands for Allah to achieve their goal?"
This was the upshot of a recent conversation between a Holocaust survivor living in Herzliya and a Christian-Arab living in the Galilee.

Following are excerpts from the Christian-Arab's remarks, based on article by Solly Ganor for FrontPage Magazine

continues.....

2,518 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:39:56 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
 [[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2456](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **milford421**

I was going to pass it off, as a travel blog, until I saw the balloons on the lake, ready for shooting.

Lebanon, had mysterious balloons a month or so ago.

If he was in Iraq and Turkey, is he headed to a training camp?

2,519 posted on **20 marzo 2007 17:43:25 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
 [[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2474](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; FARS; Founding Father; milford421**

Americans: We Were All on US Airways Flight 300

In Defense of the Constitution
 News & Analysis
 010/07 March 19, 2007

Americans: We Were All on US Airways Flight 300

On 13 March, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) announced that six imams who had disrupted a US Airways flight by engaging in suspicious behavior, have filed a lawsuit against US Airways and the Minnesota Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) claiming a laundry-list of civil rights violations:

<http://www.cair.com/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2615&theType=NR>

In addition to suing the airline and the MAC, the "Magnificent Six" are going after unknown gate agents, other unknown employees of US Airways, and "John Does"; currently unidentified passengers who, according to the complaint, had the effrontery to dare to report the suspicious activities of the Magnificent Six to authorities:

<http://www.cair.com/pdf/usairwayscomplaint.pdf>

The following was written by Katherine Kersten on 14 March and appeared in the StarTribune.com:

"The imams' attempt to bully ordinary passengers marks an alarming new front in the war on airline security. Average folks, "John Does" like you and me, initially observed and reported the imams' suspicious behavior on Nov.

20.

Such people are our "first responders" against terrorism. But the imams' suit may frighten such individuals into silence, as they seek to avoid the nightmare of being labeled bigots and named as defendants."

"Ironically, on the day the imams filed their suit, a troubling internal memo came to light at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The memo revealed that our airport is at particular risk of terrorist attack because of its proximity to the Mall of America, its employment of relatively few security officers and other factors. The memo advised heightened vigilance to counter "this very real and deliberate threat."

<http://www.startribune.com/191/story/1055656.html>

All non-Muslim Americans have been officially put on notice by CAIR that they report the suspicious activities of Muslims at risk of legal action.

However, what about the role of the federal and state governments, which routinely ask citizens to report "suspicious activity" even if they are not quite sure it is dangerous on the presumption that "it's better to be safe than sorry? Who do we listen to, an Islamist terrorist supporting "civil rights" group, or our governments?

Let us ask ourselves, what is the ultimate goal of this lawsuit? Could it possibly be to make citizens second-guess themselves when they witness a possible terrorist act or precursor probe and to err on the side of not reporting under threat of lawsuit? Why does CAIR apparently support the ending of this "first line of defense"?

One thing we are certain of: it has absolutely nothing to do with civil rights, Muslim or otherwise.

As this case moves to trial, we hope all Americans will stand in solidarity with the passengers, US Airways, and its employees who were terrorized that day.

When the trial opens, we should all remember that we were passengers on US Airways Flight 300 that day. because if the Magnificent Six win their case, what person in their right mind will want to travel by air within the United States, knowing that security personnel are under orders to ignore Middle

Eastern passengers, no matter how suspicious their activities?

Andrew Whitehead
Director
Anti-CAIR (ACAIR)
ajwhitehead@anti-cair-net.org
www.anti-cair-net.org

ADVISORY:

Subscribers are warned that the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) may contact your employer if CAIR believes you are using a work address to receive any material that CAIR believes may be offensive. CAIR has been known to shame employers into firing employees CAIR finds disagreeable. For that reason, we strongly suggest that corporate e-mail users NOT use a corporate e-mail account/address when communicating with ACAIR or CAIR. We make every reasonable effort to protect our mailing list, but we cannot guarantee confidentiality. ACAIR does not share, loan, sell, rent or otherwise publicize our mailing list. We respect your privacy!

TIPS:

All persons are invited to submit tips and leads. ACAIR will acknowledge receipt of all tips/leads, but we will NOT acknowledge the source of ANY tip or lead in our Press Releases or on our web site. Exceptions are made for leading media personalities at the discretion of ACAIR and only on request of the person(s) submitting the tip or lead.

2,520 posted on **20 marzo 2007 18:51:59 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Muslim Insurgents Murder School Children (back)

March 19, 2007

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - A deadly attack on an Islamic school in Thailand 's restive south that left three students dead and seven injured sparked hundreds of Muslim villagers to rioted Sunday in protest.

Police blamed the attack in the southern province of Songkhla on Muslim insurgents, but villagers said they didn't believe Muslims were behind the violence.

More than 500 protesters gathered outside the school, parading the dead children's bodies through the crowd and setting fire to two buildings at a nearby government-owned school. Some hurled stones at police.

The attack occurred late Saturday evening at the Bamrungsart Pondok school, a Muslim boarding school in Songkhla province, said police Col. Thammasak Wasaksiri.

Attackers hurled explosives onto the school grounds and opened fire with assault rifles into the sleeping quarters of the school, Thammasak said.

He said police believe Muslim insurgents staged the attack and hoped to convince local residents that authorities were behind it _ a ploy to win villagers over to the insurgents' cause.

But the protesting villagers said Sunday morning they didn't believe that Muslims had staged the attack.

'The villagers are accusing paratroopers of attacking the school,' Thammasak said.

Thailand's three Muslim provinces have hundreds of religious Islamic schools, some of which authorities have accused of harboring insurgents and serving as a training ground for violence.

Drive-by shootings and bombings occur almost daily in Thailand 's three Muslim-majority provinces _ Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani, and increasingly in the neighboring province of Songkhla .

Gen. Virote Baucharoon, the army commander in charge of the restive provinces, said that security forces had recently raided an Islamic school and confiscated an M-16 assault rifle, bullets, a computer with suspicious material on the hard drive and other documents believed to be linked to the insurgency.

'This leads us to believe that religious schools are involved with the ongoing violence,' he said.

Though Buddhist teachers have been targeted in the past, children have largely been spared.

The victims of Saturday's violence were identified as a 12-year-old and two 14-year-olds. Injured students, ranging in age from 13 to 17, were being treated for gun wounds and other injuries, Thammasak said. More than 75 students were in the school's dormitory at the time of the attack.

Violence in the south has increased since a military-installed government took power in September following a coup that ousted then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Source: <http://www.cantonrep.com/index.php?ID=342760&Category=24>

2,521 posted on **20 marzo 2007 18:55:47 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; milford421**

Insurgents Disrupt Train Services in Pakistan (back)

March 19, 2007

Islamabad : Train service between Pakistan 's Quetta city and the rest of the country was suspended after a 'powerful blast' blew up railway tracks near Spizend in the province.

A two-foot portion of the track was blown up in a powerful blast,' a railway official said, adding that railway traffic with the rest of the country had been badly affected.

Railway authorities told mediapersons that the explosive device blew up the track early yesterday, causing suspension of train services on the main line.

In a similar act of intended sabotage, a gas pipeline in the Pir Koh gas field area in the province was also blown up on Sunday, causing suspension in supply to the main purification plant

'It was a 16-inch-diameter pipeline which supplied gas to the plant from well No 40 of the Pir Koh gas field,' security officials in Sui were quoted as saying in the media today. They said that the blast had caused a five-foot-long hole in the pipeline.

Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) personnel, who rushed to the site to repair the damage, were reported as saying that gas supply would be restored soon.

Pakistan's restive Balochistan province has been faced with growing insurgency by local nationalists who have targeted gas pipelines and train tracks to disrupt the infrastructure in the country.

The insurgents have demanded greater share in the royalty for the local people and the provincial government in the natural resources being exploited by the government in Islamabad .

Source: <http://www.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=83229>

2,522 posted on **20 marzo 2007 18:57:55 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Column One: As Syria Prepares for War (back)

March 19m 2007

by Caroline Glick

This has been a banner week for Syrian diplomacy. First, together with their big Iranian brothers, the Syrians were given a place at the table alongside US officials at the conference on Iraqi security in Baghdad last weekend.

At the same time as their underlings exchanged recriminations with the US , Syrian dictator Bashar Assad and Iranian Defense Minister Mustafa Muhammad Najjar merged the Syrian and Iranian militaries at a summit in Damascus . On Sunday Najjar explained the deal to reporters saying, 'We consider the capability of the Syrian defensive forces as our own and believe that expansion of defensive ties would ... help deal with the threats of the enemies.' Najjar added that Iran 'offers all of its defense capabilities to Syria .' The meeting was capped off on Monday when Najjar signed a memorandum of understanding on military cooperation with his Syrian counterpart Hassan Turkmeni.

Tuesday, US Assistant Secretary of State for Refugees Ellen Sauerbrey became the first senior US official to visit Syria since Damascus engineered former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri's assassination in February 2005.

Following closely on Sauerbrey's heels was the EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana. Like Sauerbrey, Solana was the first senior EU official to set foot in the Syrian capital since Hariri was murdered. Unlike Sauerbrey, who came and left without making a sound, Solana used the occasion to drop a diplomatic

bomb.

Standing next to Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Moualem Wednesday, Solana announced, 'We would like to work as much as possible to see your country Syria recuperate the territory taken in 1967.' Israel should be very concerned by Solana's statement. Seventeen years ago, an American diplomat made a similar statement to another Arab dictator. It was swiftly followed by war.

On July 25, 1990 then US ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie held a fateful meeting with Saddam Hussein. It occurred against the backdrop of a massive Iraqi military build-up along the Kuwaiti border. Glaspie received a cagey and defensive reply from Saddam when she asked the meaning of the deployment. According to the protocol of the meeting which she sent that day to Washington, Glaspie told Saddam that the US took no position on intra-Arab disputes.

At the time, and since, the common view has been that Saddam interpreted Glaspie's statement as American acquiescence to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait which took place eight days later.

Solana's statement that Europe supports the reassertion of Syrian control over the Golan Heights came in the midst of a massive Syrian deployment of offensive weapons systems close to its border with Israel. Early this week, Israeli military commanders revealed that since last September, Syria has deployed between 1,000 and 3,000 missiles and rockets close to that border.

This revelation followed the apparent murder of Russian journalist Ivan Safronov. Safronov, who fell to his death from his fifth floor apartment window in Moscow on March 2, told his editors at the Kommersant newspaper just before his death that he was working on a story exposing Russian sales of advanced Iskander missiles to Syria and jetfighters to Iran.

This week, Michael Maples, the director of the US Defense Intelligence Agency, announced that 'Syria has a program to develop select biological agents.' Maples explained, 'Syria's biotechnical infrastructure is capable of supporting limited biological agent development.' He added that Syria is seeking to install biological and chemical warheads on its missile arsenal.

Indeed, according to opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu, over the past year Syria has increased its military outlays by a factor of ten.

Syria is using the smokescreen of near weekly protestations of interest in negotiating with Israel to divert attention away from its clear preparations for war. Rather than see these statements for the psychological warfare antics they are, Israeli leftists have pounced on them. Led by the Haaretz newspaper, the Israeli Left is exerting massive pressure on the rudderless Olmert-Livni-Peretz government to force it to open negotiations with Damascus - negotiations that would lead to Israel's surrender of the Golan Heights in exchange for a piece of paper from Iran's Arab colony.

Due to the government's general incompetence, it is unable to formulate a coherent policy towards Syria. The Left's calls for surrender talk consequently dominate the public debate on Syria. This in turn has paralyzed the state bodies responsible for taking measures to prepare the IDF and the public for the prospect of war.

The IDF's public assessment of the Syrian threat is evidence of the confusion. Last month, Military Intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin addressed the Syrian threat at the government's intelligence assessment meeting. Yadlin said, 'The chances of a full-scale war initiated by Syria are low, but the chances of Syria reacting militarily against Israeli military moves are high.' Yadlin's statement was presented to the public as good news. But it was not good news. Syria will not initiate a full-scale war against Israel because it would lose a full-scale war. Syria's comparative advantage against the IDF is found in the area of low-intensity warfare, and as Yadlin noted, there is every reason to expect that it is this sort of warfare that Syria is preparing to initiate.

Over the past several years, Syria has built up massive artillery, missile and rocket arsenals capable of causing extensive damage to the IDF and to Israeli communities in the Golan Heights and the Galilee. So too, Syria fields a highly trained commando corps capable of exacting physical losses and tactical setbacks to the IDF.

Syria has two good reasons to go to war against Israel . Since 1973, every Arab state and terrorist organization that has gone to war against Israel has benefited from their aggression. Syria no doubt expects for the pattern to continue. In all likelihood, if Syria is able to fight Israel to a stalemate as Hizbullah did last summer, the Israeli Left, the EU and the US can be expected to increase their pressure for an Israeli surrender of the Golan Heights .

Moreover, a war with Israel would shore up Assad's dwindling support at home. Sherko Abbas, a Kurdish-Syrian exile living in the US , heads the Kurdistan National Assembly of Syria. He explains that due to Syria 's economic weakness and the Assad government's profligate corruption, the regime is widely despised by its Syrian subjects. According to Abbas, the organized domestic opposition to the regime crosses ethnic lines and includes Kurds, Druse, Alawites, and even members of Assad's family clan.

Three years ago, regime-sponsored Sunni thugs attacked Kurdish soccer fans in Dayz az Zawr, a Kurdish city along the border with Iraq . The attack led to three days of Kurdish anti-regime riots. Rioters destroyed regime monuments and burned government offices. Brutally quelled, the riots left 85 Kurds dead, hundreds wounded and thousands imprisoned.

Numbering between 2.5-3 million, Kurds make up some 15 percent of the Syrian population. On Monday, hundreds of thousands of Kurds flocked to cemeteries to publicly commemorate the anniversary of the riots. As Abbas sees it, the fact that the Kurds were unafraid to publicly commemorate their uprising is proof of the regime's weakness.

Most Israeli politicians claim that were the regime to be overthrown, it would be replaced by the Muslim Brotherhood. The specter of an Islamist government arising in Syria is seen as sufficient reason for the Israeli government to do nothing to destabilize the Assad regime despite its strategic partnership with Iran .

Abbas disputes this view. He claims that the Muslim Brotherhood is a spent force in Syria . 'If the Brotherhood were capable of replacing the regime, it would have overthrown it when there was a chance in 2004,' he argues.

To offset his regime's unpopularity, over the past few years Assad has imported more than 100,000 'immigrants' from Iran . These new Persian-speaking Syrians are keen to influence their adopted society. To this end, they have built new Shi'ite mosques throughout the country and are paying Syrians to convert to Shi'ite Islam.

According to Abbas, the regime has settled its new loyalists in Damascus , Latakia, Homs and Aleppo . All these areas - in close proximity to Lebanon and Israel - are of strategic importance to the regime.

By the same token, repeated press reports from Syria over the past year indicate that Assad replaced his Syrian security detail with a new presidential protection force comprised of members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps and Hizbullah.

With Syria clearly on war footing, there are several moves Israel must make right now. Militarily, Israel must prepare for war. The IDF should be pre-positioning equipment in the Golan Heights, training its reserves and regular forces for war, and updating its doctrine for fighting in the Golan Heights . So too, municipal authorities should be readying their bomb shelters for another war and preparing contingencies to evacuate civilians from the North.

If Syria does initiate hostilities, the IDF's goal must be to destroy the Syrian military and avoid a stalemate at all costs.

Diplomatically, Israel must work to cancel the diplomatic gains that Syria made this week. The goal must be to return Syria to the international isolation it has been relegated to since it engineered Hariri's murder.

Israel must also identify and assist forces in Syria working to undermine and topple the regime. Last

week the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee invited Syria's US-based agent Ibrahim Suleiman, who held contacts with the far-left former director-general of the Foreign Ministry Alon Liel, to address its members. That invitation should be rescinded. Rather than Suleiman, the Knesset should invite regime opponents to speak to its members.

Working with the Kurdish opposition, the US-based Center for Democracy in the Middle East operates a satellite television station that runs limited broadcasts into Syria in Kurdish, Arabic and Persian. The station educates its viewers about the regime's corruption, suppression of human rights and democracy. It calls for peaceful coexistence with Israel and the rest of Syria's neighbors. Israel should be helping to fund, expand and run these broadcasts.

For its part, the regime itself announced this week that it is planning to launch a satellite television station that will advance the Syrian-Iranian line to the Arab world. Imagine how refreshing it would be for audiences to have the opportunity to watch something other than jihad on television.

In all its dealings with Syria, Israel must understand that today Syria is a clear enemy whose interests are diametrically opposed to the interests of the Jewish state. As a result, in all arenas and at all times, Israel should be working to weaken and destabilize the regime. There is much it can do to advance this purpose.

Unfortunately, until the current government is replaced, it is hard to imagine how this can happen.

Source: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1173879095693&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

2,523 posted on **20 marzo 2007 18:59:49 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; FARS**

Iran Develops Double-Launching Mobile Air Defense System (back)

March 19, 2007

(3/19/2007): Iran has developed a new mobile air defense system which can launch two ground-to-air missiles simultaneously.

The Islamic Republic's state-run television reported on Friday that the development of the new system has been in continuation of Tehran's efforts to provide its key military, oil and gas, and nuclear facilities with adequate protection.

The new Iranian system is designed to destroy multiple air targets with high precision in any weather condition, the TV report said.

Merely defense-oriented in its military programs, Iran has been seeking to either upgrade or develop its own air defense systems. Tehran also imports advanced weapon systems from its traditional suppliers of military equipment, including Russia.

Russia has recently completed the delivery of 29 TOR-M1 (SA-15 Gauntlet) air defense missile systems to Iran under a \$700 million contract signed at the end of 2005.

Source: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=3058§ionid=3510101>

2,524 posted on **20 marzo 2007 19:01:45 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
 [[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; milford421**

FW: ALERT - Cell Phone Guns - Video (back)

March 19, 2007

Fellow UACT Members, Associate and Friends: I received the following from one of my Intel sources. This is very disturbing and ups the threat in the war on terror. Especially domestically. This could very well be the reasons so many cell phones are being purchased in bulk amounts. It's very possible that they are being converted over to weapons such as these. Please share this will all you know and especily those in law enforcement. Thank you all.

: New Weapon On The Market:Release to all Departments: At first sight it looks like a regular cell phone - same size, same shape, same overall appearance. But beneath the digital face lies a .22-caliber pistol, a phone gun capable of firing four rounds in quick succession with a touch of the otherwise standard keypad. (Video after article) The US Department of Homeland Security and the FBI are aware of the device and have instructed baggage screeners to be on the lookout for suspicious mobile phones. This is especially after 9/11. European law enforcement officials - stunned by the discovery of these deadly decoys - say phone guns are changing the rules of engagement in Europe . Airport authorities across Europe are implementing systems to X-ray all cell phones

'We find it very, very alarming,' says Wolfgang Dicke of the German Police union. 'It means police will have to draw their weapons whenever a person being checked reaches for their mobile phone.' The FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the U.S. Customs Service say they've been briefed on the new weapons. 'This criminal invention represents a potentially serious threat to law enforcement and the public,' said U.S. Customs Service Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly.

'We received word about these guns last month. We have since alerted our field personnel to be on the lookout for 'cell phone guns' at U.S. ports of entry.' Guns on the Move These new covert guns were first discovered in October when Dutch police stumbled on a cache during a drug raid in Amsterdam . In another recent incident a Croatian gun dealer was caught attempting to smuggle a shipment through Slovenia into Western Europe . Police say both shipments are believed to have originated in Yugoslavia . Interpol sent out a warning to law enforcement agencies around the world. European border police and customs officers are at a heightened state of alert at all ports, airports and border crossings.Realistic Appearance 'If you didn't know they were guns, you wouldn't suspect anything,' said Ari Zandbergen, spokesman for the Amsterdam police. 'Only when you have one in your hand do you realize that they are heavier,' says Birgit Heib of the German Federal Criminal Investigation Agency. The guns are loaded by twisting the phone in half. The .22-caliber rounds fit into the top of the phone under the screen. The lower half, under the keyboard, holds the firing pins. The bullets fire through the antenna by pressing the keypad from numbers five to eight.

Amsterdam police says they are very sophisticated machines constructed inside gutted cell phones which do not light up or operate as real phones. 'These are very difficult to make. We believe experts are involved,' says Zandbergen. U.S. authorities, including the FBI, ATF, Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Customs Service Authority have been supplied detailed information and pictures of these new weapons. 'They've been given a heads up,' said Jim Crandall, ATF spokesman. To date no phone guns have been discovered either in the United States or in the process of being smuggled in, authorities say. But they know it's only a matter of time. F

AA spokeswoman Rebecca Trexler said airport security officers had been trained to deal with this new

threat. 'We don't want to tell the bad guys exactly what we're looking for,' she says, 'We are trying to stay one step ahead.' Will Affect Travelers Airport authorities across Europe are implementing systems to X-ray all cell phones, those procedures will likely be followed by airports around the world. 'This is just one more item that we need to pay special attention to because nowadays, of course just about every passenger carries a mobile phone,' says the spokesman for Frankfurt airport security. Customs officials in the U.S. say their safety procedure has normally been to require travelers to turn their phones on, however that may no longer be enough.

Cell phone users will have to be made aware that reaching for their phones in some circumstances could be misinterpreted as a threat by authorities.

Video of this weapon:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hJvZ48oKM8&mode=related&search=>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd1SRtkhh-U>

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7483965502740562909&q=.22+Cal+Cell+Phone&hl=en>

Source:unknown

It was about 2000 that I saw the first bulletin on the cellphone gun, it was from a Texas Police Department.

No wonder, the police keep shooting people with a phone in their hand, I had forgotten about them.

granny

2,525 posted on **20 marzo 2007 19:11:33 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; FARS; Founding Father; milford421; DAVEY CROCKETT**

The Jihadism of Fools

By Fred Halliday
Winter 2007

<http://dissentmagazine.org/article/?article=732>

[worth reading]

2,526 posted on **20 marzo 2007 19:37:28 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Pakistan: Musharraf Rules Out Imposing Emergency; Speaks on Iran, US 'Pressure'

Words and sentences within double slant lines are in English

Originally published on 3/19/2007 by Geo News TV in Urdu

Program: "Today With Kamran Khan"

Reception: Good

Duration: 60 Minutes

Karachi Geo News television in Urdu at 1700 GMT on 18 March resumes relay from its Karachi studio regularly scheduled "Today with Kamran Khan" program after the lifting of 15 March government-imposed ban on it for its coverage of the suspension of the Pakistan's Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

In today's program, Kamran Khan interviews President Pervez Musharraf on the present judicial crisis, freedom of press, the present situation in the country and regional issues like situation in Iran and Afghanistan and the reported US "pressure" on Pakistan regarding the war against terror.

Kamran Khan begins by saying that last 10 days have been //tumultuous// as //unprecedented scenes// were witnessed during this period. Khan asks Musharraf did the government ever thought that the //fallout// of the action taken against the Chief Justice will be such "unprecedented". Musharraf says: "//honestly//, the //fallout// was more than expected, but //at the same time// I would like to say that it was //exaggerated//. //Actually// the //fallout// was not as much as was shown [on TV channels]."

Kamran Khan says the nation was "//stunned//" by the action taken against the Chief Justice and it looks like the government's action was "hasty". Musharraf says the government action was not hasty and "all legal //norms// were followed." Musharraf says he has been receiving "//complaints//" against the Chief Justice for quite some time, but he was just "sitting on them." Continuing, Musharraf says but the complaints kept coming and if these complaints were against the Chief Justice, "it was no more a small issue." Musharraf says "//confidentiality//" had also to be maintained because of the importance of issue.

Kamran Khan says although there were complaints against the Chief Justice, especially on his son's appointment in the Pakistan Police Service and on his non-observance of protocol, but a perception was also being created that he was admitting "//public interest cases//" in the Supreme Court and was dealing with the cases of "//missing persons//" and that is why the government took the action. Musharraf says: "This is absolutely wrong perception. //Absolutely wrong//." Musharraf says if the Chief Justice takes suo motto action in any public litigation cases, he pays tributes to him. Regarding the missing person cases, Musharraf says: "I was myself was concerned as the //human rights// activists were criticizing it." Continuing, Musharraf says he and his government has no agenda of the "//political victimization//" and it is not his nature to indulge in such acts like "abducting" persons. Musharraf says: "I can say with full //confidence// that the //vast majority// of these persons are missing of their own will." Musharraf says: "you should ask this question [of missing persons] to the //organizations//, which, I say, claim to hold aloft the banner of Islam and which lure them into carrying out //suicide bombing// and taking them to all parts of world for jihad." Musharraf adds that the human right activists should understand this "//environment//" of [jihadi organization's recruitment drive] in Pakistan and the action taken by the Pakistan government against it. Musharraf says: "//I am not in favor of this kind of activity// that persons are //picked up//. //I will be the last man to encourage this kind of victimization of individuals.//"

Kamran Khan says pictures were shown on television channels of Musharraf wearing Army uniform meeting the Chief Justice at the Army House after judicial reference was filed against the Chief Justice and the swearing in of the acting Chief Justice immediately after that. Khan asks Musharraf if he wants to take nation into confidence about what transpired during his meeting with the Chief Justice on 9 March. Musharraf says there has been some "//misperceptions//" and some //lack of information// of the exact situation. Giving background of the case, Musharraf says the Chief Justice himself called on him about 3 weeks ago at the Presidency. Musharraf says at the meeting the Chief Justice expressed concern about the media reports about him and sought assistance from him. Musharraf says he assured the Chief Justice that he would find out if anyone is doing something wrong by design. Continuing, Musharraf says but he continued to receive complaints against the Chief Justice and a reference was prepared at the Law Ministry and the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Musharraf says the Chief Justice once again called on him on his on request on 9 March at the "//camp office// and not at Army House and he is "//normally in

Army uniform// at the camp office. Musharraf says by 9 March he had already received a reference against the Chief Justice. Musharraf says he told the Chief Justice about all issues contained in the reference. Musharraf discloses that as the reference came from the Prime Minister's Secretariat, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was also present during the 9 March meeting. Musharraf says: "//I wanted an explanation from him [the Chief Justice] to judge is this [reference] worthwhile to send to the Supreme Judicial Council//." Musharraf adds: "//I have a responsibility to the nation [as President]. There are legal responsibilities. So, I have to fulfill that responsibility." Musharraf says if a reference comes to him, he is duty-bound to take action on it. Musharraf says he also handed over to the Chief Justice the evidence of each charge contained in the reference. Musharraf says: "//I think we followed to the dot all norms of justice//." Continuing, Musharraf says: "//I took decision [to make the Chief Justice non-functional and refer his case to the Supreme Judicial Council] on my conscience, on my honest conscience in national interests." Musharraf says it was up to the Chief Justice to resign or contest the case and he decided to contest the case.

Kamran Khan says the "//restraining orders//" against the Chief Justice have been widely challenged and it is being said the orders were not legal. Musharraf says he is not a legal expert, but he received the legal advice that he has the power to issue restraining orders.

Kamran Khan says the leaders of public opinion and constitutional experts are speaking against the steps taken immediately after the departure of the Chief Justice from the meeting with Musharraf on 9 March to restrict his movements, cutting off his telephone line and not allowing him to meet anyone. Khan says these steps "//shocked// and //stunned//" the nation. Khan asks why these steps were taken. Musharraf says the government was concerned that there should not be a "//media trial//" and "//politicization// of the issue and there was also a //security aspect//. Musharraf says he is not involved in taking decisions at "//tactical level//, but if any of this step of imposing restrictions or any other such action was taken at "//tactical level//," "//it should not have been done//." Musharraf says when these things came to his knowledge, he "//corrected the situation//." Musharraf says he got involved in removing these restrictions on the Chief Justice as he thought these steps were "unnecessarily creating confusion." Musharraf asserts that he is freedom-loving and says: "//I believe in freedom of speech and expression, freedom of the media//."

Kamran Khan says the complaints were being received against the Chief Justice for quite some time well before the 9 March action and asks Musharraf whether efforts were made to apprise the Chief Justice about the complaints against him and explanation sought from him before 9 March. Musharraf says he told the Chief Justice about the complaints at his earlier meeting about 3 weeks before 9 March. Musharraf, however, does not disclose the charges contained in the reference because the case is sub judice. When Kamran Khan asks why the important legal advisers of the government like Sharifuddin Pirzada are distancing themselves from the case, Musharraf says he consulted Sharifuddin Pirzada in this case and his views were taken and he was onboard. Musharraf says but as Sharifuddin Pirzada's name has also been referred in the case, he cannot be part of the bench. Kamran Khan asks why Justice Rana Bhagwan Das, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, who is on leave abroad, is being kept out of the case. Musharraf says these are mere "rumors", which can prove very "//damaging//." Musharraf says Rana Bhagwan Das's leave was sanctioned by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry himself and not him. Musharraf also defends the constitution of the Supreme Judicial Council as per the legal procedures. Musharraf assures that when Justice Rana Bhagwan Das returns from the leave on 24 March, he would become the acting chief justice of Pakistan as per the law.

Kamran Khan asks Musharraf whether the "//violent//" action of the law enforcement agencies against generally peaceful recent protests by the lawyer community bothers him. Musharraf says: "//Certainly it bothers me//." Regarding the dimensions of the protest, Musharraf says only 200 to 300 people, including politicians and other elements, demonstrated at the Supreme Court in Islamabad out of the 4,000 lawyers in Islamabad-Rawalpindi area. Musharraf says he feels "greatly disturbed" at the violence witnessed during the protest rallies, but sometimes the police action is in response to the violence started by demonstrators. Musharraf says protest demonstrations in the past like the one to protest Danish newspaper's blasphemous cartoon resulted in loss of billions of rupees to public property. Musharraf alleges that some people disguised as lawyers are involved in the present protest demonstrations.

Coming back to the legal aspects of the action taken against the Chief Justice, Musharraf says it was a "//legal issue//" and was handled as per "constitutional ways" and according to the law. Musharraf says

all decisions were taken according to constitutional and legal norms, but the "problem areas" lie in its tactical handling at the ground level. Musharraf says the problem was compounded by the involvement of "political forces" and the politicians politicized the issue because of their vested interests and with a view to "destabilize" the government." Musharraf says there was also an "over-hype" from the media side. Musharraf says other problem arose because of the mishandling of protests by the law enforcement agencies. Musharraf says the government also did not explain the case properly. Musharraf adds: "I think right on the first day there should have been some spokesman who should have come and explain A to Z legal situation to the nation on the TV." Musharraf hopes that the media would also adopt a "balanced" attitude and be "just and fair." Musharraf says he requests the lawyer community not to "pressurize" the judiciary and get involved in political activity. Musharraf says it is simply a judicial case and let the Supreme Judicial Council decides the case. Musharraf says the political parties should not take "advantage" of the situation and says: "I am issuing a warning that we will not allow them [political parties] to take advantage of the situation. Do not politicize. The government will not allow you to politicize and take political advantage through this very judicial and constitutional case." Musharraf also advises law enforcement agencies to exercise "restraint", but act to prevent any sabotage.

Kamran Khan notes that Musharraf has insured media freedom in Pakistan to an unprecedented level. Kamran Khan says in his programs he had always given credit to the Musharraf government for insuring freedom of media, but it looks like the government suddenly lost "patience" with the media during last one week and even asked the private TV channel to take some programs off the air and his "Today with Kamran Khan" program was banned and Geo News office in Islamabad was attacked. Khan asks Musharraf how he views the present scenario. Musharraf says he is a "strong believer" in the freedom of media as freedom of speech and expression is "an essence of democracy." Musharraf then cites in details actions taken by him to allow private TV channels to function freely which also created thousands of jobs. Musharraf, however, adds that but "freedom" comes with "responsibility". Musharraf urges the media to show its responsibility by not giving "one-sided" version of the events. Musharraf says even independent autonomous regulatory authorities free from government interference have been set up to interact with the media. Regarding the police action at Geo News office in Islamabad, Musharraf says "it is condemnable" and assures a full investigation of the case. Musharraf says all the people involved in the incident, including the police inspector in charge, have been suspended. Musharraf says but the dismissed police inspector is "missing," which looks like a part of larger "conspiracy." Musharraf says: "But let me assure you that it is not a conspiracy against the media. If there is any conspiracy, it is by somebody against the government and Pakistan."

Kamran Khan asks Musharraf if the government thinks "massive efforts" are required to rebuild its image damaged by the events of last 10 days. Musharraf says the government is taking stock of the situation and wants to see that the situation is "defused."

Kamran Khan says the reports say that the situation has deteriorated to an extent that Musharraf has to "clamp state of emergency" and "postpone the elections." Khan says the government coalition parties are saying that if a situation regarding Iran arises, the elections will be postponed. Khan asks whether he is not comfortable with the ideas of elections this year. Musharraf says: "elections will be held on time. This is my assurance to the nation." Continuing, Musharraf says: "Army will never be used" and there is no such situation [that warrants calling of Army] and "I will never use the Army at all. This is not their job". Musharraf adds: "there is no emergency situation and state of emergency will not be clamped."

Regarding the Iran situation, Musharraf says: "we are against any military action" and we have clarified this many times. "But if something happens and if there is a fallout here, I can't even predict what is the fallout." [Sentence as heard] Musharraf says: "we have carried out our studies and thought about it. we need to protect ourselves from any negative fallouts." God willing, "we will protect ourselves. We will go forward on the course, which is elections this year when the 5-year tenure of the assemblies is completed. This is it, I am firmly resolved to do that and I will do it."

When Kamran Khan asks Musharraf whether he would continue as chief of army staff, Musharraf says "he would not violate the Constitution" and beyond that he would not like to comment on the issue, which has larger implications.

Kamran Khan notes that lately Benazir Bhutto-led Pakistan People's Party has distanced from anti-government activities of other political parties. Khan asks Musharraf whether he is ready to reciprocate Benazir Bhutto's gestures. Sidestepping the question, Musharraf says this is an election year and every action and statement will have a political fallout. Musharraf says: "post-2007 elections scenario will be very important and serious as Pakistan's future is linked with it. //Pakistan is faced today by multifarious external issues and international issues// like Afghanistan, Al-Qa'ida, and Taliban. So that is why in such a situation I have said that in these elections //moderate forces must defeat extremist forces.//" Musharraf assures that the elections will be "///fair and transparent//." Musharraf says all parties will be allowed to contest and he cannot say more than that because it will have political fallout.

Kamran Khan says "various examples of US //pressure// on Pakistan have surfaced" and the US media, the Congress as well as the establishment officials have expressed "///disquiet// about Pakistan. Khan says reports are also saying that "President Bush through Vice President Dick Cheney sent a strong message to President Musharraf." Khan asks Musharraf what was the US strong message and how did he respond. Musharraf says: "there was no strong message. And, if there is a strong message, I am also not a soft-spoken person. There was no such strong message." Musharraf says only those persons are giving "///negative fallout// of Pakistan who do not understand reality. Musharraf says he has "///conviction in the reality of environment//." Musharraf says "there is a mistake in the analysis of existing environment and there is a difference of opinion //in the west, some circles in the United States and the media, foreign media.// //That does not mean that we should buckle. I have rationale and I am very sure of the environment.//" Continuing, Musharraf says all foreign dignitaries who visit Pakistan, including Vice President Dick Cheney, came on "///fact-finding mission//." Musharraf says: "///nothing will be allowed to take place against Pakistan. [Sentence as heard] We will not allow any foreign agency coming and attacking and bombing our area//." Musharraf says he fully understands the present situation and adds: "///the environment is very, very clear, crystal clear. There are two opposing forces in Afghanistan, and I repeat in Afghanistan, not in Pakistan. These are Afghan forces, Afghan government and coalition forces and United States, of course, its forces versus Taliban. And with Taliban, Al-Qa'ida also get involved. This is it. But there is support from our side. This is the environment. But if anyone presumes this environment to be Afghanistan versus Pakistan//, he is totally wrong, totally wrong." Musharraf wonders why Pakistan is being blamed as it is the only country, which is taking action and has suffered a lot. Musharraf says he does not care what the international media says, but he would like to change their attitude because Pakistan is on the right course. Musharraf, however, admits that Pakistan should try to stop support being provided from its side to across the border.

OSC cannot process Kamran Khan's interview with Musharraf beyond this point because the interview was recorded only until 1900 GMT due to technical reasons.

: Karachi Geo News TV in Urdu -- 24-hour satellite news TV channel owned by Pakistan's Jang publishing group, broadcast from Dubayy. Known for providing quick and detailed reports of events. Programs include some Indian shows and dramas which the group claims are aimed at promoting people-to-people contact and friendly relations with India.

2,527 posted on **20 marzo 2007 19:48:34 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?)

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **nw_arizona_granny**

Sounds like he might be and is giving instructions for fellow like minded individuals.

What are the balloons? Couldn't find it at the site.

2,528 posted on **20 marzo 2007 22:35:33 GMT+01:00** by **milford421** (U.N. OUT OF U.S.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Militant warns of more terror attacks

March 18 2007 at 10:59AM

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=123&art_id=vn20070318104335121C293223

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=123&art_id=vn20070318104335121C293223

By Chris Brummitt

Kudus - An alleged leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah militant group said bombings in Indonesia have hurt Islam's cause there, but he warned of more attacks by small terror groups working independently and influenced by Internet teachings.

Abu Rusdan's interview on Friday with the Associated Press underscored how the terror campaign has divided the militant movement in the world's most populous Muslim nation, and pointed to a possible opening for authorities trying to further isolate extremists.

Rusdan is an Afghan-trained militant believed by police and the United States to be a key leader in Jemaah Islamiyah, the shadowy South-east Asian network that spawned many of the region's terrorists and is believed to have received funds and direction from Al-Qaeda.

In the interview in his large family house in Kudus, a town on Indonesia's main island of Java, Rusdan declined to condemn the militants responsible for the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings and other attacks, saying only that their actions "were counterproductive".

"We cannot call what they did an act of evil, let alone terrorism," he said.

"But we must see the objective facts: Those actions did not bring positive results in efforts to spread the faith in Indonesia."

"We need to tell them to think again," he said.

The Bali bombings killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists, and thrust the mostly moderate, secular country on to the front lines of the war on terror.

Three other suicide attacks on Western targets in the country have

since
killed more than 40 other people.

Rusdan, 46, said he had no role in terrorist activities, but he danced around questions over his involvement in Jemaah Islamiyah.

Police and analysts say he took over as head of the group's "mainstream" faction in 2002 - after the arrest of former leader Abu Bakar Bashir - but likely had no direct knowledge of the bombings carried out.

Rusdan was arrested in 2003 and sentenced to three-and-half years in jail for hiding one of the militants convicted in the Bali blasts, but he was released in late 2005.

Indonesia has not made membership of Jemaah Islamiyah a criminal offence.

Rusdan said more attacks, carried out by independent groups, were likely.

"No one can control groups who want to do those kinds of actions," he said.

"Many people are not satisfied about the conditions in Indonesia.

"They can do many things under the influence of teachings on the Internet or books that are circulating widely."

Rusdan left for Afghanistan in 1985, but he declined to talk about his activities there.

He then lived in Malaysia, where he was close to some of South-east Asia's most notorious terrorists, including Hambali, who is now in US custody.

In 2005, the US government listed Rusdan as a terror leader and ordered banks to block any financial assets he may have there. - Sapa-AP

2,529 posted on **21 marzo 2007 2:53:48 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **milford421**

About the middle of the page, there was a line of balloons on the lake photo, said they were ready for shooting.

A thought that just came to me, after mulling around why you would shoot at balloons floating in the lake.

That is target practice, for the sharp shooters.

A balloon, floating on the lake, moving gently, would be like shooting a human head, on a body that was

moving.....bobbing gently up and down.

also check your mail.

2,530 posted on **21 marzo 2007 4:11:06 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2528](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; FARS; Founding Father; milford421; Calpernia; Velveeta; struwwelpeter; DAVEY CROCKETT**

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/1803954/posts?page=25>

Iraq insurgents used children in car bombing: general
Associated Press via Yahoo.news.com ^ | March 20, 2007 | Jim Mannion

Posted on 03/20/2007 2:23:42 PM PDT by WmShirerAdmirer

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Insurgents in Iraq detonated an explosives-rigged vehicle with two children in the back seat after US soldiers let it through a Baghdad checkpoint over the weekend, a senior US military official said Tuesday.

The vehicle was stopped at the checkpoint but was allowed through when soldiers saw the children in the back, said Major General Michael Barbero of the Pentagon's Joint Staff.

"Children in the back seat lowered suspicion. We let it move through. They parked the vehicle, and the adults ran out and detonated it with the children in the back," Barbero said.

The general said it was the first time he had seen a report of insurgents using children in suicide bombings. But he said Al-Qaeda in Iraq is changing tactics in response to the tighter controls around the city.

A US defense official said the incident occurred on Sunday in Baghdad's Adhamiyah district, a mixed neighborhood adjacent to Sadr City, which is predominantly Shiite.

After going through the checkpoint, the vehicle parked next to a market across the street from a school, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"And the two adults were seen to get out of the vehicle, and run from the vehicle, and then followed by the detonation of the vehicle," the official said.

"It killed the two children inside as well as three other civilians in the vicinity. So, a total of five killed, seven injured," the official said.

Officials here said they did not know who the children were or their relationship to the two adults who fled the scene. They had no information about their ages or genders.

"The brutality and the ruthlessness of this enemy hasn't changed," said Barbero, deputy director of regional operations of the Joint Staff. "They are just interested in slaughtering Iraqi civilians, to be very honest."

Attacks on Iraqi civilians are down by a third and sectarian murders have fallen by 50 percent since mid-February when US and Iraqi forces began moving into Baghdad as part of a new security crackdown, the general said.

On the other hand, there has been no let-up in attacks on US forces by Al-Qaeda in Iraq and other Sunni extremist groups, he said.

The incidence of car bombings and suicide attacks, which are typically carried out by Sunni extremist

groups against Shiites, also have gone up even though their effectiveness is down, he said.

"As our checkpoints, and control points have been more effective, as they try to execute these high profile attacks with these vehicle-borne IEDs (improvised explosive devices) in Baghdad, we're stopping a lot of them at these checkpoints and they are not getting to their intended targets," he said.

But he said they will change their tactics.

Barbero pointed to the recent use of chlorine bombs as another example of the shifting tactics.

Three trucks with chlorine were blown up by suicide bombers over the weekend in Al-Anbar province, killing two policemen and releasing toxic fumes that sickened an estimated 350 people.

Barbero said Al-Qaeda in Iraq appeared to be resorting to use of chlorine bombs to intimidate tribal leaders that have turned against them in Al-Anbar.

"We assess those as relatively ineffective. However, that is an emerging tactic that we are seeing."

"We think it will continue to be exercised in Iraq. Chlorine is readily accessible and we've had a number of these," he said.

He said US commanders remain concerned about the Shiite militias led by radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, even though US forces are now operating freely in Sadr City and his Mahdi army militia is quiet.

Sadr is still in Iran but in communication with leaders of his movement in Iraq, he said.

"Where we are with the leaders of his movement is at a pretty delicate point, and I probably don't want to talk any more about his followers, and where we are in our relationship with them," he said.

2,531 posted on **21 marzo 2007 4:44:42 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Yes, nightmares, so are all the fires at the schools.

<http://www.google.com/search?q=fires+at+the+schools&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a>

News:

<http://news.google.com/news?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&tab=wn&q=fires+at+the+schools&sa=N&start=10>

Several show here:

<http://news.google.com/news?q=school+fire&btnG=Search+News&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla%3Aen-US%3Aofficial&client=firefox-a&um=1&tab=wn>

Try checking a few pages of this one, I see one exploded in Florida this morning:

<http://news.google.com/news?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla%3Aen-US%3Aofficial&client=firefox-a&um=1&tab=wn&q=explosive+device+school&btnG=Search+News>

<http://news.google.com/news?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla%3Aen-US%3Aofficial&client=firefox-a&um=1&tab=wn&q=gun++school&btnG=Search+News>

Looks like a school bus accident, 32 minutes ago, 17 in hospital:

<http://news.google.com/news?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla%3Aen-US%3Aofficial&client=firefox-a&um=1&tab=wn&q=school+bus+incident&btnG=Search+News>

2,532 posted on **21 marzo 2007 6:02:44 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; milford421; Calpernia; FARS; Founding Father**

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/page/dis/288464733367327>

Published on Tuesday, March 20, 2007

NEW: Sheriff looking for tips in school bus, weapon incident

YAKIMA -- Sheriff's deputies need the public's help identifying who pointed a gun at a school bus yesterday in the Tampico area west of Yakima.

The incident occurred at 4:30 p.m. on North Fork Road. Deputies were told that somebody in a speeding black two-door car with tinted windows pointed a large revolver at the bus.

The car, which had a chrome-ringed sunroof, was last seen heading east on Ahtanum Road and may have turned south on 79th Avenue in the Wiley City area.

The occupants were described as males. Further details were not available. Chief Criminal Deputy Ed Campbell said he is waiting on reports.

"My kids go to school out there, and something like this is not cool, regardless of whether it was a real gun or not," he said.

To report a tip, please call 574-2500.

-- Chris Bristol

2,533 posted on **21 marzo 2007 6:08:16 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; milford421**

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/page/dis/288460843856768>

Published on Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Two men charged with arson in firebombing
By ROD ANTONE
YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

Prosecutors have charged two men and are looking for a third in connection with a firebombing on Jerome Avenue last month.

Brandon Lee Lansden, 20, and Patrick Michael Allaire, 21, were arraigned Monday afternoon in Yakima County Superior Court on first-degree arson charges. Investigators on Friday also issued an arrest warrant for a third suspect, identified as Edwin Charles Duncan, 28.

According to an affidavit filed in superior court, Lansden and Allaire both named Duncan as the "instigator" of the Feb. 25 firebombing at 2202 Jerome Ave. Both said they each made a Molotov cocktail and drove over to the house, where they noticed the lights were on and a vehicle parked in the driveway.

Yakima police said at the time of the firebombing, there were four people in the house -- a mother and her three children -- not three, as police reported in a news release last week. The family escaped uninjured, but police said that about 15 minutes before the firebombing, two of the children had been in the room where the suspects allegedly threw incendiaries through a window.

"We are taking this case very seriously because of the potential of it being 10 to 15 minutes from being a homicide investigation," said Yakima fire Detective Jim Fuehrer.

According to the affidavit, the firebombing might have been in retaliation for an earlier assault, which is being investigated as a separate case.

Allaire and Lansden are being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

2,534 posted on **21 marzo 2007 6:17:28 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All; Founding Father; FARS; DAVEY CROCKETT; Calpernia**

[Interesting cartoons and subjects chosen for them]

International Women's Day – Cartoons in Arab Press Criticize Women's Status in Arab World
By: O. Winter

http://www.memri.org/bin/opener_latest.cgi?ID=IA33507

On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, 2007, the Arab press published numerous cartoons dealing with status of women in the Arab world. Some focused on the women's role as housewives who spend their time cleaning, cooking, and caring for the children, and on the men's role as figures of authority who exploit and oppress them.

Other cartoons criticized the hypocrisy of the male-dominated establishment, ridiculing male public figures who give lofty speeches on Women's Day, but in actuality do nothing to promote women's equality.

Still others emphasized the contrast between the spirit of International Women's Day - celebrating women's rights and liberation - and the actual status of women, who are still oppressed and deprived of their rights.

The following are examples of the cartoons:

2,535 posted on **21 marzo 2007 10:47:49 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Thanks to Milford421 for this report:

bizjournals.com

Derailments prompt federal inspection of N.Y. train tracks

Tuesday March 20, 11:08 am ET

The federal government has begun inspecting nearly 1,300 miles of track across New York state in the wake of several train derailments. Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph Boardman, the former transportation chief in New York state, was in Albany, N.Y., Monday to announce the plan to improve rail safety.

"A safe railroad begins with safe track, but it doesn't end there," Boardman said. "Railroads needs to embrace a 'culture of safety' and find new ways to prevent the kind of accidents that have disrupted lives and commerce and shaken our confidence in the safety of tracks."

Over the last several weeks serious derailments have occurred on tracks and rail overpasses in Western New York.

FRA will be using a vehicle called T-16 to inspect rail lines used by CSX Corp., extending from Buffalo to Albany including the lines to Niagara Falls and to Ripley at the Pennsylvania border.

Oneida was the site of the most recent derailment on March 12 involving 79 CSX cars moving from Buffalo to Selkirk, N.Y., which resulted in a fire and evacuation of some residents. There were no injuries.

The inspection, officials said, will measure whether the two track rails are level and if the width between the rails is acceptable to avoid derailments.

Boardman also said that he met with CSX senior executives to discuss the railroad's recent safety record and the results of a focused inspection on CSX property conducted in January.

Published March 20, 2007 by The Business Review

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070320/1434345.html?.v=1>

2,536 posted on **21 marzo 2007 10:59:57 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Uranian-Japanese Friendship

Japanese need Russian uranium. In Japan want not only enriching uranium in Russia, but having an access to local uranium deposits. New Japan legislation on nuclear industry might make Japanese ambitions reality, according to experts.

Japan had found Russia a partner in nuclear sphere. First stage of cooperation with Russian companies is producing enriched uranium for own nuke industry, and a second stage- participation in Russian deposits exploitation. According to Wednesday edition of Yomiuri Shimbun, "This summer, Moscow and Tokio might sign an agreement on producing the enriched uranium by Russian Holding "Atomprom" for Japan". It will cover re-cycling of Uranian pole used at British

power stations and stored recently in the UK.

Moreover, a possibility to enrich Uranium digged by Russian companies in Kazakhstan is recently under consideration in Japan also.

An agreement might be signed during a top official summit prior to summer-2007, a newspaper was informed. N-olTrn

Sources: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/business/20070301TDY01005.ht>

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20070222TDY01001.htm>

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/business/20070301TDY01005.htm>

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/business/20070222TDY03004.htm>

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/business/20070222TDY03004.htm>

http://www.gazeta.ru/2007/02/21/oa_232207.shtml

http://www.gazeta.ru/2007/02/21/oa_232207.shtml

2,537 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:04:36 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Selection List: UK Arabic Press 20 Mar 07

Originally published on 3/20/2007 by UK Arabic Press -- OSC Report in Arabic

London Al-Hayah (Internet Version-WWW) in Arabic 20 Mar 07

(Influential Saudi-owned London daily providing independent coverage of Arab and international issues; commentaries occasionally critical of US policy)

1. A 700-word report citing Iraqi sources on "dialogue" between the Iraqi government and seven armed factions that have expressed their opposition to the Islamic state announced by Al-Qa'ida (OSC plans to text this item)

2. A 500-word report on statement by Yunadim Kanna, deputy chairman of the Iraqi Constitution Committee announcing that "a committee will be set up to examine the amendments requested by some political quarters." Kanna is also quoted as saying that the committee was formed after an in-depth study of the current constitution in its political and economic aspects, and is reviewing "the contentious articles" flagged by the various political parties (OSC does not plan to process this item)

3. A 600-word report citing "high-level" Syrian sources on outcome of the visit by the EU's Javier Solana (OSC plans to text this item)

London Al-Sharq al-Awsat (Internet Version-WWW) in Arabic 20 Mar 07

(Influential Saudi-owned London daily providing independent coverage of Arab and international issues; editorials reflect official Saudi views on foreign policy)

1. A 500-word article by Chief Editor Tariq al-Humayd on issues to be discussed at the upcoming Riyadh Arab summit (OSC plans to text this item)
2. A 500-word report making a brief reference to a statement made by the Saudi cleric Shaykh A'id al-Qarni in a seminar in Riyadh. Al-Qarni urged mosque imams not to discuss Darfur and Chechnya but instead, "focus on local social issues" such as family problems. (OSC does not plan to process this item)

London Al-Quds al-Arabi in Arabic 20 Mar 07

(London-based independent Arab nationalist daily with an anti-US and anti-Saudi editorial line; generally pro-Palestinian, tends to be sympathetic to Bin Ladin)

1. A 700-word editorial viewing current situation in Iraq and raising doubts about US President Bush's statement that US strategy in Iraq will bear fruit in a few months' time. The editorial also argues that "Bush must admit his role in this catastrophe which he caused not only for Iraq but for the international community as a whole" (OSC plans to text this item)

Negative selection:

(Internet) Ilaf WWW-Text in Arabic 20 Mar 07

(Electronic London daily providing independent coverage of Arab and international issues; headed by Al-Sharq al-Awsat's former chief editor)

2,538 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:07:50 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?
Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **FARS; Founding Father; Calpernia; milford421**

I have started posting for the night, they will be to all, not as pings to each of you.

There are quite a few of the translations, will see what is of use.

2,539 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:09:45 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?
Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

FBI Warned It Could Lose Spying Power

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070320/national_security_letters.html?.v=1

FBI Warned It Could Lose Spying Power

Tuesday March 20, 2:58 pm ET

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Associated Press Writer

Lawmakers Warn FBI It Could Lose Broad Spying Power Following
Revelations of Abuses

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Republicans and Democrats sternly warned the FBI on Tuesday that it could lose its broad power to collect telephone, e-mail and financial records to hunt terrorists after revelations of widespread abuses of the authority detailed in a recent internal investigation.

continued.....

2,540 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:11:41 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?
Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Compassion and the decline of America

Posted: March 20, 2007

1:00 a.m. Eastern

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=54781

This past weekend, a friend of mine attended his 13-year-old son's baseball game. What he saw encapsulates a major reason many of us fear for the future of America and the West.

His son's team was winning 24-7 as the game entered the last inning. When he looked up at the scoreboard, he noticed that the score read 0-0.

Naturally, he inquired as to what happened - was the scoreboard perhaps broken? - and was told that the winning team's coach asked the scoreboard keeper to change the score. He and some of the parents were concerned that the boys on the losing team felt humiliated.

In order to ensure that the boys losing by a lopsided score would not feel too bad, the score was changed.

As is happening throughout America, compassion trumped all other values.

Truth was the first value compassion trashed. In the name of compassion, the adults in charge decided to lie. The score was not 0-0; it was 24-7.

Wisdom was the second value compassion obliterated. It is unwise to the point of imbecilic to believe that the losing boys were in any way helped by changing the score. On the contrary, they learned lessons that will hamper their ability to mature.

They learned that someone will bail them out when they feel bad.

They learned that they do not have to deal with disappointment in life. Instead, someone in authority will take care of them. (This is how reliance on the state for solving personal problems - the worldview of the left - is formed early in life.)

They learned that their feelings, not objective standards, are what society deems most important.

They learned that they are not responsible for their behavior. No matter how poorly they perform, there will be no consequences - sort of like tenure for university professors.

They also learned to think in the feminine - with an emphasis on feelings - rather than to cultivate their innate masculine sense that winners win and losers learn to deal with it and move on to the next game.

At the same time, the boys on the winning team learned not to try their best. Why bother?

Building character was the third value trumped by compassion. People build character far more through handling defeat than through winning. The human being grows up only when forced to deal with disappointment. We remain children until the day we take full responsibility for our lives. Our increasingly feelings-based society has created a pandemic of immaturity in our society. And there are fewer and fewer maturity-creating institutions in our society. Indeed, the opposite is more often the case. Schools, for example, keep young people immature, none more so than college, which serves primarily to postpone adulthood.

The fourth value that compassion denied here was fairness. It is remarkable how often compassion-based liberals speak of "fairness" in formulating social policy given how unfair so many of their policies are. It was entirely unfair to the winning team to have their score expunged, all their work denied. But for the compassion-first crowd, the winning team is like "the rich" who earn "too much" and should therefore be penalized with a higher tax rate; the winning team scored "too many" runs to be allowed to keep them all.

Compassion in social policy almost always produces unfair results. Compassion for murderers allows them to keep their lives after taking the life of another. Compassion for minorities leads to affirmative action, which means that individuals who are not members of a designated minority will be treated unfairly. Compassion for immigrant children led to bilingual education, which subsequently prevented most of those children from advancing in American society.

Compassion as the primary determinant of behavior is effective in personal life. In making public policy, it is a morally and socially destructive guideline. In fact, it is so bad that thinking people must conclude that its primary purpose is to enable policy-makers who are guided by compassion to feel good about themselves.

Dennis Prager, one of America's most respected and popular nationally syndicated radio talk-show hosts, is the author of several books and a frequent guest on TV shows such as "Larry King Live," "The O'Reilly Factor" and "Hannity & Colmes."

2,541 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:14:36 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Pakistani officer said detained with map and documents in Afghan east

Originally published on 3/20/2007 by Afghan Islamic Press in Pashto
Pakistani officer said detained with map and documents in Afghan east

Text of report by Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency

Khost, 20 March: A Pakistani officer has been detained. Giving details of this incident to Afghan Islamic Press [AIP] this afternoon, Sher Ahmad Kochi, commander of Border Brigade No 2 in Khost Province, said: "A Pakistani officer was arrested in the border area of Aryub Jaji District of Paktia Province yesterday. He has been transferred to the centre of Border Brigade No 2, which is located in Khost town." "Some documents and a map of Khost have been taken from him and he is being interrogated," he said.

It is worth pointing out that Border Brigade No 2 is a joint brigade of Paktia and Khost provinces and its main centre is in Khost. Pakistani officials have not commented on this.

: Peshawar Afghan Islamic Press in Pashto -- Peshawar-based agency, staffed by Afghans. The agency used to have good contacts with Taliban leadership; however, since the fall of the Taliban regime, it now describes itself as independent and self-financing

2,542 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:17:29 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?)

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Volume 4, Issue 6 (March 20, 2007) | Download PDF Version

Khalid Sheikh Muhammad: Waging Jihad from Prison

By Michael Scheuer

Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri have long made clear to their lieutenants that the road to paradise can be found in the enemies' prisons as well as on the battlefield. From prison, they argue, a captured al-Qaeda leader can mislead his interrogators, provide accurate but dated material that leads the enemy nowhere, or speak to the Muslim nation if the opportunity arises. Until last week, the most successful from-jail operation was run by captured senior al-Qaeda leader Ibn Sheikh al-Libi, who described non-existent WMD cooperation between Iraq and al-Qaeda, a claim Washington used to support its case for war with Iraq. Al-Libi later recanted his claims, and he may still be smiling at the effects of his statement. Al-Libi's laurels have now passed to Khalid Sheikh Muhammad (KSM) on the basis of his presentation to a U.S. military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay on March 10. Al-Qaeda's former operations chief, who was captured in Pakistan in March 2003, made the most of his testimony before the tribunal in at least six areas, each of which benefits al-Qaeda and causes problems for the U.S. government. Clearly, KSM's remarks were addressed to both Western and Muslim audiences [1].

Claimed Responsibility for Attacks: Without remorse or excuses, KSM admitted to having been involved in 31 operations and said he was ready for "what is coming to me." In broken English, KSM continued, saying, "For this [the oath to tell the tribunal the truth] is not necessary, as I responsible, responsible." Much of the Western media failed to read the statement closely, and as a result have defaulted to two incorrect conclusions, claiming either that no single person could have done what KSM claimed—and so he is egotistical—or that he was such an important and potent figure that now al-Qaeda is much less threatening without him. KSM, however, simply said that as al-Qaeda's operations chief he was involved in one way or another in the group's operations; surely there is no surprise there, and 31 events over an 11 year period can hardly be called excessive. KSM also made clear that some of the planned operations he described occurred "before I join al-Qaeda." KSM was proud of what he and al-Qaeda have attempted and achieved in their "war" against the United States and its allies; for the millions of Muslims who support al-Qaeda, he will be seen as an able, active and effective military leader.

Victory is Possible: KSM's testimony was a timely, if obviously uncoordinated, complement to Ayman al-Zawahiri's March 11 criticism of Hamas for adopting a "defeatist" attitude in agreeing to join a unity government in Palestine [2]. KSM's description of al-Qaeda's dozens of operations over five continents depicts the group's unique geographical reach and its determination and ability to hurt Islam's perceived enemies. Indeed, KSM kept his well-known egotism in check and tried to keep the focus on al-Qaeda as a powerful group, saying al-Qaeda conducted the attacks and "what I wrote here, is not I'm making myself a hero, when I said I was responsible for this or that." Convincing Muslims that they have a chance to defeat the vastly more powerful West has always been one of the most difficult tasks undertaken by bin Laden and al-Zawahiri. KSM's words will serve as an example of that ability that will stand alongside what the mujahideen believe are Islam's coming victories in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Eroding the CIA's Anti-al-Qaeda Capabilities: Al-Qaeda leaders have claimed that their organization has been hurt most since 9/11 by the Pakistani army's operations in the Pashtun tribal region and by the CIA's rendition program. KSM smartly framed his presentation to further undercut the latter by claiming that he had been tortured by the CIA, adding that some of the information he previously provided was false and given under duress (al-Jazeera, March 15). Almost before he was done talking, the president of the military tribunal assured him that his allegations would "be reported for any investigation that might be appropriate" and prominent U.S. senators from both parties publicly called for KSM's charges to be investigated and, if true, for the perpetrators to be punished (Washington Post, March 17). As an added bonus for al-Qaeda, KSM's claims of providing false information will raise questions in the U.S. intelligence community and those allied with it about how much of KSM's pre-March 10 information can be trusted as the basis for either operations or analysis.

Fanning Trans-Atlantic Flames: By claiming that he was tortured at the CIA's hands, KSM has thrown

more gas on the raging debate between the United States on the one side, and European governments, European Union institutions and the assortment of human rights groups over the issue of what to do with al-Qaeda and other Islamist prisoners. Furthermore, because the CIA is an easy and already much-used target by Europeans and the U.S. Congress, KSM was careful to broaden the target deck for U.S. critics by devoting much of his testimony to describing the "many, many people" who are innocent and being held in Guantanamo Bay: "So, I think God knows that many who been arrested, they been unjustly arrested." KSM pleaded with the military tribunal's president "to be fair with [the] other [innocent] people" who are being held, adding, "I hope you will take care of other detainees with what I said. It's up to you."

Keeping Focused on U.S. Foreign Policy: KSM uttered not a word about his, al-Qaeda's, or Muslim hatred for the way Americans live, vote, or think, nothing about U.S. elections, liberty, or gender equality. Apparently sharing the belief of bin Laden and al-Zawahiri that few Muslims are or can be motivated by hatred for American liberty and society, KSM concentrated on the laser-like focus of his superiors: U.S. foreign policy. "For sure, I'm Americans' enemies," KSM said. Quoting bin Laden, KSM cited as reasons for this status as "American military presence in Arabian peninsula and aiding Israel and many things." Because of U.S. policy in the Muslim world, KSM explained that he asked himself "What will I do?" His answer was, "This is the language [of war, creating victims]. Sometime I want to make great awakening between American to stop foreign policy in our [Muslim] land. I know American people torturing us from the seventies." In his testimony, KSM hewed to the letter of al-Qaeda's decade-old justification for the jihad it is waging: U.S. foreign policy is an attack on Islam and its followers, and al-Qaeda's response is a "religious thing" to protect the faith.

Straight Talk about War: If any part of KSM's testimony might be called refreshing, it was his constant lecturing of the military tribunal about the nature of war: "This is why the language of any war in the world is killing. I mean the language of war is victims." KSM engaged in none of the charlatanism of Western discussions of war; he did not speak of surgical strikes, limited collateral damage, precision weapons, or casualty-free wars. Knowing history better than his interlocutors, KSM told the tribunal: "But your [sic] are military men. I did it [the list of attacks] but this is the language of any war...Military [men] throughout history know very well. They don't war will never stop. War start from Adam when Cain he killed Abel until now. It's never gonna stop killing people. This [killing and victims] is the way of the language [of war]... You know never stopping war. This is life." Since Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, said that, "War means fighting and fighting means killing," the unchanging reality of war has seldom been better described than it was by KSM in his broken English.

Notes

1. All quotes from KSM are drawn from the U.S. military's transcript of his testimony at Guantanamo Bay on March 10, 2007.
2. "Ayman al-Zawahiri Statement on Hamas, Afghanistan, and Egypt," <http://muslim.net/vb>, March 12, 2007.

Find this article at:

<http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2370285>

2,543 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:22:08 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Hariri`s likely poll win might be cause of killing: UN team

[Home](#) > [World](#)

Zee News

March 21, 2007

Hariri's likely poll win might be cause of killing: UN team

United Nations, March 21: A United Nations team probing the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has pointed to his likely election victory in 2005 as a possible motive behind the killing.

Presenting the seventh report of the International Independent Investigation Commission (IIIC) to the security council, serge Bramm Dsertz, head of the United Nations team investigating the assassination, says his team expects to develop a "unifying factual theory" behind the crime in the next three months or so.

The Commission's understanding of the facts has advanced substantially, producing valuable links within and between the main components of the case. In the next reporting period, and potentially beyond that, the commission believes that it will be able to develop further a unifying factual theory built upon newly identified linking evidence," the report states.

The IIIC reports to the council every three months. "It is of some note that Hariri was killed on the day that Parliament was scheduled to debate the electoral law to be applied in the forthcoming elections. Another working hypothesis for the commission is that those who decided upon the assassination saw it as beneficial to kill him before he formally began his election campaign, especially given the perception in the media at the time that he was likely to win," it added.

The 20-page report of the IIIC, set up in April, 2005, also highlights the effect of the "volatile political and security environment" in Lebanon on the commission's ability to work.

Bureau Report

<http://www.zeenews.com/znnew/articles.asp?aid=361248&sid=WOR>

2,544 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:33:29 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Shaykh Atiyatallah Supports al-Zawahiri's Recent Criticisms of HAMAS

Originally published on 3/14/2007 by Jihadist Websites -- OSC Summary in Arabic

Terrorism: Shaykh Atiyatallah Supports al-Zawahiri's Recent Criticisms of HAMAS

On 14 March, a jihadist website posted a letter entitled "Shaykh Ayman: We Hold Him To Be a Preacher of Right-Guidance and Pure Monotheism," written by prominent jihadist commentator Shaykh Atiyatallah in which he supports al-Zawahiri's recent criticisms of HAMAS.

The translation of the statement follows:

Shaykh Ayman: We Hold Him To Be a Preacher of Right-Guidance and Pure Monotheism

In the Name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate

"By the afternoon!

Surely Man is in the way of loss,
save those who believe, and do righteous deeds,
and counsel each other unto the truth,

and counsel each other to be steadfast."
[Koran 103:1-3]

There is no doubt that Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri's letter entitled "Palestine is Our Business and the Business of Every Muslim," published on 22 Safar 1428 [11 March 2007] was in keeping with Dr. Ayman's usual way of acting (God preserve him): giving sincere advice to Muslims, performing the duty of summoning to God, proclaiming His unity (may He be exalted and magnified), doing His command, and steadfastly striving in His way. We have always known Shaykh Ayman to be a counselor solicitous for Muslims, zealous toward God's religion and sanctities, and fearing no detractor's blame in matters pertaining to God; and, furthermore, that he possesses knowledge, wisdom, experience, and virtue. We ask God to bless him and increase him in right-guidance and correctness.

This letter was one of a series of letters concerning Palestine. Its purpose was to direct our brothers in Palestine, offer them sincere advice, and counsel the large Islamic movement there, Hamas. It warned the movement of the dangerous pitfalls into which it had fallen. It demonstrated the error the movement made when it entered the so-called political game and formed a government under the shadow of the apostate [Palestinian] Authority. It elucidated the clear deviations that this implied, represented by a mounting series of mistakes in terms of Islamic law. These mistakes involve, among other things, having dealings with apostates, trusting some of them, evincing friendship and brotherhood toward them, declaring respect for and abiding by their constitution and laws, and respecting invalid agreements concluded between the Authority's apostates and Fatah, on the one hand, and the Jewish enemy, on the other.

One notes that there has been a gradual increase in the sharpness of the tone of these letters. This is a matter for individual judgment. The Shaykh has been well-intentioned in them, and he can be assumed to mean well and to be sincere. He is a man qualified to advise and direct and to choose the appropriate style. No reasonable man should challenge someone like Shaykh Ayman in a matter like this. Great men are not to be challenged in such matters; one grants them their choice and individual judgment. They have a right to speak emphatically, harshly, and critically that others do not have who are not at their level. Words are tolerated from them that would not be tolerated from others. The Hamas statement -- if it is authentic -- hinted at this idea; which is good -- God be praised!

Dr. Ayman's present statement, like all his previous letters, is a statement consisting on the whole of calls to monotheism, to faith, and to obedience to God the Lord of the Worlds. It commands the good and the virtuous, warns against evil, and forbids vice. It reproaches Hamas for taking the road of the filthy "political game," including entering non-Islamic legislative bodies, assuming responsibility for the executive government for the apostates' Authority, subjecting itself to insult and humiliation, and signing to respect invalid agreements, respect the constitution and the law, and display national unity and brotherhood with the apostates. Dr. Ayman called attention to the fact that the usual result of all these things is to abandon jihad (resistance) and serve the Jewish and American enemy, notwithstanding the declaration and repeated affirmations by Hamas that it has not and will not abandon resistance and arms. Dr. Ayman, however, is not one to be deceived by verbal statements and affirmations when he sees contradictory actions!

An intelligent believer, schooled in his faith, and wanting what is best will respect this and understand it. He will grasp Dr. Ayman's hand, though the phrases be harsh, the style severe, and the words accompanied by some mistakes, as is the attribute of all human beings, however high their rank. Those controlled by passion and blind devotion to their own causes overlook this and see only the harshness in the letter; they look at some of the phrases or some of the ideas that are mistaken or open to challenge and say, "Would that he had not spoken!"

I think that Dr. Ayman -- and al-Qa'ida behind him -- have chosen to come out at this stage with a statement of the mistakes of Hamas and to warn Muslims in Palestine and elsewhere of these errors and not remain silent concerning them (I refer to their speaking publicly, for in private and between themselves and their brothers they do not keep silent over what they see as wrong) because these are great and evident wrongs and violations of religious law that Muslim scholars, preachers, and leaders have a duty to clarify, a duty that comes under the heading of carrying out jihad by means of one's

tongue and word. The duty falls under the heading of commanding virtue and forbidding vice, correcting error, summoning to God, preserving the faith, and responding to the violator and showing his lapse, error, and straying, lest people be misled by him, follow him, or imitate him, but rather that they may beware of his mistake and avoid it.

Among the intentions of Dr. Ayman and al-Qa'ida in such an undertaking and statement -- and God knows best! -- was that the truth should be recognized, its standard raised, and its banner lifted, so that those whom God wishes might return to it; for the command belongs entirely to God, and kingship belongs entirely to Him: He gives it to whom He will. We are nothing but people who summon to true monotheism and obedience to God. We seek to please God and strive in God's way, as God has commanded us.

Perhaps the conviction has grown strong in them that reform has become impossible and that change is inevitable: that destiny and God's law are about to embrace, as God has said: "If you turn away, He will substitute another people instead of you, then they will not be your likes." [Koran 47:38].

However, Dr. Ayman clearly distinguishes here between the Hamas leadership and the rest of Hamas. He does not equate everyone. This is clear from his words: "It pains me to turn to the Muslim Ummah with the truth and say to it, 'May God make great your recompense for the leadership of Hamas, for it has fallen into the morass of surrender.'" Similarly in all his previous letters. This is a matter of justice and fairness, for we know that in Hamas and among the Palestinian people in general there are mujahideen, people of true monotheism, people of religion, piety, and uprightness, who do not approve of such deviations or support them, but rather dissociate themselves from them and condemn them, doing their utmost to change them. However, they have had no opportunity to work and strive in jihad as they wish.

Dr. Ayman therefore addresses those mujahideen in Palestine as follows: "I therefore call on my brothers -- brothers ready to sacrifice their lives and fight in Palestine -- to know that they are mujahideen in the way of God, and that they must spurn the international resolutions that surrendered Palestine to the Jews. They must not respect these resolutions, but despise, condemn, and renounce them. They must continue their jihad in the way of God until the entire Dar al-Islam invaded by unbelievers is liberated from al-Andalus to Iraq, until God's word is uppermost, and the caliphate returns to protect Islam's sanctuary and spread its law."

Some of the dedicated Hamas supporters who have responded to Dr. Ayman and disagreed with his opinion have put forward the follow points: He was harsh in his choice of words, and by using such words he was serving the enemy, breaking ranks, and increasing strife among Muslims. He was wrong to say that Hamas had surrendered, when Hamas has not surrendered but remains committed to the line of resistance and jihad. Thus they say, and also that he was wrong to say that Hamas had surrendered most of Palestine to the Jews. ("Today, in the time of the deal, the Hamas leadership is surrendering most of Palestine to the Jews.") He was wrong to compare Hamas to Sadat and his deeds. ("The Hamas leadership has finally boarded Sadat's train to shame and humiliation.")

These are their main objections to the words of Dr. Ayman.

I assume that Dr. Ayman might reply something like this:

As for the harshness, one may say that it is justified, because the deviation has been great and dangerous. Gradualness and patience have been tried, and so a severe shock is needed.

Even if one admits that Dr. Ayman erred, one might excuse him for good intentions and for desiring to do good. He only spoke from religious zeal and commitment. As we have said, he is in a position to make individual judgments and to view Islam and the Muslims. He is qualified to do so, for he is one of the dignitaries and leaders of the Muslims at this time. Similar things might be said about the verses of poetry that Dr. Ayman cited, that they contain a tone of stern rebuke -- but God alone knows the truth!

As for breaking ranks and increasing strife, no consideration need be given to such charges when the faith and pure monotheism have been defiled. The true principle is that believers unite around pure monotheism. It is of no avail to seek unity of ranks while ignoring and keeping silent about the decline and corruption of the faith.

As for his charge that Hamas has surrendered, it is a view of the implications. The conclusion is that Dr. Ayman sets what Hamas has done as equivalent to surrender and abandonment of the option of true jihad in favor of spineless options, the option of the political game. This is true. For anyone who looks at the implications and makes them his criterion no great ambiguity remains!

If any censure still remains for the harshness of tone, the matter, God willing, is unimportant and has passed.

Dr. Ayman is not blaming Hamas for having signed a temporary truce with the enemy when it needed one, as long as the truce was a chapter in the ongoing jihad. He is not even blaming Hamas for sparing Palestinian blood. As he says, "Agree, if you wish, to spare Palestinian blood, but do not agree to sell out Palestine."

The most Hamas can say is: "We are not selling out Palestine. Palestine is waqf [religious trust] land that no one has the right to sell." However, this would be an incomplete answer. One need only look at the implications and the realities. Yes, you cannot sell it, but by signing to respect international agreements and the PLO's agreements with the Jews you effectively give up a large part of Palestine: it was in that sense that Dr. Ayman meant selling out. That is what the doctor condemned. One cannot reply by saying, "We have not sold." One must answer by proving that one has not abandoned the option of jihad, real jihad, and that one has really renounced the invalid agreements that give the Jews the right to an inch of Islamic territory. One must prove that one takes ones friends and one's enemies on the basis of the religion of Islam and on no other basis. In short, one must reply by deeds and by adherence to God's religion and law, not by mere words and reassurances.

One may say the same or nearly the same about his words comparing Hamas to Sadat in their boarding the train of shame and humiliation.

What he meant was that the deeds of the movement, i.e., its political leadership, imply surrender, humiliation, abandonment of Palestine, being satisfied with crumbs, and seeking to please the unbelievers. This is quite evident to anyone who is fair. "My Muslim brothers, quite frankly it is the American plot to circumvent the Islamic jihadist resistance to the Crusader-Zionist campaign. America has decided that it needs to give the Palestinian issue a formal, or rather a specious solution, so as to remove one of the greatest causes of Muslim hatred for American. Because it was being starved out, embargoed, murdered, bargained with, and tempted with crumbs of authority, the Hamas leadership agreed to fall in with the plot. So it took a walk with the American Satan and his Saudi agent. It failed to realize that anyone who takes a walk with Satan comes back a loser. God has spoken the truth: "He promises them and fills them with fancies, but there is nothing Satan promises them except delusion." [Koran 4:120].

Dr. Ayman defined and correctly diagnosed the basis of the deviation when he said: "The grave lesson for us all in this lapse is that doctrinal deviation facilitated behavioral deviation. When you thought it a light matter to abandon the sovereignty of the religious law, it became an even lighter matter for you to concede most of Palestine. My Muslim Ummah, these are the fruits of secular democracy, the fruits of elections held under occupation and under the authority of secular constitutions: surrender, concession, and recognition of the legitimacy of Israel."

Dr. Ayman also does not neglect to draw attention to the authority to which the deviation of the Hamas leadership can be traced. He draws attention to the fact that that it is part of the Muslim Brotherhood structure -- and he is an expert on the Muslim Brotherhood. Criticizing the Brotherhood's policy of alleging to be fighting jihad only against the occupying foreign enemy, he says: "Despite what they say, we have found them to be cooperating with and participating with the foreign Crusader occupier. They go into Kabul and Baghdad aboard the American Crusader foreign tanks. In Palestine we have found them satisfied with a third of the government in return for ceding most of Palestine and the sovereignty of the religious law. In this way they forfeit the last argument they might have used to prove that they are still engaged in jihad against the foreign enemy."

Dr. Ayman is astonished that such a deviation should have taken place in the Hamas leadership despite the fact that our American enemy, the sponsor of the Jewish enemy, is in retreat and rout by the grace of

God. Where are patience and steadfastness? "Why all this retreat in the face of the American plot, while America is being defeated in Afghanistan and Iraq, groaning under the blows of the mujahideen and looking for a place to flee? Why are they retreating when the mujahideen are advancing rapidly toward Palestine? Why are they retreating when the Ummah is in the midst of a jihadist revival that has shaken its being and given it a new revival?"

He asks the Hamas leadership: "Why are you being defeated and retreating? Why are you accepting their crumbs and being drawn into the enemies' games, when reason and faith demand that you be patient and steadfast? Victory is at hand. Your absent brothers have arrived on the battlefield. Soon, God willing and with His help and aid, your brothers, the militant sons of the Ummah, will all be at the walls of Jerusalem."

Unless, by God, the Hamas leadership should say: "We don't want our 'absent brothers.' They have nothing to do with Palestine. Let them leave us alone and stay away!" If that is ever said, the matter is clear: it is not a question of harshness of tone or of breaking and scattering ranks for anyone who ponders the matter, but a matter of religion, pure monotheism, and way!

I have seen the brothers in Hamas or their supporters say frequently that the Hamas movement has given and is still giving martyr after martyr. If it had wanted to surrender and gain the approval of America, the West, and even the Jews, and live in comfort, it would have explicitly recognized Israel; yet it has remained steadfast despite the embargo and savage war against it.

Though there is some truth in this argument, it also contains a considerable amount of disingenuousness. The truth contained in it is that we value the movement's not recognizing Israel despite the strong pressure on it. This is something for which it is to be praised in any case, as well as for its steadfastness in doing so despite the starving out and the embargo and for its having given -- in the general sense -- and still giving martyrs.

By "in the general sense" I mean that many of the martyrs given by Hamas were not necessarily in agreement with the movement's deviation and straying and did not support it in this respect. I have said that we know that many mujahideen are also present, though they are fighting God's enemies in the framework of the Hamas movement. Furthermore, many of the martyrs that Hamas gives come from the generality of Muslims. What distinction does Hamas have in them? I mean: they are not soldiers and members of Hamas; they come from the general Muslim population and could either agree with Hamas or disagree with it, like it or dislike it! To all of this another important point needs to be added: The fact of having offered many martyrs is not proof of the soundness of the path one is taking. The soundness of a person's path is known first and foremost by arguments from Islamic law and jurisprudence; anything else is only to be drawn upon and used for support after one knows the judgment of Islamic law.

God knows best who is striving in His way. God knows best who is killed in His way. God knows best who is wounded in His way.

Now we see the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade giving more and more. Is this proof of anything? The brigade is the arm of Fatah -- and they are your enemies, who stood by the heretic Dahlan, fighting you and killing your young men before the Mecca agreement!

I don't want to remind you of other examples. The list is long.

This is the commentary that has suggested itself. God alone grants success.

We ask God to correct our state and the state of Muslims everywhere. May He gently bring back to the truth those of them who stray. May He strengthen us in what remains. May He help His friends who strive in His way in every place. May He relieve our troubles and the troubles of Muslims in Palestine and everywhere. He is a generous Master, and what a good Master and Helper is He!

Written by Atiyatallah

Tuesday, 24 Safar 1428
[13 March 2007]

2,545 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:39:33 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[\[Post Reply | Private Reply | To 2519 | View Replies \]](#)

To: **All; FARS**

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070320/ap_on_re_mi_ea/nuclear_iran_3&printer=1; ylt=AlyiswFZMDtdlZe0bVGeKvcUewgF

Yahoo! News

Russia reportedly exits Iran nuke site

By GEORGE JAHN, Associated Press Writer Tue Mar 20, 1:07 PM ET

Russia is pulling out its experts from the Iranian nuclear reactor site they were helping build, U.S. and European officials said Tuesday. The move reflected a growing rift between Iran and Russia that could lead to harsher U.N. sanctions on the Islamic republic for its refusal to stop uranium enrichment.

The representatives — a European diplomat and a U.S. official — said a large number of Russian technicians, engineers and other specialists have returned to Moscow in the past week, at about the same time senior Russian and Iranian officials tried unsuccessfully to resolve financial differences over the Bushehr nuclear reactor. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because their information was confidential.

"A good number of them have left recently," said the U.S. official, of the approximately 2,000 Russian workers on site of the nearly completed reactor outside the southern city of Bushehr. The European diplomat, who is accredited to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, said a large number had left as recently as last week.

Sergei Novikov, a spokesman for Rosatom, Russia's Federal Nuclear Power Agency, confirmed that the number of Russian workers at the Bushehr plant had dwindled because of what he said were Iranian payment delays. He would not say how many had left.

In a commentary, Iranian state television criticized Russia for what it described as a policy of procrastination in constructing Bushehr.

"Double standard stances by Russian officials regarding Iran's nuclear issue shows that Russians are not a reliable partner in the field of nuclear cooperation," the commentary said.

continued....

2,546 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:55:06 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[\[Post Reply | Private Reply | To 2519 | View Replies \]](#)

To: **All**

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070320/ap_on_re_mi_ea/nuclear_iran_3

Off the Wires

* Bolton: Iran won't give up nuke ambition AP, 15 minutes ago

* Swiss discussed compromise idea in Iran: diplomats Reuters, 27 minutes ago

Feature Articles

* Iran Is Playing a Growing Role in Iraq Economy at The New York Times (reg. req'd), Mar 17

* Moscow Pulls the Plug: Russia Loses Patience With Iran at Spiegel Online, Mar 13

News Stories

* Iran Army Vows to Defend Nuclear Program at The New York Times (reg. req'd), Mar 18

* Iran's President Vows to Keep Nuclear Project at The New York Times (reg. req'd), Mar 17

Opinion & Editorials

* Alarm over Iran helps Bush at The Los Angeles Times (reg. req'd), Mar 07

* We must not let Bush wage war against Iran at Daily Telegraph (UK), Mar 01

World News

* North Korea nuclear talks remain stalled AP

* Cracks appear in new Palestinian govt. AP

* Landslides kill 31 in Pakistan's Kashmir AP

* Hundreds help bury former Saddam deputy AP

* Somali insurgents drag soldiers' corpses AP

Most Viewed - World

* North Korea nuclear talks remain stalled AP

* Foreign refuge often eludes young Iraqi men The Christian Science Monitor

* Somalia most dangerous country for minorities: report AFP

* Landslides kill 31 in Pakistan's Kashmir AP

* Vietnamese island guards a national treasure: fish sauce The Christian Science Monitor

2,547 posted on **21 marzo 2007 11:59:53 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies?)

Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Jihadist Forum Participants Say Khalid Shaykh Muhammad Confessed Under Torture

Originally published on 3/20/2007 by Jihadist Websites -- OSC Summary in Arabic

Terrorism: Jihadist Forum Participants Say Khalid Shaykh Muhammad Confessed Under Torture

On 15 March, a jihadist website posted a message entitled, "The Pentagon: New Confessions for the Captured Mujahid, Khalid Shaykh Muhammad," in which a participant copied reports from The Washington Post and Al-Jazirah Satellite Television about the confessions made by Khalid Shaykh Muhammad at the Guantanamo military hearing, which were released by the Pentagon on Wednesday, 14 March 2007.

The first poster said that the release of the confessions to the media was an attempt on part of the US to distract people from its defeat in Iraq, and to show them that it was after all able "to arrest someone, whom it believes to be one of the key players in the September 11 attacks." The poster wrote, "I am not surprised about America's chosen timing to publish the confessions of the captive, Khalid, may God free him from his captivity."

Another forum participant wrote off the confessions altogether because according to him, "Words cannot be accepted from the captive or the enslaved. Shaykh Khalid Shaykh Muhammad is living under brutal torture, and we ask God to give him patience, and that his words will not be accepted because he uttered

them under torture." The original poster agreed and added, "This is a known fact, dear brother. Who will believe them? Torturing our brothers in their secret prisons will not get the dogs of America anything. But what is really troublesome in this matter is their timing."

2,548 posted on **21 marzo 2007 12:06:46 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

ISI Claims Downing US Helicopter Near Ba'qubah 19 Mar

Islamic State of Iraq Claims Downing US Helicopter Near Ba'qubah 19 Mar

Originally published on 3/20/2007 by Jihadist Websites -- OSC Summary in Arabic
Terrorism: Islamic State of Iraq Claims Downing US Helicopter Near Ba'qubah 19 Mar

On 20 March, a jihadist website posted a statement issued by The Islamic State of Iraq in which the group claimed responsibility for the downing of a US helicopter near Ba'qubah city on Monday, 19 March 2007. The statement was attributed to the Ministry of Information of The Islamic State of Iraq and was copied from "Al-Fajr Media Center."

A translation of the statement follows:

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

"Praise be to God, Lord of all creation. Peace and prayers be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon all of his family and companions.

"On Monday, 1 Rabi al-Awwal 1428, corresponding to 19 March 2007, God enabled the soldiers of The [Islamic] State [of Iraq] to shoot down an American helicopter that transports the soldiers of the cross by targeting it using the air defense weapon, which led to its burning in the province's sky and immediate crashing into the ground of Al-Hashimiyyat area, near the city of Ba'qubah in the province of Diyala. Praise and gratitude be to God.

"Oh Revealer of the book, the Mover of the clouds, and the Defeater of the parties, defeat the hateful rejectionists, the Zionist Crusaders, and their allies. Oh God, make them and their equipment booty of war for the Muslims. Oh God, destroy them and shake the ground under them.

"Oh God, you are our support and helper, we count on you in our movements and battles.

"Oh God, defeat them for they are no match to you. Oh God, we ask you to strike them like you did the Pharaoh and his people.

"Oh God, send the deluge to their land, and make them perish with 'some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil)' [Koranic verse; Al-Baqarah 2:155].

"Oh God, your soldiers shall never be defeated, and your people shall never be beaten.

"Oh God, defeat them and crush them; you are the Possessor of all strength, the Victorious. Oh Lord of majesty and bounty, oh Everlasting, oh Self-Existing One.

"This operation is part of Al-Karamah [dignity] Plan, which was ordered by the amir of the believers, Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi, may God protect him, the amir of The Islamic State of Iraq.

"God is great.

"But honor belongs to Allah and His Messenger, and to the Believers; but the Hypocrites know not'

[Koranic verse; Al-Munafiqun 63:8].

"The Islamic State of Iraq - Ministry of Information"

2,549 posted on **21 marzo 2007 12:10:23 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **All**

Afghan Translator Said Still Held by Taliban After Italian Journalist Freed

Originally published on 3/20/2007 by AFP in English

KABUL, March 20, 2007 (AFP) - An Afghan translator is still being held by Taliban militants after the Italian journalist he was working for was freed in exchange for Taliban prisoners, an official and journalists said Tuesday.

The father of Ajmal Naqshbandi and Afghan journalists gathered at the steps of the ministry of information to demand the government "spare no effort" to secure the release of the translator captured March 4.

Naqshbandi was working for Daniele Mastrogiacomo, who was freed Monday. The Italian said he saw the Taliban decapitate their driver.

The fate of the translator has been unclear with some reports saying Taliban militants were still holding him because they wanted more of their men freed from government custody.

An advisor in the information ministry, Najeeb Manalai, confirmed Ajmal had not been released. "I am strongly worried for the translator who is still in custody of the terrorists," he told the journalists.

"This is not fair," Naqshbandi's father, Ghulam Haidar, told AFP. "To release the Italian, they released five Taliban.

"But to release my son they won't release one Taliban. They are not doing anything. This is wrong."

The Journalists' Defence Committee appealed to the Taliban and the government to do something, saying people were losing trust on all sides.

"If the Afghan government does not take steps for the freedom of its own national, it is going to make the Afghan media and the people lose trust in the government and international community," said committee head Zia Nomia.

By "threatening the life of an Afghan journalist" the Taliban was "more and more weakening the trust of the Afghan people," said another member of the committee, Halim Fedaei. "We call on the Taliban to release Ajmal."

Presidential spokesman Karim Rahimi admitted Tuesday that Taliban prisoners had been swapped for the Italian but he would not say how many.

The deal has raised concern with the United Nations and US embassy in Kabul saying they do not negotiate with "terrorists."

: Hong Kong AFP in English -- Hong Kong service of the independent French press agency Agence France-Presse

2,550 posted on **21 marzo 2007 12:12:15 GMT+01:00** by **nw_arizona_granny** (How are your survival supplies? Today is a good one, for stocking up, food, medicine, & protection.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2519](#) | [View Replies](#)]

Navigation: use the links below to view more comments.

[first](#) [previous](#) [1-50](#) ... [2,451-2,500](#), [2,501-2,550](#), [2,551-2,600](#) ... [5,101-5,139](#) [next](#) [last](#)

Disclaimer: Opinions posted on Free Republic are those of the individual posters and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Free Republic or its management. All materials posted herein are protected by copyright law and the exemption for fair use of copyrighted works.

[Free Republic](#)
[Browse](#) · [Search](#)

[News/Activism](#)
[Topics](#) · [Post Article](#)

[FreeRepublic](#), LLC, PO BOX 9771, FRESNO, CA 93794

FreeRepublic.com is powered by software copyright 2000-2008 John Robinson