Appendix

How Britain Creates and Controls Jihadi Terrorists

by Edward Spannaus

The fact that Muslims from Britain emerge in every hotbed of terrorism and extremism around the world—Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Chechnya, and Bosnia—is no accident. The creation and recruitment of Islamic terrorists is a deliberate British policy, as *EIR* has documented for well over a decade. The deadly mixture of ingredients critical to the final product, is the combination of British intelligence control, and Saudi financing, carried out through a network of global Islamic "charities."

The basis for the systematic recruitment of terrorists and extremists in English cities has been documented in two reports published by a conservative British think-tank, the Policy Exchange, and the accuracy of these reports has been independently verified by *EIR*.

The first, published in 2006, was written by Martin Bright, who formerly wrote for the London *Observer*, and now for the *New Statesman*. Entitled, "When Progressives Treat with Reactionaries: The British State's Flirtation with Radical Islam," the report documents how the Labour Party-controlled British government, and especially the Foreign Office, have embraced and promoted the most reactionary and radical forms of Islam at the expense of the majority of moderate Muslims living in the U.K.

As one example, Bright cites a previously secret 2005 Foreign Office document, which "is deeply sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood, and critical of [Egyptian] President Hosni Mubarak's attempts to demonize the organization as 'terrorist.'" Bright charges that the British government, through its actions, has "significantly strengthened the international credibility of the Muslim Brotherhood."

The Foreign Office deals most closely with the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), and gives cover to the MCB's claims to speak for the entire British Muslim community, when in fact, the MCB represents only a small minority of Muslims in the U.K., and is linked most closely to the Muslim Brotherhood and Jamaat-e-Islami, the South Asian radical Islamist group.

Made in Saudi Arabia

The second report, "The Hijacking of British Islam; How Extremist Literature Is Subverting Mosques in the UK," was produced by the Policy Exchange in 2007. As part of the study, teams of Muslim researchers visited almost 100 representative British mosques, to see whether "extremist" literature, preaching hate or violent jihad, were available there. It was available in about one-fourth of the mosques. But a large part of this hate literature had actually been printed in Saudi Arabia and shipped to the U.K. When one includes pamphlets produced with Saudi subsidies, the clear majority of this jihadist hate literature was Saudi-sponsored.

This Saudi dominance occurs despite the fact that the great majority of British Muslims are of South Asian origin, mostly Pakistani, Bangladeshi, or Indian. But the outside financing and control of the mosques, is much more Saudi than it is South Asian—including of the most prominent mosques.

Under this regime of Saudi financing and control, the complexion of religious belief of Pakistani-Britons has been shifting rapidly since 1970, with the rapid growth of the Saudi-allied Deobandi movement, which was previously a minority of perhaps 20%. By September 2007, the London *Times* determined, "almost half of Britain's mosques" were under Deobandi control. And indeed, most of the South Asian Islamic terrorist movements are Deobandi-linked; the others are linked to various other Saudi-financed sects. These are the recruiting grounds for hundreds of British jihadis who are to be found on every terrorist battlefront in the Islamic world.

Another element in this pattern, is the recent incorporation of Islamic "Sharia" law into the British court system. Besides its use in family courts, it is a means by which marriage—arranged or otherwise—confers British citizenship on the spouse, even if he or she has never been in Britain. The introduction of Sharia had been a longtime project of the radical cleric Abu Hamza (see below) and others, although it got a big boost in February of this year when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Roland Williams, declared it "inevitable"

that Sharia would be brought into British Common Law. This has taken place over the opposition of many moderate Muslims, including Sadiq Khan, the Minister for Communities and Local Government.

Protecting Terror's Bankrollers

Additionally, the British legal system serves to prevent any exposure of the Anglo-Saudi financing and promotion of terror, as was just highlighted during a Dec. 18 Parliamentary debate over British libel laws.

Labour MP Denis McShane charged that the operation of British libel laws "is a major assault on freedom of information, which in today's complex world is more necessary than ever if evil, such as the jihad ideology that led to the Mumbai massacres, is not to flourish, and if those who traffic arms, blood diamonds, drugs and money to support Islamist extremist organizations that hide behind charitable status are not to be exposed."

McShane cited the libel suit brought by Saudi financier Klalid bin Mahfouz against the book *Funding Evil*, by American author Rachel Ehrenfeld, which resulted in an order by a British court to *destroy* the U.S.-published book! Ehrenfeld's book, McShane said, "examined the flow of money towards extremist organizations that preach the ideology of hate associated with Wahhabism," and he added: "It is not exactly a secret that a great deal of the money that has financed fundamentalist extremist organizations that support jihad has come from Saudi Arabia."

Mahfouz, accused by Ehrenfeld of funding al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden through various Saudi charities, was also a director of BCCI (the now-defunct Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which then-CIA director Robert Gates once called the "Bank of Crooks and Criminals International"), and he had to pay a fine of $225 million in the BCCI case in 1992. Mahfouz has filed 36 lawsuits in U.K. courts against those investigating his activities. In one case, the book *Alms for Jihad*, written by by two Americans, and published by Cambridge University Press, was pulped by the publishers in the face of a threatened lawsuit. In this and other cases, McShane charged, the British courts appear "to side with those who finance extremism rather than those who seek to curb it."

MI5's and MI6's Own Terrorists

Some of the most notorious terrorists and terror recruiters have also been identified as direct collaborators with the British intelligence services. For example:

• Abu Hamza al-Masri, who for years controlled the leading terrorist-recruiting mosque in London, the Finsbury Park mosque, where, among others, Zacarias Moussaoui and shoe-bomber Richard Reid were members.

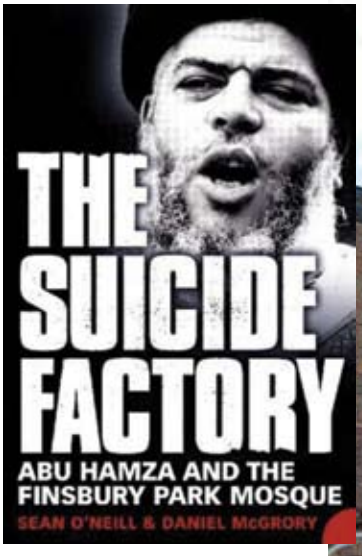
On Oct. 1, 1997, in one of seven known meetings with Britain's security services, Abu Hamza met with an officer of the British domestic counterinteligence service MI5. He told MI5 that Britain is seen as a place to fundraise and to propagate Islam. Authors Daniel ONeill and Sean McGrory (*The Suicide Factory*) wrote later: "The admission that Abu Hamza and his followers were using [Britain] to raise funds to finance terrorism overseas did not seem to cause a blip on the MI-5 agent's radar."

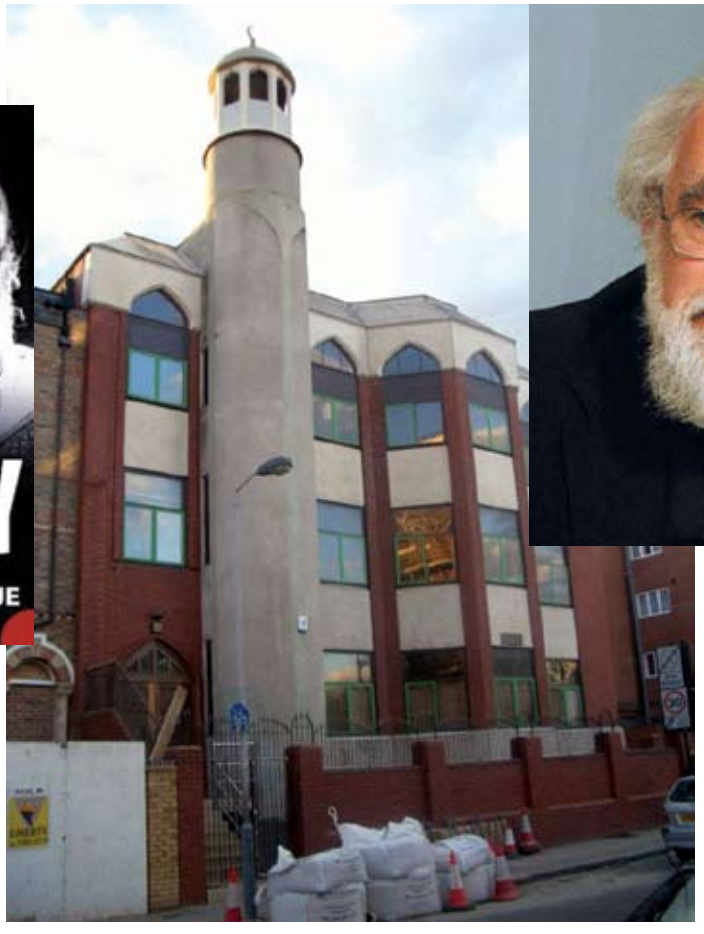
During the time that Abu Hamza was meeting with MI5, the intelligence services knew exactly what was going on there. Another informer for British Intelligence at the same time called the Finsbury Park mosque "an Al-Qaeda guest house in London," where potential recruits and experienced jihadi fighters could meet and mix.

• Abu Qatada, one of the most notorious al-Qaeda operatives in London, was a Jordanian national who was granted asylum in the U.K. in 1994. The *Times* of London, among others, exposed Abu Qatada as "an MI5 double agent" in 2004. As with the usual arrangement, while he was recruiting for al-Qaeda abroad, Abu Qatada assured MI5 that he would do nothing to damage British interests, and that he "would not bite the hand that fed him." Another MI5 informant, Bisher al-Rawi, had served as an interpreter in meetings between MI5 and Abu Qatada. After the 9/11 attacks in 2001, Abu Qatada was supposedly in hiding, yet al-Rawi visited Abu Qatada numerous times at the request of MI5, according to a 2007 account in the London *Observer.* During the time Abu Qatada was in hiding, French officials charged that he was able to escape detention because he was an "MI5 agent."

• Another dramatic case involves Omar Saeed Sheikh, the British-Pakistani terrorist who was tried and convicted for the 2002 kidnapping and murder of U.S. reporter Daniel Pearl. (See "Shut Down Anglo-Saudi Global Terror Apparatus Behind Mumbai Attack," *EIR*, Dec. 19, 2008.)

In his 2006 memoir *In the Line of Fire*, then-





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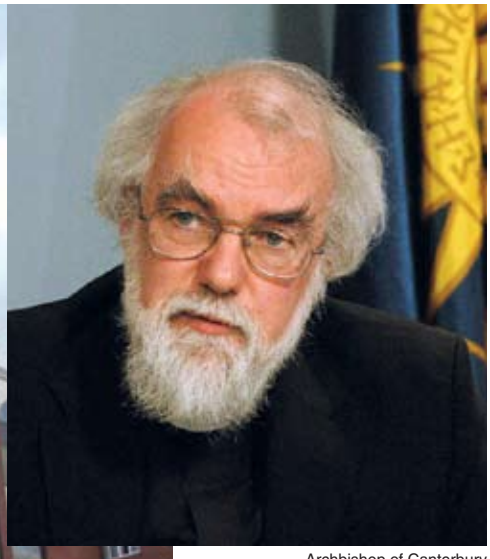

Archbishop of Canterbury

The radical Islamic cleric Abu Hamza al-Mazri, pictured on the left, for years controlled the leading terrorist-recruiting mosque in London, Finsbury Park (center). Abu Hamza's drive to introduce Sharia law in Britain was endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Roland Williams (right), who declared it "inevitable" that Sharia would be brought into British Common Law, despite the opposition of moderate Muslims.

President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan identified Sheikh as a likely MI6 agent. Sheikh, in Musharraf's account, is a British national, born to Pakistani parents in London in December 1973. His early education was in Britain, after which, he spent four years at Lahore's Aitcheson College, and finally he returned to the U.K. to attend the London School of Economics.

"It is believed in some quarters that while Omar Sheikh was at the LSE he was recruited by the British intelligence agency MI-6," Musharraf wrote. "It is said that MI-6 persuaded him to take an active part in demonstrations against Serbian aggression in Bosnia and even sent him to Kosovo to join the jihad. At some point he probably became a rogue or double agent."

Sheikh then went to India in the mid-1990s, and was involved in the kidnapping of three Britons and an American in 1994, in an effort to obtain the release of Maulana Masood Azhar, who was serving a seven-year prison sentence in India for instigating conflict in Kashmir. As a result, Sheikh was arrested and imprisoned.

While in jail in India, Sheikh had numerous visits from a "British diplomat," according to the *Los Angeles Times*, which wrote: "The large ledger where the names of Tihar jail visitors are registered lists nine meetings between Sheikh, his lawyer and a British diplomat identified as 'Mr. Greenhall.'"

The London *Times* reported that, while Sheikh was in jail, British intelligence secretly offered him amnesty and permission to live in London as a free man, if he would reveal his links to al-Qaeda—an offer Sheikh supposedly refused.

Nonetheless, after Sheikh was released in December 1999, along with Azhar, in exchange for the release of the hijacked Indian airplane—which was engineered by Mumbai organized-crime kingpin Dawood Ibrahim (see article, p. 12)—Sheikh was allowed to travel freely to Britain, according to accounts in both the Indian and British press. It was during this same period, that Sheikh is believed to have wired money to the 9/11 hijackers.