

Islam: At Peace With Jews and Christians?

Sunday, June 8, 2003

Israel questioned suicide bombers

Posted: June 8, 2003, 3:58 p.m. Eastern

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=32969

While ruling out any involvement by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network in the suicide attack against a popular Tel Aviv pub, Israeli police sources said the two British terrorists responsible were questioned by Shin Beth, the Israeli internal security service, 17 days prior to the April 30 attack. **The operation marked the first time a foreign-born Arab has been involved in a suicide bomb attack. The attack was carried out by British-born Assif Mohammed Khanif, who blew himself up as he was stopped by a security guard at the entrance to Mike's Place. Three Israelis were killed in the attack and dozens wounded. The body of a second terrorist, Omar Khan Sharif, also a British subject, was discovered floating in the Mediterranean.**

A Shin Beth source said they entered Israel through the Allenby Bridge from Jordan. It is now clear the two arrived in Jordan from Syria, where they **received their orders from a Hamas handler**, according to Israeli sources. An Israeli policewoman alerted Shin Beth after she interviewed the two. The interrogators couldn't find any incriminating or legal grounds to prevent the two British subjects from entering the country.

A Tel Aviv court removed the gag order on the affair. Its documents reveal that a month before the attack the Israeli intelligence had information of **a Hamas plan to conduct an attack by recruiting two carriers of European passports**. But, the information did not include further details on the identity of those foreigners. **The two booked a room in the Tel Aviv Aviva Hostel located close to the nightclub. They asked the hostel workers to recommend a "nice night club," then left Tel Aviv for Gaza, where they apparently received the sophisticated explosives pressed and shaped like paper....**

All that time the two carried copies of the Quran, which were actually bound explosives looking like papers....

While Khanif managed to blow himself up, his colleague failed and escaped only to be found dead two weeks later. The authorities suspect he was killed by Palestinians who acted as a "shadow." ...Cerrello, who befriended the two and helped them by providing transportation. Cerrello maintains she did not know the two Muslim Britains were actually terrorists.

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What Drove 2 Britons to Bomb a Club in Tel Aviv?

May 12, 2003, By SARAH LYALL

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/12/international/europe/12BRIT.html?ex=1053796243&ei=1&en=907b3f3e04c71ae9>

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DERBY, England, May 8 - Something changed Omar Khan Sharif, sent him in a new direction, and Derby's older Pakistani population cannot begin to fathom what it was. But the radicalization of the well-educated, thoroughly Westernized Mr. Sharif, 27 - the forces that led him from Derby to Tel Aviv, where he is wanted on charges of helping to carry out a suicide bombing in a beachfront nightclub on April 30 - make a certain sense to the younger, second-generation immigrants born and raised here. Mr. Sharif was angry, they say, for reasons that would be all too **understandable to Muslims everywhere**.

"In a way, I sympathize," said Mohammed Zahid, 23 ... "When you see what's happening in Israel, something comes into your mind, something just goes."

On a fine spring day on a pleasantly bustling street, such an explanation seems partial at best. As Sarfraz Bashir, 31, a college graduate in between computer jobs who was helping out at the Jamia Mosque on Rose Hill Street, put it: "In the U.K., you can have a proper job and a proper education. We have everything here - why ruin it?"

Along with another Briton, Asif Mohammed Hanif, 21, Mr. Sharif is said to have entered Israel as a tourist, via Jordan, using his British passport. There, the two checked into a hotel, donned explosive belts and made their way to Mike's Place, a jazz club next to the United States Embassy.

Mr. Hanif's explosives detonated, killing him and three others and injuring at least 50 more, the authorities say; Mr. Sharif's explosives failed to go off and he managed to slip away. **He and Mr. Hanif now enjoy the dubious notoriety of being the first British suicide bombers to strike within Israel...**

Publicly, what Mr. Sharif is accused of doing has been roundly condemned here. But scratch beneath the surface in Derby, and people begin to talk about Iraq and Afghanistan and Israel and **the oppression of Islam**. "Some people take Islam deeper than others," said a young man ... an unemployed second-generation Pakistani. **"Killing people is wrong, obviously, but if he was doing it for God himself - then fair enough,"** said the man "You have to be pretty brave to do something like that, to hold a bomb in your hand and blow yourself up."

... **"What he's done is very good, and they won't ever find him,"** said Basu Hussain, 18, taking a break from his job at Lick'n Chick'n, a fast-food outlet. **"We should all get together and kill all the Jews."**

... The British National Party, a right-wing political group that has gained ground in local governments by capitalizing on Britons' fears of Muslim outsiders, has no presence here. **Al Muhajiroun, a Muslim group that advocates overthrowing Western democracies, regularly tries to recruit believers here, but most Derby Muslims - although by no means all - dismiss it out of hand.**

Mr. Sharif grew up in the heavily Pakistani Normanton district. It is here, in a neat Victorian row house with a large garden in the back, that his father, Mohammed, a prominent businessman originally from Kashmir who owned a laundry, a kebab restaurant, and other shops, moved with his wife and six children about 20 years ago. Both parents have since died.

In a country where many immigrants stick to their native languages at home, the family spoke English among themselves and wore Western clothes, said Hamida Akhtar, 54, who lives down the street on Breedon Hill Road and was a close friend of Mrs. Sharif. "They were very respectable and nice," she said.

The family emphasized education for their children, and Omar, the youngest, was perhaps particularly privileged. Although he attended state schools (the equivalent of American public schools) in Derby for most

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of his childhood, between 1986 and 1988 he went to Foremarke Hall Preparatory School, set on acres of woods, fields and ponds about 20 minutes outside the city.

At 18, he enrolled in college in London, and came back transformed. He wore a beard and clothes that identified him as a religious Muslim. He prayed five times a day.

"He used to be dressed like this," Ms. Akhtar said, pointing to her husband, Mohammed, who was wearing a suit and tie. "Suddenly, he was changed." He had a new wife, too, named Tahira Tabassum, who wore a traditional Islamic head scarf.

In recent years, too, Mr. Sharif began spending more time with the local representatives of Al Muhajiroun, a group based at the Finsbury Park mosque in London that has several regional offices around Britain. Its leader, Omar Bakri Mohamed, told the Derby Evening Telegraph that Mr. Sharif had attended regular "ideological discussions" with the group at St. James' Center, a community center on Malcolm Street. "I first noticed him because he could understand Arabic, which he said he had studied in Syria," Mr. Mohamed told the paper.

The group has recently played down its links to violence, modifying public pronouncements in a way that seems aimed at consumption by the Western news organizations. But it has spoken very differently in the past, encouraging Britons to go to Afghanistan to fight on behalf of the Taliban, for example.

In 2000, it held a rally through the streets of Normanton, with placards urging the killing of Jews. Last year, it sponsored a celebratory conference marking the anniversary of the Sept. 11 bombings; a fading notice advertising the event, with a picture of the burning twin towers and the words "a towering day in history," is still stuck to a post outside the Rose Hill Street mosque.

The Finsbury Park mosque, Al Muhajiroun's London base, is well known as a center for espousing anti-Western ideas. Among those who have passed through its doors are Richard C. Reid, the so-called shoe bomber, convicted in the United States of trying to carry out a suicide attack on a plane in 2001.

Most Muslims here tend to avoid people from Al Muhajiroun, who regularly waylay them as they leave the mosque after Friday Prayers. "The literature they put out is embarrassing for mature members of the community, people who have more understanding," said Fareed Hussain, a member of the Derby City Council. "Not only do they put out propaganda against Jewish people, but also against Indian people, Sikhs and Hindus."

But there are very real fears that they are offering something that young men, particularly the underemployed and frustrated, want to hear.

It is a hard time to be Muslim in this country. Many Muslims are particularly unhappy about the harsh antiterrorism measures introduced here in 2000 and tightened in 2001, which give broad powers of arrest and detention and have been used too enthusiastically, in the minds of some, by a government eager to demonstrate its antiterrorist credentials.

"We're extremely worried about young people being susceptible to their message," Shokat Lal, general secretary of the Pakistani Community Center, said of Al Muhajiroun. "The people in these groups present themselves as positive role models - they make you want to participate and be part of something."

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Mr. Lal said young men across Britain were at risk. "Muslim, and particularly Pakistani, youth at the moment seem to fall within two categories," he said. "Either they join a fundamentalist group, as Sharif did, or they get involved in drugs and crime."

One young Derby Muslim who admires what Mr. Sharif is said to have done is Shaban Yasin, 17.... "Suicide bombing, he said, is the "wrong way" to kill the Jews, adding that, "We should find out the best way to kill them, and do that."

Mr. Yasin grew up in Derby, too, and said that his parents, immigrants from Pakistan who settled here happily, had retired and were "living it large" on their British pensions. But, he said, he considers himself a Muslim first and foremost.

If he were to blow himself up for the cause, he said, "I think my parents would be proud of me."

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3 Israelis Killed and 50 Wounded in Blast at Mall

May 20, 2003, By JAMES BENNET

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/20/international/middleeast/20MIDE.html?ex=1054484302&ei=1&en=e5709c7a167f2c3b>

AFULA, Israel, May 19 - The fifth Palestinian suicide bomber to strike against Israelis in less than 48 hours detonated a shrapnel-packed bomb outside a mall here late this afternoon, killing a security guard and two bystanders and delivering a new blow to a peace effort that was already reeling.

...The attack in this northern Israeli town, which wounded more than 50 people, was part of what the Israeli police called a "wave of terror" that has greeted the most intensive international effort to date to end the 31-month conflict....

A senior Israeli security official said the new attacks were aimed both at Israel and at Mahmoud Abbas, the first Palestinian prime minister, who has promised to disarm militant groups. "Everyone in the terror chain is very worried about this development," he said of the appointment of Mr. Abbas, who is also known as Abu Mazen. "They are determined to escalate and make every effort to carry out attacks in this period." He said Mr. Abbas had to take action.

The official attributed the new violence also to Syria and Iran, which he said were still fomenting terrorism among Palestinians while seeking to appear cooperative with the United States after the war in Iraq.

Mr. Sharon had been scheduled to see President Bush in Washington ... But he postponed his trip on Sunday, after a suicide bomber killed seven passengers on a Jerusalem bus. That attack was preceded by a suicide bombing on Saturday night in Hebron, in the West Bank, that killed two Israeli settlers, a man and his pregnant wife.

The bus bombing on Sunday morning was followed minutes later by another suicide bombing on Jerusalem's outskirts that killed only the bomber and wounded no one. This morning in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian rode

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a bicycle packed with explosives toward an Israeli Army jeep, then detonated his charge, killing himself and slightly wounding three soldiers....

Mr. Abbas has been trying to negotiate a truce with **Hamas** and other groups. Today, Mr. Abbas's security chief, Muhammad Dahlan, appointed several senior officials in the Interior Ministry, which he hopes to use to revive Palestinian security forces...

... and different claims of responsibility further muddied the picture. Islamic Jihad and a militia connected to Mr. Abbas's own Fatah faction, Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, each claimed responsibility, and it appeared possible that they acted jointly.

The Fatah group identified the bomber as Hiba Daraghmeh, 19, a student of English literature from the West Bank village of Tubas.

The police said the dead included three men and one woman. The authorities were able to identify the men, the police said, and after learning that a female security guard had survived the attack, though severely wounded, they tentatively concluded that the dead woman was the bomber, said Gil Kleiman, a police spokesman....

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Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Muhammad ordered Muslims to kill Jews?

Posted: July 15, 2003, 1:00 a.m. Eastern

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=33569

The killing of Jews is a mandatory religious obligation established by Islam's founder Muhammad, according to a Muslim academic who spoke on Palestinian Authority television.

"Muhammad said in his Hadith: 'The Hour [Day of Resurrection] will not arrive until you fight the Jews, [until a Jew will hide behind a rock or tree] and the rock and the tree will say: 'Oh Muslim, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him!'" said Hassan Khader, founder of the Al Quds Encyclopedia. Khader spoke during a lecture, broadcast Sunday, on what he describes as the war of the Jews against Palestinian "trees"...

PMW director Itamar Marcus says Khader's statement was one of many instances in recent years of Palestinian religious leaders teaching publicly that this Hadith – part of Islamic traditions attributed to Muhammad – is a current obligation of Islam.

Marcus says these teachings challenge the common belief that the premise for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians is over borders. "Palestinian religious and academic leaders publicly teach that the Israel-Palestinian conflict is part of Islam's irreconcilable religious war against the Jews," he says. "To justify this view," he adds, "Palestinians repeatedly cite Islamic sources to demand as religious doctrine, that Jews be hated, even demanding the killing of Jews as the will of Allah."

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Marcus says "the continued expression of this PA worldview is most ominous." "For by depicting redemption as dependent on Muslims' murder of Jews, the murder of Jews is being presented as mandatory religious obligation," he says.

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Monday, March 4, 2002

Sudan jihad forces Islam on Christians By Art Moore

Posted: March 4, 2002, 1:00 a.m. Eastern

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=26672

Sudan's militant Muslim regime is slaughtering Christians who refuse to convert to Islam, according to the head of an aid group who recently returned from the African nation. The forced conversions are just one aspect of the Khartoum government's self-declared jihad on the mostly Christian and animist south, Dennis Bennett ... told WorldNetDaily. Villagers in several areas of the northeast Upper Nile region say that when women are captured by government forces they are asked: "Are you Christian or Muslim?" Women who answer "Muslim" are set free, but typically soldiers gang-rape those who answer "Christian" then cut off their breasts and leave them to die as an example for others.

Bennett says these stories are corroborated by witnesses from several tribes in the region. Upon returning to the U.S., he wrote a letter to influential members of Congress and activists. "After witnessing once again the situation on the ground there," Bennett wrote, "I must ask 'How long will the United States government allow the Government of Sudan to continue its jihad against the Black African Christians of South Sudan?'"

Backed by Muslim clerics, the National Islamic Front regime in the Arab and Muslim north declared a jihad, or holy war, on the south in 1989. Since 1983, an estimated 2 million people have died from war and related famine. About 4.5 million have become refugees.

Sudan's holy war against the south was reaffirmed in October by First Vice President Ali Osman Taha. "The jihad is our way, and we will not abandon it and will keep its banner high," he said to a brigade of mujahedin fighters heading for the war front, according to Sudan's official SUNA news agency. "We will never sell out our faith and will never betray the oath to our martyrs."

...In his letter urging action by the U.S., he points out that Sudan's military continues to decorate and promote known war criminals such as Commander Taib Musba, who in the mid-1980s killed an estimated 15,000 unarmed, civilian, ethnic Uduk Christians.

In 1986, Musba entered the Uduk tribal capital of Chali and declared to its Christians: "You are all going to convert from Christianity to Islam today, because here is what's going to happen to you if you don't." Musba then killed five church leaders in front of the gathered villagers. When they refused to convert, he began killing unarmed men, women and children. Some were herded at gunpoint into a hut then run over by a 50-ton, Soviet-made tank. He also herded groups of about a dozen people into a hut, where he asked the first person "Do you renounce Jesus Christ?" Anyone who refused was killed by a three-inch nail driven into the top of the head.

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The U.N. high commissioner for refugees granted the Uduks international refugee status in 1992 after investigating the atrocities, but almost as many died during the six years they waited for the declaration. Islam also is forced on Sudanese in the Muslim north. Security police in Khartoum are pursuing a local convert to Christianity who went into hiding three weeks ago to escape arrest and possible death, the Compass Direct news service reports. Aladin Omer Agabni Mohammed, who left Islam 11 years ago to become a Christian, is subject to the death penalty under Sudanese criminal law for "apostasy." According to a church leader, two other converts face a similar situation.

Forced starvation

Bennett says that in addition to the more immediate, readily apparent atrocities taking place, there is a slower, less perceptible persecution that is equally deadly. Forced starvation is one of the primary tools of the Khartoum regime, he says. When government forces attack a Christian village, they kill everyone they catch, but those who flee lose everything necessary for survival.

"The government comes in and burns the crops, burns grain stored if there was any excess, burns houses down," Bennett said. "Now you have only the clothes on your back, no tools, no cooking pots, no buckets for water, and you have to run two days through the bush in 115-degree temperatures in order to escape." In the arid wilderness, escapees try to survive on tree leaves and stagnant, dysentery-infested water. If a woman is breastfeeding, her milk dries up, Bennett said, and the baby starts dying. Small children, just weaned, also start dying.

"But all the family has to do is change their name to Muhammad or Ramadan, convert to Islam and walk the two days back to the government of Sudan who will care for them," he said. Last year, the government of Sudan burned all the crops in the area where Bennett's group works. "There wasn't anything to harvest," he said. "Literally we saw people eating roots and tree leaves. It's like eating the nutritional properties of cardboard. It's enough to put something in your stomach but not enough to feed you"...

Slavery as tool of terror

Slavery is another tool of the National Islamic Front regime, though Bennett says it is not known in the northeast Upper Nile region, mainly because of lack of transportation ... the railroad line allows captured men, women and children to be taken to slave markets in the north ... The ongoing controversy surrounding slave redemption – the practice of buying freedom promoted by some humanitarian groups – arose again ... when the Irish Times and Washington Post published exposes acknowledging the existence of slavery in Sudan but alleging that fake slave redemption is taking place. But he believes it's important to keep in mind that taking slaves is "just one more facet of the jihad against the civilian population" in southern Sudan. The methods may vary in different parts of the country, but the aim is the same.

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20 Nov 2003 12:33:35 GMT

Muslim rioters burn 13 churches in north Nigeria

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L06376353.htm>

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LAGOS, Nov 20 (Reuters) - Islamic militants burned to the ground thirteen churches and several houses in a remote northern Nigerian town after a Christian student was accused of blasphemy, police said on Thursday.

Irate youths torched churches, houses and shops late on Tuesday in Kazaure, some 80 km (50 miles) north of Kano, a northern provincial capital where hundreds have died in religious clashes in the past three years.

The dispute began when a Christian student was accused of insulting the Prophet Mohammad and a group of Muslims were not satisfied with the response of school authorities.

Abubakar Sale, police commissioner in the northern Jigawa state, told Reuters that the rioters attempted to invade the school but were repelled by police.

"The hoodlums then mobilised and went into town where they started looting and burning people's property," Sale said by phone from Dutse, the state capital.

"Thirteen churches were burnt, several houses and shops were torched, but there were no deaths," said Keirian Dudari, assistant inspector general of police in Kano.

Police said the town was calm on Thursday after reinforcements were deployed to quell the riots. The violence came after three students were killed and more than 30 injured in fighting between Muslims and Christians at a university in northeastern city of Maiduguri earlier this month.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in religious violence in northern Nigeria in the past four years since the introduction of Islamic sharia law in 12 states.