

USA under attack? Who is next?

▶ London ▶ Paris ▶ Stockholm ...

CBRNE

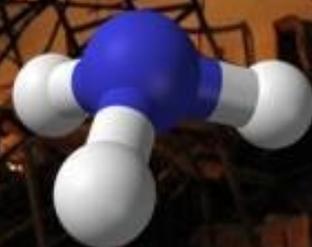
Newsletter

Volume 49, 2013

Terrorism



Editor's Corner



www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com

CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – June 2013**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – 2013©**

Volume 49 – June 2013

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CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter is:

- Read by First Responders in more than **80** countries around the globe;
- Distributed to more than **700** institutions, organizations, state agencies, think tanks, defense companies, institutions and universities.

Current Country Totals From 14 Jul 2011 to 5 Mar 2013

	United States (US)	1,325
	Greece (GR)	800
	United Kingdom (GB)	662
	Italy (IT)	239
	Netherlands (NL)	202
	Canada (CA)	192
	Germany (DE)	131
	India (IN)	110
	France (FR)	81
	Australia (AU)	71
	Switzerland (CH)	71
	China (CN)	68
	Spain (ES)	65



Editor's Corner



Editorial

BG (ret'd) Ioannis Galatas, MD, MA, MC

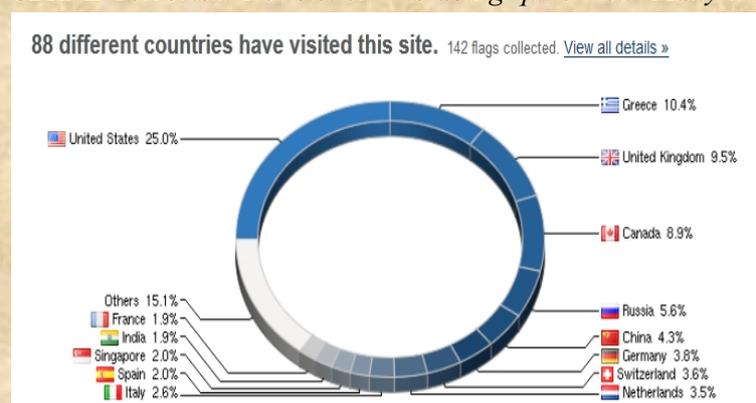
Editor-in-Chief
CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

April, May and beginning of June were full of events – unfortunate events that simply verify that madness is here to stay... Boston bombings, chemical plant explosion, ricin letters, British soldier decapitation in bright light, Stockholm riots and quite few other “minor” events – like bombings in Iraq and Pakistan with hecatombs of innocent victims. Financial terrorism is slowly expanding within Europe and the so-called European Union while the United Nations in a state of continuous apathy observes and verbally occasionally comments on the continuing massacre in Syria. Perhaps the most important news related to the dismantling of a terrorist cell in Iraq preparing chemical warfare agents. Korean peninsula crisis is still in a fragile status; Russia tested its bright new ICBM (the successor of Topol-M) and claims that it cannot be intercepted by existing anti-missile shields. On top of these is the universal attitude that “it will not happen to us”! And the usual accompanying element of public surprise when the unexpected happen! Actions of people and elits that believe that we will live forever and ever!

In Greece, the situation is stable – badly stable! Governance is absent – in continuous meetings and reformation proposals the moment the social web is steadily collapsing and unfortunate thoughts are flying over one of the most beautiful countries in the world. A country that currently looks so ugly to live in. Scientific brains immigration is the new plague and all the good elements that might represent the hope of tomorrow prefer to seek a new homeland to live, prosper and pay back. Greece is eating its children for no apparent reason! Or is there an apparent reason?

In the middle of all these, the personal psychotherapeutic tool of the Editor – the CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – is doing quite well. Many media partnerships in important



CBRNE events around the globe, introduction to new countries, some good comments from fellow First Responders and a personal lime passion for what we are doing keep it going. Mainly because passion is unaffected by financial circumstances and our belief in what we are doing is stronger than our

personal suffering and strive for survival – by survival we do not mean that we do not have bread to eat; people need a peaceful and challenging environment that will trigger their minds for excellence and innovative production for the benefit of local and global societies. This is what we are fighting against – and we will prevail because the human factor is the most asymmetric factor of them all!

Newsletter is currently read by CBRNE-CT First Responders in more than 80 countries around the globe! The Editorial Team would like to thank you all for



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your enthusiastic comments and beneficial suggestions that will surely be taken under consideration for further improvement.

Personally I continue to look into the abyss and try to apply my crisis management skills to avoid been swallowed. Still believe in miracles and still confident that there are many areas that I could be useful if somebody could read behind the lines and use his imagination to reveal how closely these two entities are connected to each other. They use to say that “crisis give birth to opportunities”! C’est la vie!

Enjoy the “CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter” and if you really like it, please feel free to pass it over to colleagues in your networks! Your support is our strength!

The Editor

MOUNT ATHOS, Greece
Monk Joseph – the “Protector”
of Hellenic Air Force!



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Frogmen, beware !

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2013/04/frogmen-beware/>



DSIT Solutions has unveiled its family of operational underwater fully automatic diver detection systems, designed for a variety of defense and HLS applications.

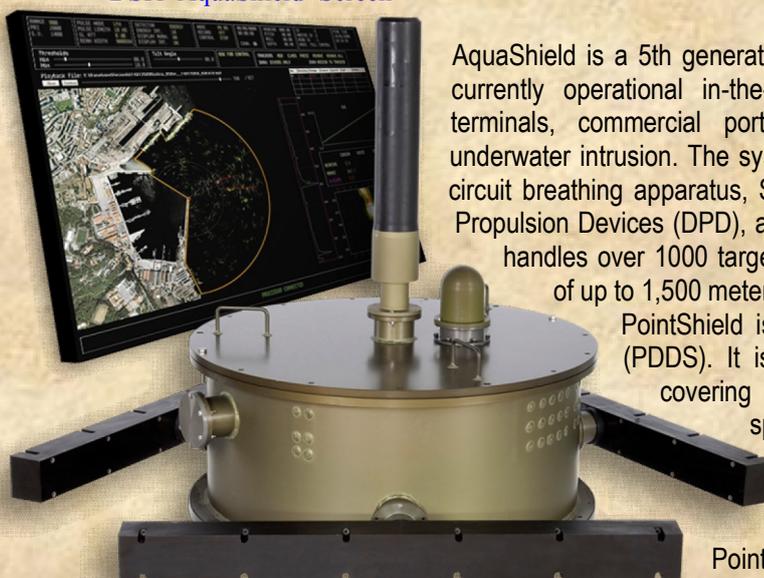


DSIT-PointShield+Screen

The AquaShield provides long range detection of even the weakest underwater targets, thus enabling the protection of coastal and offshore sites; the portable PointShield™ covers medium ranges with highly accurate diver detection for protection of ships and smaller zones.

DSIT's diver detection systems are built to operate 24/7/365 in all weather and water conditions. Providing very early warning and sufficient time for response, the systems allow the investigation of targets using a special zoom display. They enable pinpoint response, including highly accurate positioning of threats and rapid update rate of the tactical picture. Requiring very little maintenance, the systems provide an exceptionally high level of reliability and low cost of ownership.

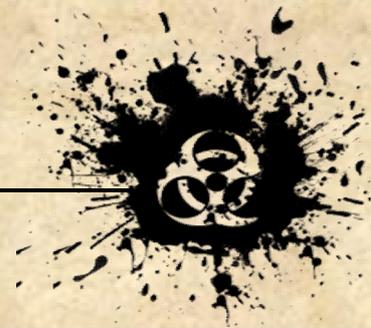
DSIT-AquaShield+Screen



AquaShield is a 5th generation Diver Detection Sonar (DDS) system, currently operational in-the-water, protecting naval bases, energy terminals, commercial ports, and other high-value assets from underwater intrusion. The system detects divers with closed and open circuit breathing apparatus, Swimmer Delivery Vehicles (SDVs), Diver Propulsion Devices (DPD), and small submersibles. AquaShield easily handles over 1000 targets simultaneously, with a detection range of up to 1,500 meters.

PointShield is DSIT's Portable Diver Detection Sonar (PDDS). It is a highly accurate, portable system for covering medium ranges. The system protects specific and well-defined zones, such as a section of a narrow river, a water intake channel, an anchored ship, or a constricted area.

PointShield is designed to detect threats of any size and strength at ranges of up to 1000 meters. Small and lightweight, simple to install, and easily moved between sites, the unit is ideal for permanent installation, ship protection, and rapid



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deployment.

According to Dan Ben-Dov, DSIT's Vice President for Sales and Marketing, "We are very pleased to present our family of solutions for diver detection at the upcoming LAAD exhibition. Our company is currently extending its activities in South American countries." He continued, "We are happy to see that navies, governments, and commercial companies are becoming more and more aware of the importance of underwater security for critical marine and coastal assets from divers and SDVs – and are adopting our solutions."

Therapy dogs travel to Boston to provide comfort

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/the-upbeat/therapy-dogs-head-boston-comfort-223657329.html>



Luther and Isaiah on their way to Boston
(photo via Facebook)

Tim Hetzner, president of LCC spoke with the "Today" show about the dogs' power to help. "People talk to the dogs—they're like furry counselors," he said. "It's a chance to help bring some relief to people that are shaken up because of the bombings."

According to "Today," the golden retrievers and their handlers will stay in Boston until at least Sunday. They're based at First Lutheran Church, just a couple of blocks from the explosions. Hetzner told "Today" that the dogs will also travel to local hospitals to visit those who were injured in the blasts.

"I would imagine their effect will be the same as it was in Newtown," Hetzner said. "They bring a calming effect to people and help them process the various emotions that they go through in times like this."

The Huffington Post spoke with Pastor Ingo Dutzmann of Boston's First Lutheran Church. "Animals have an uncanny ability ... to discern that you and I have sadness and

distress," he said. "Rather than shying away from it, they're attracted to it. They will literally go in a classroom of children and literally find the child most afraid of something."



Several therapy dogs that helped survivors of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting are heading to Boston to offer canine comfort. The specially trained golden retrievers are provided by Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) of Addison, Illinois.



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The therapy dogs undergo months of training to help them remain calm in stressful situations. Each dog has its own Facebook

page, so people who forge a bond can keep in touch with their favorite pooch.

Bomb blast outside hospital kills four in Pakistan

Source: http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2013/04/bomb-blast-outside-hospital-kills-four.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+terrorismwatch%2FJTvK+%28Terrorism+Watch%29&utm_content=Yahoo!+Mail

A bomb blast at the main gate of a hospital in a tribal area of northwest Pakistan on Saturday killed at least four people and wounded four others, officials said.



The explosion took place in Khar, the main town of Bajaur tribal district bordering Afghanistan.

“At least four people were killed and four others were wounded in the blast outside the main gate of the hospital,” Mohammad Riaz, chief doctor at the government hospital, told a media.

Local administration official Abdul Haseeb confirmed the bombing and casualties and said it was not immediately clear if the bomb was detonated remotely or was a suicide attack.

“It appears to be a suicide attack but I cannot



confirm right now,” he said.

Bajaur is one of seven districts that make up Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The semi-autonomous region of mountains, valleys and caves is deprived and ill-educated in the country.

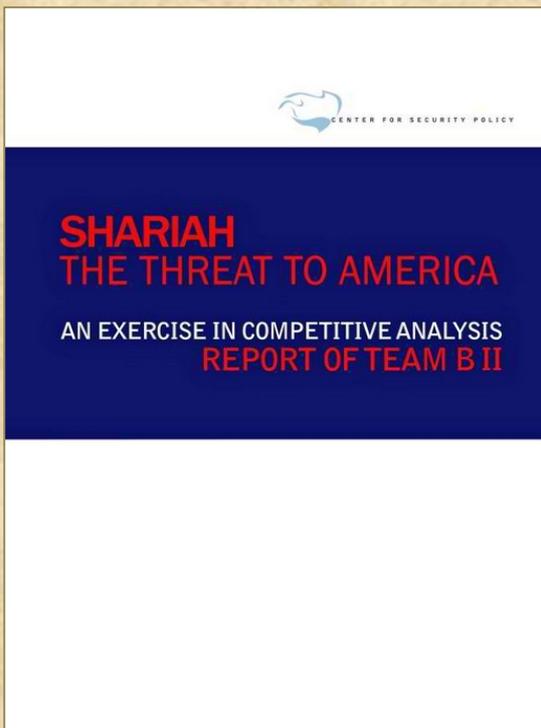
It has been a stronghold for militant groups, and a battleground between the army and insurgents.

NEW BOOK – Shariah: The Threat to America

Source: <http://shariahthethreat.org/about-the-book/>

From the Preface

For nearly a decade since 9/11, America's national security establishment's understanding of the threat of Islamic terrorism and its approach to contending with that danger flow directly from a conviction that they have *nothing* to do with Islam, except to the extent al



Qaeda “perverts” or “hijacks” that religion. But what if this characterization of the problem we continue to face nine years after 9/11 is *simply and utterly wrong*? What if there actually is a *direct tie* between what recognized, mainstream authorities of Islam call “shariah” and the jihad (or holy war) it demands of adherents, some of which is manifested as terrifying violence?

What if, in addition, jihadists engage in non-violent – and, in some ways, far more insidious – efforts to accomplish the same goal: the supremacy of shariah worldwide under a caliph?

These questions have been the focus of an intensive six-month study by a remarkable group of highly accomplished civilian and military national security professionals. Notable among its members are former

Director of Central Intelligence R. James Woolsey, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Lieutenant General Harry “Ed” Soyster, former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Lieutenant General William G. “Jerry” Boykin and former Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew C. McCarthy.

Together, this group has formed a “Team B,” modeled after a similar initiative that supplied at a critical moment during the Cold War a second opinion on Soviet intentions and capabilities, a study that helped shape and underpin Ronald Reagan’s efforts to challenge the form of appeasement of our totalitarian ideological foes known at the time as “détente.” Ultimately, that Team B report helped underpin his strategy as President to take down the USSR.

Like its predecessor, today’s Team B II has provided a dramatically divergent “second opinion” from the official U.S. government (“Team A”) party line on the most important challenge of *our* time. *Shariah: The Threat to America*, counters the notion that the present totalitarian ideology bent on our destruction can be safely ignored, misconstrued or appeased in the name of the contemporary counterpart to détente: “engagement.”

Shariah: The Threat to America demonstrates a troubling reality: The Obama administration and its immediate predecessors under both political parties – along with many state and local governments – have been blind, in some cases willfully so and in every case perilously so, to fundamental facts: the true nature of the enemy we confront; what actually animates him; the progress he is making towards achieving our destruction; and what we need to do to prevent his success.

This situation is dangerous in the extreme to our Constitution, freedoms, form of government and security. It must not be allowed to persist. As a critical step toward the needed corrective, Team B II is proud to present its contribution to a long-overdue and urgently needed national debate about the true wellspring of jihadism: shariah. The findings of this study are as compelling as they are authoritative.



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► Download the book

<http://shariahthethreat.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Shariah-The-Threat-to-America-Team-B-Report-Web-09292010.pdf>

Team Leaders

LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM G. “JERRY” BOYKIN – US Army (Ret.), former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. General Boykin served primarily in Delta Force and Special Forces assignments during his 36-year career in the Army, which culminated with appointment as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence in the Pentagon, overseeing the gathering and exploitation of intelligence during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is an original member of the Army’s elite Delta Force and participated in almost all of the U.S.’s special operations since 1979, including the Desert One hostage-rescue attempt in Iran in 1980, Panama in 1989, and the invasion of Grenada in 1983, where he was wounded by a .50 caliber machine-gun round through the chest. Gen. Boykin attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Army War College and received his Masters Degree at Shippensburg University. His badges include the Master Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Badge, Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab. Medals and awards include: the Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, and two Purple Hearts (with Oak Leaf Cluster).

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HARRY EDWARD SOYSTER – US Army (Ret.), former Director, Defense Intelligence Agency. General Soyster was a career Army officer with staff and command assignments at all levels. All of his assignments as a general officer were in intelligence culminating as Director, Defense Intelligence Agency during Panama Invasion and Desert Shield/Storm.

Associates

- CHRISTINE BRIM – Chief Operating Officer, Center for Security Policy
- AMBASSADOR HENRY COOPER – former Chief Negotiator, Defense and Space Talks, former Director, Strategic Defense Initiative
- STEPHEN C. COUGHLIN, ESQ – Major (Res.) USA, former Senior Consultant, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- MICHAEL DEL ROSSO – Senior Fellow, Claremont Institute and Center for Security Policy
- FRANK J. GAFFNEY, JR. – former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy (Acting), President, Center for Security Policy
- JOHN GUANDOLO – former Special Agent, Counter-Terrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- BRIAN KENNEDY – President, Claremont Institute
- CLARE M. LOPEZ – Senior Fellow, Center for Security Policy
- ADMIRAL JAMES A. “AE” LYONS – US Navy (Ret.), former Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet
- ANDREW C. MCCARTHY – former Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney; Senior Fellow, National Review Institute; Contributing Editor, National Review
- PATRICK POOLE – Consultant to the military and law enforcement on anti-terrorism issues
- JOSEPH E. SCHMITZ – former Inspector General, Department of Defense
- TOM TRENTO – Executive Director, Florida Security Council
- J. MICHAEL WALLER – Annenberg Professor of International Communication, Institute of World Politics, and Vice President for Information Operations, Center for Security Policy
- DIANA WEST – author and columnist
- R. JAMES WOOLSEY – former Director of Central Intelligence
- DAVID YERUSHALMI, ESQ. – General Counsel to the Center for Security Policy



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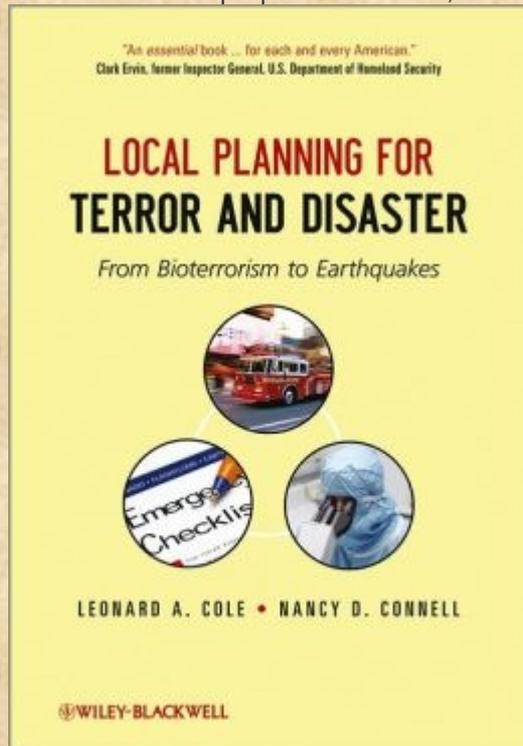
Opinion: Preparing for the next one

By Leonard A. Cole

Source: http://www.northjersey.com/news/Opinion_Preparing_for_the_next_one.html

Leonard A. Cole is Director of the Program on Terror Medicine and Security at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. His most recent book, co-edited, is [Local Planning for Terror and Disaster: From Bioterrorism to Earthquakes](#).

THE BOMBINGS at the Boston marathon Monday were a devastating reminder that the American homeland remains vulnerable to terrorism. Three people were killed, 176



injured, and judging from media coverage millions of Americans feel aggrieved. The country has been deeply shaken in part because the attack was such a surprise. It was especially shocking to those who had come to believe that terrorism was no longer a major concern.

To be sure, law enforcement officials and other emergency responders have maintained an awareness of the terrorism threat. But for many in the general population the heightened concern prompted by the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center had given way to complacency. This was reflected in Gallup polls during the past decade. After 9/11, 85 percent of Americans worried that another terrorist attack could be imminent. Ten years later the worriers had declined to 38 percent. The marathon bombings may reverse the trend.

In fact, about 50 terrorist plots against the United States have been thwarted since 9/11. At least 15 of them had targeted New York City, according to the city's Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. Several plots, including the 2010 bombing attempt in Times Square, nearly succeeded. After a street vendor saw smoke coming from a parked car, he alerted the police. An ignited bomb was found in the vehicle, but police were able to disarm it before it could explode. Such close calls evidently had little effect on the public's declining unease about terrorism.

Even the shooting in 2009 at Fort Hood, Texas, by Major Nidal Malik Hasan, failed to stir a public reaction comparable to that by the Boston marathon attack. Hasan killed 13 and wounded 29. While firing his weapon, he repeatedly shouted Allahu Akbar ("God is Great"). In the previous months he had corresponded by email with Anwar al-Awlaki, then a senior al-Qaida operative in Yemen. Still, the Obama administration considers Hasan's attack not an act of terrorism but only of "workplace violence."

Words that describe an action may frame how others view and react to it. Thus the Fort Hood shootings like other mass shootings, as at the Newtown, Conn., elementary school, are attributed to deranged individuals. Although horrible in their own right, they are not seen as inspired by any belief system. Conversely, terrorist violence is driven by ideological, political, or religious motivation. The terrorist's intended target is not just innocent individuals, but an entire nation or society. The aim is not just to kill but to demoralize, to demean, and ultimately to bend the will of the population.

Terrorism remains a threat

The Boston attack has reanimated the pain of 9/11 along with questions about the country's vulnerability. Many uncertainties remain. But the attack underscored the danger of holding the illusory notion that



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terrorism is not a serious threat. It also demonstrated how, with proper preparedness, lives could be saved and the national will strengthened.

The Boston assault was consistent with past efforts by terrorists to damage prominent American symbols. This annual marathon event has not only typically been festive, but iconic. It is held on Patriot's Day, which commemorates the first battles of the Revolutionary War. The nature of the event also meant that many protective measures were in place. Both security personnel and medical support were readily available. This led to a quicker and more effective response than might be expected in other venues.

The two bombs exploded seconds apart about 100 yards from the finish line. After the blasts, race participants and bystanders immediately began to comfort the injured and move them to safer areas. Police, emergency medical technicians, physicians, and nurses appeared almost as quickly. Later, all the responders received high praise for their courageous and selfless rescue efforts. But scant notice has been given to the unusual circumstances that permitted this exemplary response.

In any marathon, the strenuous 26.2-mile run is likely to result for some in injury and illness. Runners experience falls, abrasions, sprained ankles, dehydration, exhaustion, and more. The exertion at times can even be life threatening: Participants in past marathons have had heart attacks and died. Thus, stationing medical resources at these races has become common practice. New York City marathons, for example, have attracted more than 1,000 medical volunteers to provide emergency care at a network of tented field hospitals along the route.

This year's Boston marathon included several medical tents including a block-long command tent near the finish line. Thus medical professionals could be at the scene moments after the explosions. This was especially fortunate for victims whose limbs had been torn from their bodies. "There are so many people

without legs," a shocked runner had observed in the wake of the bombings. Without that immediate professional help to quickly stop the bleeding, more victims would likely have died.

In addition to the onsite facilities, a dozen renowned hospitals were only a mile or two from the bombed area. They included the Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's, Massachusetts General, and Beth Israel Deaconess, and hospitals connected to Tufts and Boston Universities. Victims were taken to these institutions, where they were treated by highly skilled practitioners.

First responders must prepare

The confluence of favorable medical opportunities at the Boston marathon was unusual and lucky. All the more important, then, that responders and institutions elsewhere be primed to address mass casualty terror and disaster. Regrettably, such preparedness has been lagging in much of the country. Funding for public health throughout the nation has been shrinking; hospitals and staff seldom engage in large-scale disaster exercises, and medical curricula rarely include instruction concerning terrorism.

Perhaps events of the past week will stimulate efforts to rectify these deficiencies. Coincidentally, I had already been enlisted to teach a forthcoming course on "terror medicine" at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark. This new field, while incorporating aspects of emergency and disaster medicine, focuses on the distinctive features of medical responses to terrorist attacks. The more that individuals and institutions learn about terror medicine, the more they will be able to offer help and protection to others.

In the coming months the country should benefit from further analyses of the Boston attack including how better to prevent a recurrence. But this much has already been demonstrated by last week's experience: The best preparedness in the event of an attack requires quick availability of responders, rescuers, and an informed medical community.

Shelter-in-Place: A Teachable Moment In Boston

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/emergency-blogs/campus/shelterin-place-Boston-emergency-management-042113.html>

There isn't much left to say about what happened in Boston on Monday. As I write this,



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the manhunt is over, the lockdown was lifted, and the cities are adjusting to a new normal.

From an Emergency Management perspective, I believe this will turn out to be a case study for an efficient, coordinated and collaborative response to an unexpected event from every responder – especially the public, the medical community, local and federal law enforcement. I watched closely for the first 5-6 hours; then I just listened occasionally and watched for official updates. This is a personal lesson learned from being too closely captivated by disasters I wasn't directly involved in. The event will proceed whether I'm glued to my TV or computer screen, or not.

Emergency Managers, like others who deal with emergencies every day, learn how to distance themselves emotionally from the events surrounding a disaster. That's the only way to keep enough perspective to manage all the details coming into an EOC: communication, mutual aid, personnel, shelters, staging, triage, barricades, evacuation and so on.

As I watched the events in Boston, I realized that is exactly what I was doing. I was critically watching the videos for organization and control, listening to the news and sifting out the rumors, following the official – and unofficial – tweets. I appreciated the coverage on NPR, where Steve Inskeep (Morning Edition) kept reminding us that he was “collecting dots, not connecting dots.”

I'm not suggesting Emergency Managers aren't emotionally affected by these kinds of disasters; that comes later, when we replay the decisions that were made and think about how our actions effect the safety and security of the people we are responsible for. We translate our experience into preparedness training - for ourselves and the public.

I wrote a couple blogs recently about disaster preparedness messaging. One was about sticky messages and one about using the Zombies Apocalypse as a meme to create teachable moments – when it is possible for a teacher to break through the apathy and get a message across. We want people to prepare for the unexpected, but we struggle with how to get their attention and convince them.

The request for the public to *shelter-in-place* during the Boston Marathon Bombings is just such a teachable moment.

I would hazard a guess that a whole lot of people didn't know what *shelter-in-place* meant before Thursday, and now it will become part the public lexicon. It's different than a snow day (Boston has that one covered). *Shelter-in-place* requests are generally limited – in time and scope.

Asking the public to *shelter-in-place* isn't an unusual request, either – although it is more often used because of a chemical spill or, more recently, at schools during a shooter scare. It's a way to keep people safe – and out of the way – until the responders can contain the area or eliminate the threat.

The *shelter-in-place* request for the Boston region was from civil authorities, complied with willingly, for 12+hours, by over 1 million people, on a beautiful Spring day.

It was the epitome of a large-scale, unexpected, public event – one that could have been longer and more traumatic than it was.

What is the message we should be spreading about the *shelter-in-place* request in the Boston Metropolitan Region?

“This really happened in Boston. It could easily happen to you ...

“... and it's a good idea to keep some emergency supplies in your home, office and car just in case. Here – let me give you a list to get you started.”

The emotional impact of those videos, tweets and news reports will do the rest.

Teachable moments are rare opportunities. This one is an entirely plausible, yet unexpected, event. It was a situation almost everyone can imagine happening to them. Taking precautions against it are not complicated, unreasonable or especially onerous.

I would like to see everyone be prepared for those catastrophic events we always talk about, to be independent for several weeks, and in a position to help their neighbors.

In the meantime, I would settle for everyone being prepared to spend a day stranded at home, work, on the subway, or in their car.

Because ... it's a start.



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The Mind of the Terrorist is the Mind of His Mother

By Dr Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin

Source: <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-mind-of-the-terrorist-is-the-mind-of-his-mother/>

It is hard for Westerners to understand how completely tied in the terrorist son is to his mother as Tamerlan was to Zubeidat. The psychodynamics are similar to other shame honor cultures. We, too, have western shame honor “families” from which many of the converts are ripe for psychological jihadi recruitment.

In my previous blog — the FBI MUST TAKE



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERIOUSLY IN PROFILING JIHADIS, I discussed how the maternal relationship sets the tone for all future relationships. Herein lies the mind of the terrorist complete with its sadomasochistic bondage.

Dr. Keith Ablow on Fox News put it well that a child is molded in a crucible where there has been a pervasive denial of reality. Zubeidat was picked up for shop lifting, stealing, displaying her psychological neediness and poor reality testing.

Tamerlan's personality was to a large part formed by this impoverished maternal experience. Like a heat seeking missile, he targeted unconsciously similar women who were vulnerable, needy and ripe for abuse. Katherine, his wife, should be considered a high functioning emotionally abused young woman at the very least (see the writings of my colleague Dr. Joan Lachkar) whose own emotional deprivation go back to her own childhood — despite the fact that her physician father and nurse mother are described in nearly picture perfect terms as an all American

family. This is shallow journalism. There had to have been undetected problems in her childhood to have been captured mentally by Tamerlan. We know that a Svengali-Tribby bondage is traumatic bonding from depth psychology. This is not something that arises all of a sudden in late adolescence out of the clear blue. It is part and parcel of the character aspect of the personality.

Together mother and son formed a perverse Siamese twin-ship through their joint radicalization. He was married to his mother psychologically — he called her before he died NOT his wife. I developed a theory of imagery for the suicide attack site based on this kind of maternal bondage.

Both of Zubeidat's daughters were married off at young ages in arranged marriages, not a far cry from the Chechen custom of bride stealing. There is the Chechen proverb — the boy is happy to move around and the girl — to sit

still. The girl is to be passive, controlled. One daughter also experienced domestic violence, being brutally beaten. Rather than trying to help the daughter out of the abusive marriage, the mother thought it was better for her to submit to the abuse than divorce. The mother had NO empathy for the daughter. The daughter was merely an object to be sacrificed. Why should this be surprising since numerous Palestinian mothers have sent their children to their deaths?

Despite this horrific familial picture, one of the Tsarnaev daughters showed empathy for the Boston victims. This daughter bravely broke out of the family cycle of abuse. Rather than continue to transmit the trauma across generations, she stopped it through conscious choice.

NO MATTER HOW HORRIBLY WE MAY HAVE BEEN ABUSED, WE CAN ALWAYS CHOOSE DIFFERENTLY AND BETTER.

We do not have to become the bully brother.

While FBI and law enforcement are correct to look to the open



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university of jihad on the Internet (elsewhere I have argued that this too, is yet another a manifestation of maternal traumatic bonding to the hard object/computer), they are however missing the root cause for radicalization:

THE MIND OF THE TERRORIST IS THE MIND OF THE MOTHER.

The twinning of the mother and son gets replayed between the brothers. Twinning is a recurrent theme especially for those attracted to Al Qaeda. It is their calling card — twin bombings etc. this is because they can not stand alone, they have to have a support partner in crime. They are actually quite fragile. That is why they turn to their brothers after their mothers.

The foremost fertile soil for radicalization raises out of the maternal relationship. There has to have been chinks in the personality's armor which perpetuates the traumatic violent bonding in all other future relationships. Internet recruitment (the radical speeches, the violent imagery, the martial jihadi music etc) merely hooks into these Swiss cheese like autistic holes in personalities such as Tamerlan's but these holes were made from his mother's abused status in Chechen culture. The FBI started watching Tamerlan in 2008. In 2009 Tamerlan was picked up for domestic violence. Hindsight being 20/20, having taught

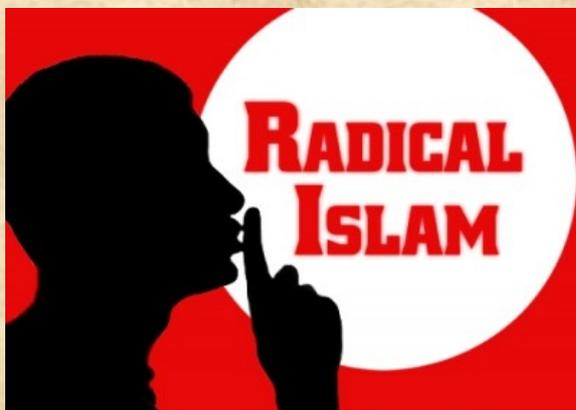
FBI and law enforcement, having done prison interviews, having trained on a Human Terrain Team, holding US security clearance at the level of secret (inactivated upon my immigration to Israel), I say someone should have gone undercover with a wire to draw Tamerlan out. The attitude of domestic violence is a jihadi attribute. The mother transmitted her own terrors of abuse and murderous rage to her son unconsciously as she cradled him in her arms. They were united in hatred. Her mind set was inscribed unto his — this is the mind of the terrorist.

Finally I read yesterday about a Syrian who was apprehended fleeing the U.S. to fight jihad in Syria. Some authority said the case was not related to Boston. This is not true from a jihadi psychological point of view because they are emboldened by Tamerlan's wanton murder and maiming. Going back to fight jihad anywhere automatically joins these like minds. They feel themselves "connected," be it Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. They are "brothers." It is high time that we connect this dot in the global jihad. Zubeidat and Tamerlan were a marriage of jihadi minds dancing to the myth of martyrdom (to borrow the phrase from Adam Lankford's excellent new book) Murdering others in the name of jihad is just such a good cover to act out their infantile rage.

Dr Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin is an olah hadasha and a psychoanalyst with a PhD in Aljamiá (Old Spanish in Arabic script). She is an expert on the Minnesota Somali diaspora and a graduate of the Human Terrain System program in Leavenworth, Kansas. She is author of 'The Banality of Suicide Terrorism,' with a Hebrew edition in the works.

Boston Bomber Exposes Islamist Secret

Source: <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3993/boston-bomber-exposes-islamist-secret>



Now he's in trouble.

It is one thing for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to be seen on security camera videos placing one of the bombs that killed three people at last week's Boston Marathon.

But now he's *really* crossed a line.

Tsarnaev is telling investigators he and his brother were motivated by religion to plot their carnage, media reports citing anonymous federal sources say.

Radical Islam. It's a label banned by the Obama administration. National Islamist groups say it doesn't belong in conversations about terrorism.

Tsarnaev didn't get the memo.



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Recovering from multiple gunshot wounds, Dzhokhar told investigators from his hospital bed that he and his brother Tamerlan Tsarnaev were driven by religious fervor and took their instructions from al-Qaida's *Inspire* magazine, NBC News reports. Anger at the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan fueled their rage, the *Washington Post* reports.

That motivation echoes justifications offered by Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan for the Fort Hood shooting spree that killed 13 people and Faisal Shahzad's sentencing rant about his attempt to bomb Times Square in 2010. "The crusading U.S. and NATO forces who have occupied the Muslim lands under the pretext of democracy and freedom for the last nine years and are saying with their mouths that they are fighting terrorism, I say to them, we don't accept your democracy nor your freedom, because we already have Sharia law and freedom," Shahzad told the court. "Furthermore, brace yourselves, because the war with Muslims has just begun. Consider me only a first droplet of the flood that will follow me."

Despite this candor from terrorists, the Obama administration and Islamist groups have argued that referring to terrorists' religious motivations somehow grants them religious legitimacy. "Nor does President Obama see this challenge as a fight against jihadists," CIA Director John Brennan said in 2009 when he was White House terrorism adviser. "Describing terrorists in this way, using the legitimate term 'jihad,' which means to purify oneself or to wage a holy struggle for a moral goal, risks giving these murderers the religious legitimacy they desperately seek but in no way deserve."

Similarly, Attorney General Eric Holder and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Paul Stockton squirmed and obfuscated when asked about the role radical Islam played in past terror plots.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) tried to stem the tide about radical Islam that Tsarnaev unleashed by issuing a news release Tuesday. It decries the focus on a radical Islamic motive for the Boston Marathon bombings as inherently bigoted. The "wave of inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric" is solely due to the Tsarnaev's Muslim faith, the statement said.

CAIR co-founder and Executive Director Nihad Awad "said the recent spike in hate rhetoric comes in the wake of a coordinated long-term

effort by Islamophobic activists and groups to demonize Islam and marginalize American Muslims."

One imagines they'll give Dzhokhar Tsarnaev a good talking-to for demonizing Islam in his statements to investigators.

The Tsarnaev case threatens the Islamist narrative that radical Islamic ideology in terror attacks should be ignored or minimized.

As former *Wall Street Journal* reporter Asra Nomani writes in Tuesday's *Washington Post*, the Tsarnaevs' uncle, Ruslan Tsarni, offered an example for Muslims to follow. In an impromptu exchange with reporters outside his home, Tsarni expressed profound grief toward the victims, acknowledged "somebody radicalized" his nephews, and said they were "losers" who brought shame to the family.

This, Nomani writes, "accomplished something that 11 years of post-9/11 press releases, news conferences and soundbites by too many American Muslim leaders has failed to do on the issue of radicalization and terrorism: with raw, unfettered emotion, he owned up to the problem within."

Contrary to the expectations of a backlash against Muslims described by Islamist groups, Tsarni was not met with rank bigotry. He was hailed for his heartfelt response and became an Internet sensation.

"And the collectivist-minded Muslim community needs to learn an important lesson from Tsarni," Nomani writes. "It's time to acknowledge the dishonor of terrorism within our communities, not to deny it because of shame. As we negotiate critical issues of ethnicity, religious ideology and identity as potential motivators for conflict, we have to establish basic facts."

Nomani is an individual Muslim, and someone outside the national advocacy groups which claim to speak for Muslim Americans. There is little indication those national organizations are ready to meet the challenge. Hassan Shibly, director of the Tampa office for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), rules out religion as a factor in an interview with *On Islam*.

Asked whether Islam, a "wicked understanding" of it or American policy influenced the Tsarnaevs, Shibly answered, "None of the above" and cast the brothers as mentally ill. "No mentally healthy individual can accept the intentional attack



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against innocent civilians, especially not in the name of any divine faith."

But reports of Tamerlan Tsarnaev's radicalization grow more numerous by the hour. He frequented jihadi websites, officials told the Associated Press Tuesday. He posted jihadi videos to his Youtube account.

Examining the Tsarnaevs' radical Islamic beliefs is not a statement about any other Muslims, but an acknowledgement of the reality that led them to murder innocent people at a marathon race. Motivation is relevant in a crime. There is no outcry when motive is discussed in radical supremacist or anti-government violence. There should be no chilling of discussion about radical Islam when it clearly is present.

But liberal academics and media figures continue to try to quash such talk. On HBO's "Real Time," host Bill Maher – himself a liberal – dismissed California State San Bernardino's Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism Director Brian Levin's accusation of Islamophobia as "liberal bulls**t."

His students, and even his children's dentist, are Muslims, Levin said, and are "fine, upstanding" people. By focusing on radical Islam, Maher is "promoting Islamic hatred."

Maher shot that down, saying there's a problem when religiously motivated violence emanates more from one faith than all others.

One thing Levin got right is that there is vast heterogeneity among the world's 1.4 billion Muslims. That's why national Islamist groups which claim to speak for Muslim Americans can't be considered reliable even though reporters and many government officials treat them as though they are. CAIR is lashing out, trying to cast the focus on radical Islam as a bigoted conspiracy to marginalize all Muslim Americans.

You won't see CAIR or other Islamist groups standing by Nomani, Zuhdi Jasser, or Sacramento Imam Abu Laith Luqman Ahmad. Politically, there's probably very little on which these three agree, reflecting that diversity Levin referenced. But they all believe Muslims need to be bolder in confronting the radical segments within their own faith community.

"There is a deep soulful battle of identity raging within the Muslim consciousness domestically and abroad between Westernism and liberalism," Jasser said this week. "In essence the Islamists confront every situation in a selfish 'we are the victims' mentality and the rest of us non-Islamist Muslims need to instead respond with a louder and more real leadership and say: 'We will not be victims.'"

In a 2011 column, Ahmad called it "a mistake in my view for American Muslims to categorize every and all suspicion or criticism of Islam and Muslims as simply the result of islamophobia. To do so, only serves to perpetuate the view that many Americans have of Muslims as irrational people, who cannot be trusted. This makes our fight against islamophobia using our current tactics, a winless and counterproductive campaign.

"The obsessive American Muslim campaign against islamophobia and the questionable tactics we are employing to that end, says a lot about who we are as a people of faith. It implies that we reject our own religious axioms of being able to withstand criticism, hatred, and accepting that not everyone will share our point of view. It also says that we have very little spiritual fortitude."

Jasser, Imam Ahmad and Nomani display confidence in their faith. They aren't afraid of the debate. If only national Islamist groups could be so bold.

Intelligence Lessons From the Boston Attacks

By Scott Helfstein

Source: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/139337/scott-helfstein/intelligence-lessons-from-the-boston-attacks?page=show>

Since the suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing were identified as ethnic Chechens, the national conversation about the incident has focused on the connection between the violence and terrorism in Chechnya. Here's why that is the wrong model.

Last week's attack at the Boston Marathon, like the attempted car bombing of Times Square almost three years ago, shows that the line between local conflicts and global ones has become thinner. Faisal Shahzad, the



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would-be terrorist in 2010, had legally lived in the United States for seven years and had earned citizenship the year before hatching his plot. He would later say that he was inspired to carry out the attack by the radical Yemeni cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, but the United States discovered that the plot had, in fact, been organized and possibly financed by an extremist group called the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which usually targets the Pakistani state and military. The organization's attempt to strike in the United States showed that its own distinction between the near and far enemy had become increasingly blurred.

Like Shahzad, the Boston suspects were in the United States legally. In some accounts, the older of the two brothers, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, developed radical ideas in the United States before traveling to Dagestan to visit family. In other accounts, he got his training abroad. None of the stories has a definitive answer for whether his underlying complaint was religious, political, or ethnic. It might, in fact, have been a combination of all three. There is no shortage of grievances that a young Chechen might have, nor of groups willing to exploit them. Organizations of Chechen separatists, which are largely Muslim, have fought against the Russian Federation since the end of the Cold War. The Caucasus Emirate, the largest group, denied any involvement in the bombing. Meanwhile, al Qaeda has often referenced Central Asia as an important theater for jihad. By most accounts, moreover, there were Chechens training in al Qaeda camps during the 1990s.

The United States has mostly focused on the terrorism challenge as it relates to al Qaeda, but that group is only one in a world marked by increasing sectarianism and in which diaspora communities can develop much closer connections to their home countries than they did in the past. Sympathetic populations abroad can easily get real-time information on conflicts in the remotest corners of the world. And that only increases the possibility that a small threat somewhere else can quickly become a global one with little warning.

What does this mean for U.S. policymakers and the military? Intelligence collection abroad remains critical, but another challenge may prove equally crucial: intelligence sharing. Foreign partners still usually have the best information on their own citizens -- possibly even those who live in the United States.

If current reports are correct, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was made aware of Tamerlan Tsarnaev in 2011, based on a tip from an unidentified foreign intelligence service. He was investigated prior to his travel abroad, but no further action was deemed appropriate. This begs the question of whether the foreign agency had other information -- or perhaps tracked his activities while he was abroad -- and why the United States didn't know about it.

In situations like this, it is hard to overstate the importance of improving international intelligence cooperation. It is nearly impossible for the United States, acting alone, to track the behavior of a two-person cell across continents and into remote territories. It needs partners. The political upheaval in the Middle East and North Africa has compounded the problem. Some counterterrorism intelligence relationships are now so strained as to be almost nonexistent. Officials in post-Arab Spring countries fear that the United States would potentially manipulate young governments by co-opting security services or politicians should they be granted access to the intelligence community. A second concern is that the public, if it found out about the cooperation, would be furious. Despite statements to the contrary, U.S. counterterrorism relationships in that region are not what they once were. And the trend may continue as the United States focuses on other priorities around the world.

The United States overhauled domestic information sharing after the September 11 attacks, and it should strive to make comparable improvements in international information sharing now. Of course, there are differences: in domestic intelligence sharing, disputes over legal authorities and jurisdictions stovepiped intelligence gathering and complicated dealings between departments. International intelligence sharing, by contrast, is constrained because foreign countries -- even allies -- often find themselves in competition, mistrusting one another. Still, taking some basic steps would be a useful start. Establishing technological platforms to issue warnings without having cloak-and-dagger meetings or diplomatic *démarches* is now feasible, thanks to anonymizing software and cloud computing. The development of information-



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sharing tools along those lines might help build confidence among foreign intelligence partners; the process of doing so would help foster a common operational picture as well as create standards for sharing. In the world's most tumultuous places, however, the most significant step to encouraging intelligence cooperation might be as simple as sending meaningful signals of continued U.S. engagement.

Even improved international intelligence sharing will be no panacea for terrorism. For starters, as the old intelligence adage goes, there is no such thing as a friendly intelligence service. Intelligence agencies are tasked with gathering secrets on national security threats, which pits the agencies of even friendly countries against one another. Shared terrorist

threats have helped alleviate some of this pressure and opened up channels for sharing, but it remains a difficult exercise as agencies try to protect their sources and methods.

That doesn't mean that cooperation isn't a goal worth shooting for. It is true that many new terrorist outfits, including small al Qaeda cells being formed worldwide, will never present a direct threat to the United States. But it is also true that small threats may develop in unexpected places and become big ones. Meanwhile, ideological and historical ties to global jihadist movements only increase the likelihood that local conflicts will become global or homeland security threats. A policy aimed at keeping remote conflicts at arm's length may have worked in the past -- but it is quickly becoming obsolete.

Scott Helfstein is the Director of Research for the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.



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Oh, God, There Is A Boston Marathon Bombing Game!



No comments...



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Hundreds of Europeans fighting in Syria, says EU expert

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-22275456>

The EU's anti-terror chief has told the BBC that hundreds of Europeans are now fighting with rebel forces in Syria against Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Gilles de Kerchove estimated the number in



Syria at about 500.

Intelligence agencies are concerned some could join groups linked to al-Qaeda and later return to Europe to launch terrorist attacks.

The UK, Ireland and France are among the EU countries estimated to have the highest numbers of fighters in Syria.

"Not all of them are radical when they leave, but most likely many of them will be radicalised there, will be trained," Mr de Kerchove told the BBC.

"And as we've seen this might lead to a serious threat when they get back."

Across Europe, intelligence agencies have stepped up investigations, says the BBC's Europe correspondent Duncan Crawford.

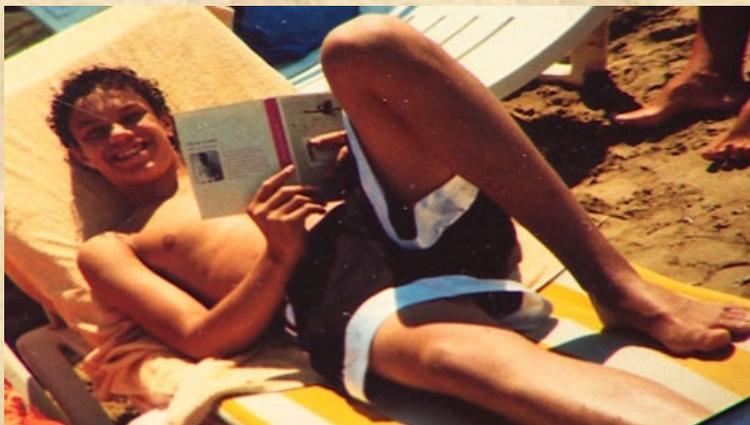
In Britain and Belgium they have increased efforts to track how people are recruited.

In the Netherlands, officials have raised the terror threat level there to "substantial" - partly over concerns about radicalised citizens returning from Syria.



From Belgian school to Syrian battleground

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22277462>



Brian de Mulder became radicalised in Antwerp and is now in Syria

Hundreds of Europeans are fighting with rebel forces in Syria and intelligence agencies are concerned some could return home to launch terrorist attacks. One Belgian family says their son has joined rebels fighting Bashar al-Assad's regime.

A camera shakily films a group of rebel fighters preparing to pray, lined up in rows, their weapons at their feet. A young man walks into

shot and takes off his rifle before briefly turning towards the camera.

"That's Brian," says Ingrid de Mulder, pointing at her nephew in the online video on her computer. "I'm 100% sure. That's him. No doubt."

Nineteen-year-old Brian de Mulder from Antwerp is one of hundreds of Europeans authorities believe to be in Syria.

"It's not the Brian brought up by his mother," says Ingrid. "Brian was athletic, he was sporty, he was helping everybody. We never saw him like this. For me it's a programmed robot."

The BBC can't verify the video but analysts believe it was filmed in Syria and European voices can be heard in the background.

Ingrid says Brian converted to Islam two years ago. The family were at first supportive but say he gradually became more radical



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after getting involved with a group known as Sharia4Belgium.

'Many Europeans' are fighting in Syria, the EU's anti-terror chief claims

"He became fanatic. He wanted to pray only. He left school," says Ingrid.

The family were so worried they moved to a new home 100 miles from Antwerp in the summer last year, but it didn't work.

"He started saying 'I can do whatever I want and even if I die I am not afraid, I will go to the paradise of Allah,'" she says.

Brian left in January this year. By then he had changed his name to Abu Qasem Brazili. His 12-year-old sister Ashia was the last family member to see him.

"Brian told her he was saying goodbye. He said: 'I love you but you will never see me again.'" says Ingrid.

"To leave all your family and not contact your mother anymore. I think he's in a state of being a soldier. A soldier of Allah," she says.

Belgian police raided dozens of houses of people linked to Sharia4Belgium last week.

The authorities have accused the group of recruiting more than 30 people to fight in Syria in the last year.

The EU's anti-terror chief says that hundreds of Europeans have gone there and that some could join radical groups.



Mohammed Merah has apparently inspired French fighters

"Not all of them are radical when they leave. But most likely many of them will be radicalised there, will be trained," says the EU's counter terrorism co-ordinator, Gilles de Kerchove.

He says the UK, Ireland, France, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands and other EU nations have significant numbers involved in the fighting.

"As we've seen from previous situations this might create a serious threat when they get back."

"They will be veterans and they may inspire other people and all of this may have a sort of radicalising impact," he adds.

Earlier this month, a survey by King's College London found that up to 600 people from Europe have taken part in the conflict since it began two years ago.

There are other online videos which back up the findings. In one, rebel fighters appear to be in a firefight and a Flemish voice says: "Only shoot once when you see them".

"It's dangerous. Make sure you aim," says a Dutch voice in another video.

Bashar al-Assad has repeatedly said the insurgency against him is largely the result of "foreign-backed terrorists".

So far the US and EU have refused to supply the rebels with weapons, partly over concerns that they may end up in the hands of Islamist extremists inspired by al-Qaeda.



The rebels have been fighting al Assad's forces for two years

Jacques Beres, co-founder of medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, says that he treated five injured Europeans in Syria last year.

"Two brothers were from France, two others were from the UK and there was a Swedish national who was of Syrian origin. They seemed to be completely lost. They looked as if they were machines. It was terrifying."

Mr Beres says one of the brothers was inspired by Mohammed Merah, a gunman who killed seven people in south-western France last year in the name of al-Qaeda. Merah was killed in an armed siege after police surrounded his block of flats in Toulouse.

"He (the French brother) told me that the real hero is Mohammed Merah, that he was an example to follow," Mr Beres says.

Intelligence agencies across Europe have stepped up investigations in response to the



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growing number of European fighters in Syria. The Netherlands raised the terror threat level from "limited" to "substantial" last month, partly over concerns about radicalised citizens returning.

The UK has increased efforts to track how fighters are recruited and funded. And in Belgium, some politicians have called for pre-emptive action to stop young Belgian Muslims from travelling.

"People suspected of wanting to go to Syria should have their ID cards confiscated in advance," says Flemish Socialist MP Hans Bonte.

The EU is pushing to bring in a Europe-wide passenger database for air-travel which in future could help track individuals down.

Questions have also been asked about what Muslim leaders are doing to deal with the problem.

The body that represents Muslims in Belgium has rejected claims they haven't spoken out forcefully enough against radical elements.

"Some people may be talking in a way that might radicalise some Muslims but we categorically condemn this," says Semsettin

Ugurlu, the president of the Muslim Executive in Belgium.

"As a body we do not accept words of hate and of violence in mosques," he adds.

For Brian de Mulder's family the waiting continues.

They say Brian put up a notice on his Facebook page a few days ago saying they need to become true believers.

"You are not my family anymore," he wrote.

"My Muslim brothers are now my family. If I ever contact you again, you must be on your knees asking forgiveness and convert to Islam first."

He added: "I will never come back to Belgium as it's a country full of unbelievers."

The family say Brian also messaged a friend saying he was near the Syrian capital Damascus.

His aunt Ingrid fears her nephew will never be the same again. But sitting in her garden, staring at photos of him in his old football kit, she clings on to hope.

"I'm praying every day. I hope he sees the light one day. To use their words: inshallah [God willing]."

(Medical) Lessons from Boston

By Arthur L. Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H., and Kobi Peleg, Ph.D., M.P.H.

(This article was published on April 24, 2013, at NEJM.org)

Source: http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1305304?query=TOC&#.UXi_uWZPqP8.facebook



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

At 2:50 p.m. on April 15, nearly 3 hours after the first runner completed the Boston Marathon, two blasts ripped through the crowd that was gathered along the approach to the finish line, killing 3 people and injuring more than 260. Within moments, the crowd's initial panic was replaced by purposeful action, as bystanders ran to, rather than from, the horror to help the injured. Law-enforcement and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel swiftly converged on the scene. Within minutes, ambulances began transporting the most critically injured to nearby hospitals.

Once victims reached Boston's hospitals, the story continued in the same vein. Noted Harvard surgeon and author Atul Gawande described how quickly they arrived and how "everything happened too fast for any ritualized

[disaster] plan to accommodate."¹ Praise for Boston's rapid and effective response is richly deserved. Clearly, lives were saved.

But before memories fade, we should analyze the event for the lessons it offers. Although a formal after-action report will take time, enough is known for us to offer some initial observations.

First, the remarkably low mortality rate of the attack — 1% — was attributable in part to excellent care and in part to six factors that favored the rescuers:

- The bombing occurred at a major event where large numbers of police, security, and EMS personnel were already deployed.
- Because it was race day — indeed, a state holiday — it is likely that the city's operating rooms and other clinical services were running at less than full capacity.



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- The attack happened shortly before the 3 p.m. change of shift at area hospitals. As a result, a full complement of administrative staff and two shifts of health care providers were on site at each facility.

- The bombs were detonated in a city that is home to seven trauma centers and multiple world-class hospitals (see map in the Supplementary Appendix, available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org). Boston EMS personnel wisely distributed casualties among the area's trauma centers, so each one received a manageable number.

- The bombers detonated their relatively low-yield devices out-of-doors. A bombing inside a closed space (e.g., a building, bus, or train) produces more primary blast injuries (e.g., blast lung) and fatalities, because surrounding walls concentrate blast waves.² The absence of structural collapse facilitated the swift extrication of victims.

- Although most health care providers in the United States have never treated a bombing victim, lessons learned by military surgeons, emergency physicians, and nurses in Iraq and Afghanistan are progressively percolating through the trauma care community. Moreover, hundreds of Boston's prehospital and hospital-based responders had already learned the basics of blast-injury care and the operational challenges their city could face. In 2009, Rich Serino, then Boston's EMS chief and now deputy administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, hosted the first citywide "Tale of Our Cities" conference in Boston, at which doctors from India, Spain, Israel, Britain, and Pakistan who had managed the consequences of terrorist attacks explained the nature of the blast injuries they treated, the triage systems they used, and other lessons responders can use to save lives. More than 750 locals attended.³

Second, photographs taken shortly after the bombings vividly depict the vital role bystanders play in the initial response to mass-casualty incidents (see photo). Instead of fleeing the scene, runners tore off their shirts and either used them as tourniquets or applied direct pressure to control bleeding. Other bystanders pulled racecourse barriers aside to facilitate access to the victims and their rapid extrication to area trauma centers. Bystanders and runners with medical training started triaging victims. These courageous civilians were the true first responders.

Third, the seemingly spontaneous actions Gawande describes didn't happen by chance. The goal of a well-crafted disaster plan is to provide a framework for preconsidered action. Experience has shown that such a framework is necessary to ensure a well-coordinated response to a sudden mass-casualty event. Boston's health care providers reacted the way they did because they knew what they were supposed to do. Those who did not were smart enough to follow the lead of those who did. That's how a "ritualized" disaster plan works.

What is not clear is whether other U.S. cities, if faced with a challenge of similar magnitude, would have done as well. In contrast to Israel, a country that has ample experience with terrorist bombings, too many U.S. hospitals treat disaster preparedness as an afterthought. We would be wise to emulate Israel's doctrine, which emphasizes the importance of national coordination, standard operating procedures, constant attention to surge capacity, the avoidance of emergency-department overcrowding, the distribution of casualties according to type and severity, and the frequent conducting of rigorous drills.⁴ Because Boston followed many of these principles, it mounted an effective response. Our goal must be to ensure that every U.S. city can do the same.⁵

Finally, Boston's response illustrates the value of adopting a broad-based approach to disaster preparedness. In the early years after 9/11 and the anthrax attacks that followed, federal preparedness efforts were too narrowly focused on bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction. More recently, agencies have embraced a more flexible, all-hazards approach, as exemplified by the National Health Security Strategy first published by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in 2009,⁵ the Department of Homeland Security's Quadrennial Homeland Security Review published in 2010, and a monograph from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entitled "In a Moment's Notice: Surge Capacity for Terrorist Bombings" (released 2007, updated 2010).

The best way hospitals can prepare is to base their response on a strong foundation of daily health care delivery.⁴ The \$347 million in federal funding allocated to the DHHS's National Healthcare Preparedness Program cannot, by itself,



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transform our \$2.8-trillion-per-year health care industry; the economics don't work. Therefore, it is vital that hospitals weave the threads of preparedness into their daily routine.

As we reflect on Boston's response, it's not enough to enumerate what went well; we must understand why. Otherwise, some citizens and health care professionals may erroneously conclude that it doesn't matter if emergency departments are crowded and if disaster plans

and rigorous drills are lacking, because their hospital's medical staff will simply "rise to the occasion." That's a risky bet. The Red Sox benefitted from some lucky breaks in the 2007 World Series, but their victory was largely due to preparation, teamwork, and execution. The same was true when the city of Boston was attacked on April 15. The rest of us should take that lesson to heart.

CSARN The Monitor – Anarchist and far-left threat heightened after death of Baroness Thatcher

Source: <http://news.csarn.org/2013/04/csarn-the-monitor-anarchist-and-far-left-threat-heightened-after-death-of-baroness-thatcher-anti-cut.html#more>



Austerity measures and colossal cuts in public spending since the 2008 financial crisis have contributed significantly to a renewal of interest in anarchist ideology and causes. As a result, Europol reports show that in 2010 there were 45 terrorist attacks committed by left wing and anarchist groups across Europe, building on 40 in 2009 and 28 in 2008 - considerably more than conducted or attempted by domestic jihadist groups over the same period. In 2009 the Greek anarchist terrorist group Synomosia Pynon Fotias (SPF, also known as Conspiracy Fire Cells and Conspiracy Fire Nuclei) adopted increasingly violent methods, regularly employing explosive devices against targets. Due to several members' arrests the group now employs a more clandestine approach to their operations; abandoning their protest activities, the use of traceable mobile phones, and ridding residences of incriminating evidence, making their attacks harder for authorities to intercept.



The organisation has since become more internationalised, for example issuing a communiqué which drove similar actions in Italy and Argentina.

The international component of the anarchist threat remains complex, and "reprisals" around significant anniversaries are commonplace even in locations that seemingly bear no connection to events. In the UK, September and October 2011 saw arson attacks take place against car dealerships in Cambridge, one having responsibility claimed by a group calling themselves 'fire cell' - possibly a copy-cat or franchise of Greece's SPF. In 2012 Bristol anarchists attempted to burn down Lloyds TSB's depot - an action they claimed was in solidarity with 'comrades' imprisoned in Greece for anarchist activity, and those imprisoned in Chile and Switzerland for attempted bombings. Although not as badly



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affected as Spain, Greece and Italy, International events can therefore trigger actions in the UK (or aimed at British interests overseas), with the current situation in Greece and Cyprus adding to the potential threat.

Often, violent UK anarchists claim to be part of the 'Informal Anarchist Federation'. The original Anarchist Federation espouses the use of violence - a theme echoed at the movement's August 2012 meeting in Switzerland, when it issued a statement rejecting all terrorist tactics as a means of achieving an anarchist society. The current anarchist threat in the UK therefore mainly exists in the form of attacks against business premises and public buildings (usually law enforcement or tax departments) during large left-wing demonstrations. This was last witnessed on a large scale in the 2011 anti-cuts demonstrations, when anarchists in "black bloc" attire hijacked the event and caused havoc at numerous business locations. Notable subsequent arrests coupled with greater police and intelligence operations have prevented a repeat of such activity through preventing groups' capability, although their intent still remains.

Most recently the death of Baroness Thatcher demonstrated how anarchist groups can still

congregate, cause disruption and attack businesses when gatherings are organised at short notice. Some of the 'parties' celebrating the former Prime Minister's death resulted in damage to numerous businesses premises as well as rioting, the throwing of missiles, and attempts at setting bins alight. However, more of a concern is how these events, including her partly state-funded funeral, have contributed to anarchist thinking and provided networking opportunities for the most extreme factions. We remained concerned that this could see more effective actions organised in future, possibly off-line and therefore being harder to detect.

Elsewhere, left-wing activity against businesses looks set to continue primarily in the form of protests and other means of non-violent action. UK uncut in particular remains heavily focused on protesting against corporations accused of tax avoidance, while the Occupy movement remains a powerful networking and opinion-sharing body, despite the disappearance of public sites. In this regard the lasting legacy of that movements may well be the mass of connections it allowed disparate activists to make, further spreading awareness of causes.

US, French, Turkish Officials Involved in Human Organs Trafficking in Syria

Source: <http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9107164196>

Certain Turkish, French and US officials are involved in the trafficking of human organs, specially kidneys and livers, by the terrorist

Also, eye witnesses said that human trafficking gangs are active in Syria's Northern districts, adding that the body organs of not just dead,



but also the injured people are excised and sent to Turkey.

Barakat Qares, a physician working in a Turkish hospital said that he has seen three Syrians who had come from Syria's Jasr al-Shaour region for treatment in Turkey whose bodies were terribly infected since their kidneys were taken out of their bodies.

Earlier

gangs, Syrian physicians were quoted as saying by al-Mayadin news channel.

reports also said that the terrorists who kill the innocent people in



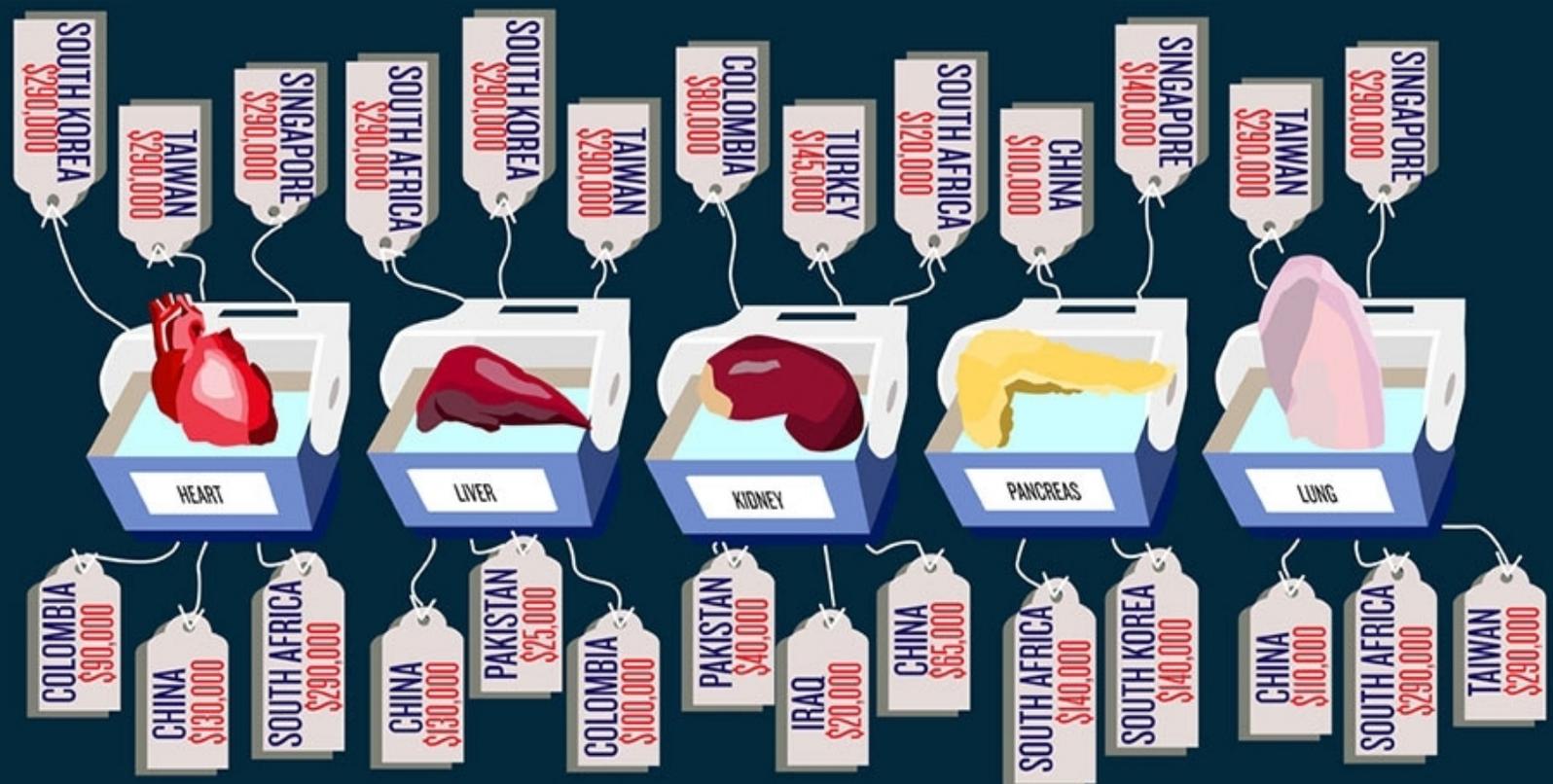
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Syria receive a large amount of money for any corpse and injured person whose body organs are trafficked out of the Arab country.

"Stealing body parts of the victims of conflicts and blasts is a job for terrorist groups in the city and they receive 10,000 Syrian lira for every

kill. Then, they sell the stolen body organs to organ traffickers at expensive prices, Turkish newspaper Yurt wrote on October.

The newspaper's correspondent in Syria has shed the light on heinous events and violations regarding the organ trafficking by FSA



corpse and 100,000 lira for the wounded people," witnesses said in an interview with Arabi Press earlier this month.

After the escalation of the conflicts in Aleppo's Sheikh Maqsoud district, reports said that the terrorists and armed groups stationed in the region rapidly collect the injured people and take them to clinical centers, but later it was revealed that they sell their body organs to traffickers.

Majd Hadouth, one of the residents of Sheikh Maqsoud district, confirmed the reports, and said the terrorists took the son of one of his neighbors after being injured in a conflict under the pretext of transferring him to a clinical center, but after two days his family found his corpse while the internal organs of his body were mutilated.

Similar reports revealed in October that the so-called Free Syrian Army is trafficking the body organs of Syrian civilians and army soldiers after kidnapping and murdering them.

The FSA rebels in Syria trade the body organs of the Syrian martyrs whom they abduct and

terrorists.

"Most of the Syrians abducted by the armed groups are killed, and then gunmen trade in their corpses through removing their kidneys, eyes and liver," the daily quoted a Syrian citizen as saying.

It added that the Syrian citizen underlined that "unknown persons contacted him and offered 300,000 Syrian Pounds in return for handing them the body of his brother who was martyred at the hands of terrorists".

Syria has been experiencing unrest since March 2011 with organized attacks by well-armed gangs against Syrian police forces and border guards being reported across the country.

Hundreds of people, including members of the security forces, have been killed, when some protest rallies turned into armed clashes.

The government blames outlaws, saboteurs, and armed terrorist groups for the deaths, stressing that the unrest is being orchestrated from abroad.



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In October 2011, calm was eventually restored in the Arab state after President Assad started a reform initiative in the country, but Israel, Turkey, the US and its Arab allies are seeking

hard to bring the country into chaos through any possible means. Tel Aviv, Washington and some Arab capitals have been staging various plots in the hope of increasing unrests in Syria.

Greece: Fears for major terrorist incident in May

Source: <http://www.defencenet.gr>

(translated from Greek)

Greek authorities and security agencies are on orange alert, after the rise of international terrorism, but also as a result of information pointing to a major terrorist incident during May, on the eve of the summer tourist season.



According to information from the newspaper "Parapolitika" counterterrorism officials focus on the prison environment, where, a mass escape will release cores of extremists able to perform sabotage within the Greek territory.

The escaping convicts' (especially foreigners) scenario, would then become subject to international media and will create uncertainty for those preparing to visit Greece, is under consideration with high priority.

Government agencies have requested international assistance from foreign agencies, in terms of information exchange in order to avoid the worst case

scenario on Greek soil.

Suspicious of Greek security services, based on the mobilization of European and U.S. agencies after the Boston Marathon bloodshed, have focused on Albanian and Turk-Islamistic extremist groups that might have networked with prisoners in Greek prisons. Critical parameter is whether mujahedeen and UCK cores exist/operate in southern Balkans.

The focus of continuous monitoring prisoners is on Albanians, but also on Muslim who may have created a communication system with extremist groups of Albanian and Turkish origin outside prison or with communities of illegal immigrants.

A second scenario under consideration is the mass escape of Greek convicts due to the fact that recent cinematographic attempt to escape of life imprisoned convict Vlastos from high security prison in Trikala, might was a rehearsal of a future similar event.

Jordan/Amman: King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC)

Source: http://www.srmti.com/videos/king-abdullah-ii-special-operations-training-center-kasotc-90/?goback=.gde_1528217_member_234025987



Amazing training hi-tech environment!



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“From Boston – Texas, Syria via Chechnya”

By George Anastopoulos (Greek blogger)

Source: <http://aegeanhawk.blogspot.gr/2013/04/from-boston-texas-syria-via-chechnya.html>

The Fertilizer West Plant that exploded in Texas on April 2013, just after “Boston Slaughter”, is found that, last year, had handled a huge quantity of 270 tones of ammonium nitrate not reported to the American Homeland Security Authorities.

Ammonium Nitrate is the basic substance for **ANFO** (Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil) or “Fertilizer Bomb”.

The 3 explosions used the same “basis”. Ammonium Nitrate. Generally called so, ANFO. IRA explosion used 1 tone of this material.

Mc Vei used 2,5 tones of Ammonium Nitrate, ½ tone of Nitromethanium and ½ tone TOVEX (kinetic) explosives and mining ANFO.

But in “Texas case” the quantity of this material was **100 times more** than Oklahoma case. **270 tones of Ammonium Nitrate!**



Thinking of this, was the explosion, really so random and accidental, as it **seems so?**

Or it intended to “**hide**” that “possible (crucial) loss” of an explosive (over-quantity!) which may be already **passed on (possibly) “terrorist’ hands”?**

Or, it intended exactly to the “opposite”? Just to **point up to this “loss”!**

Are really not connected together Texas and Boston? And all these with Syria?

The Texas explosion was similar (in destructive results) with the IRA explosion (1993 in London) and Timothy Mc Vei in Oklahoma 1995.

On the other hand, it must be noted, that, the quantity of Ammonium Nitrate **is not enough – itself - to explode**. It needs more other parameters to be explosive. Needs, for example to be steeped in a fuel (something like gasoline that will provide the required thermal energy). And still, it’s not enough. It’s complicated. Needs more and more.

So, two things should have happened in “Texas Case”:

- 1) Not able to be exploded.
- 2) Even having a “random, accidental explosion”, it should be a 100 times worst than Oklahoma.

And, of course, it “wasn’ t” ...



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Not only this, but Texas (with 100 times more explosives) gave an earthquake of 2 Richter and Oklahoma (with 2,5 tones) 3 Richter.

“Something strange” is going on here?

Something like **"somebody is behind that explosion" - possibly?**

In Boston, the terrorists were **Chechnyans**.

As a reflexing psychological result, the American Public Opinion got extremely enraged with Chechnyans.

In other words, after this tragic incident, they would be happy to see Russians to destroy Chechnyan Terrorists. And it means “everywhere” in the world.

Even in Syria. Even they are part of the Syrian Opposition Rebels, even the American State officially supports them.

Even, Chechnyans are fighting together with Syrian Rebels in Syria against Syrian Government.

So, the American Public Opinion would be probably happy if Russians intended to destroy those Chechnyans in Syria.

And suddenly, here's the “other paradox”

(Again) Chechnyans, just only a few days after Boston, did something else. Somewhere else in the world. They kidnapped two Orthodox Arch-Priests in Syria.

Russian Special Forces are already embarked to Syria ready to invade and free the Priests. By destroying Chechnyans of course.

The Worst City in the World

Source: <http://www.econwarfare.org>

While the United States media was enmeshed in the aftermath of the Boston bombing, on April 26, Karachi, Pakistan's former capital, suffered its own horrific bombing. An explosion at a street meeting of the Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan's oldest political movement, left ten people killed and more than forty injured. A bomb using nearly ten pounds of explosives spewed ball bearings and nuts and bolts throughout a crowd massed to hear political speakers.

It was just the latest atrocity in this massive city. Although a census has not been taken in years, an estimated 18 million inhabitants survive in a 1,362 square mile polity. Since the recent arrival of a murderous Pashtun Taliban

American Government (and public opinion) **gave the “affirmative”!**

The hall matter runs so fast, that American State seems like being in “confusion”...like it's running so fast that have no time to blank out this and react creatively.

In a few words, it's just very strange all these random incidents, aren't they? And very **“convenient” for “somebody”....**

The hall picture is something like this: **Americans are getting pushed out of Syria and Russians are getting pulled into.**

It's like “somebody” says (in a possible “virtual non paper”) to USA:

“... you have many Fertilizer Plants that can be transformed to little nuclear bombs. And you know very well that we already have to our hands 270 tones of Ammonium Nitrate. Leave Syria...and (possibly) Iran ”...

It looks like a complicated game of chess. But the master gamers (like USA and Russia) obey on some rules. They don't use “such methods” each against the other.

Very simply, because the “other's reaction” should be “extremely destructive”.

So, somebody else is the “Sick Thinker” of this “Strategy”.

If all this is really happening, “who really is behind”?

Who really should have “benefits” of “such strategy”?

Probably, somebody in Middle East?

element from the north the city has grown more ungovernable. Even before the recent arrivals, dozens of people were killed daily. So many, in fact, that dependable statistics have not been kept.

There can be little doubt that Karachi is one of the most dangerous cities on earth.

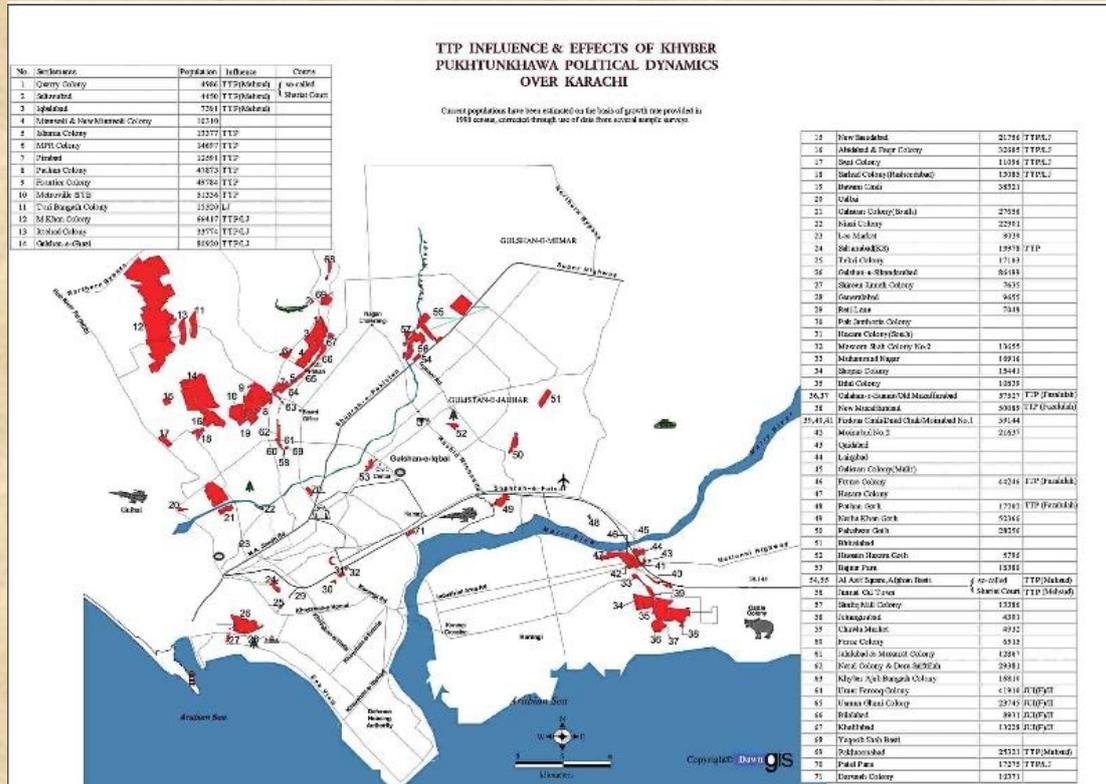
A spokesman for the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) movement admitted to Pakistan's Dawn.com that his organization had carried out the attack in response to the ANP's "secular views." It was, in effect, the continuation of attacks that the Taliban has initiated with the aim of cowering citizens who might



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otherwise vote in the upcoming May 11 election.

party apparatus in three days and followed MQM leader Nasreen Jaleel's statement



The TTP has chosen to attack not only the ANP, but the "secular" liberal and middle class

publicly blasting the "Talibanization of Karachi." It is also true that the TTP has demonstrated



Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as well. On April 25th, the TTP attacked the MQM office in Karachi. It was the second such attack on the

little use for the powerful Jamaat Ulema e-Islam (Assembly of Islamic Clergy), an Islamist movement organized by



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Pakistan's Debandi sect. It has created and supports its own madrassas (Islamic schools) and Taliban movement.

Murderers and the courts

Earlier in the month of April the Pakistan Daily Times reported that 71 jailed assassins were released on bail. Ironically, while the 71 jailbirds were released, Pakistan's Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad ordered law enforcement agencies to arrest scores of lawbreakers whose names were listed in a report that had just been submitted to the Court. The Bench demanded the presentation of data concerning the arrest of 68 murderers arrested during targeted operations conducted in March.

The Court sought to learn just how many of those arrested had been charged before the different city courts, including anti-terrorist courts. Because many of those arrested in March had been released on bail in April, the media, and assuredly the public, had reason to be skeptical of the judicial system. Revolving door justice had led the release on bail of a prisoner who had pleaded guilty to the murder of 115 people, and another prisoner who had admitted to killing 47.

An exasperated Pakistan Chief Justice was led to wonder, "How would law and order in Karachi improve when murderers are released because police care only about their promotions and job security?" He concluded, "every act in the city is politically motivated."

It was common knowledge that the PPP had for years benefitted from and supported Lyari, the smallest and most densely populated of the city's eighteen "townships" that comprise Karachi. It is the center for narcotics trafficking, gambling and general gang activity. It had thrived ever since Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, pandering to Islamists, banned gambling and alcohol in Pakistan in 1987. The result was that both were driven underground, where they flourish today. In fact, gambling in Karachi is controlled by the police who enhance their meager pay by supervising the dens where *mang patta* and *chakka* are played.

Narcotics use

When interviewed in October 2008, the Karachi street-based Human Development Foundation claimed the city already counted over two million young addicts, "and [the] rest of the youth and children are at also at the high risk of

drug addiction, as drug trafficking is prevailing in every part of the city." (*PPI*, 26 October 2008). Nearly five years later, there is no indication that the number of users has subsided. (*The Nation*, Karachi, 30 March 2013.). Instead, the price of heroin has fallen to \$4 per gram--compared to \$100 in Europe and as much as \$200 per gram in the U.S.

Of an estimated 25,000 children living on the streets, three-fourths are already said to be addicted. The government's Anti-Narcotics Force has been ineffectual because they refused to arrest the small drug peddlers. And it is the small fry that sell cheaply small amounts of hashish and heroin (brown and white) that are responsible for the growth of narcotics use. No ethnic community--neither the Bengalis, the Baloch, nor the Burmese Arakan--has been safe from their infiltration. While the upper class prefers popping pills to hard drugs, throughout town the bus stands serve as the nexus of the narcotics trade. On a larger scale, Karachi port serves as a "hub of exporting drugs to different countries." Of the 580 tons of heroin produced in 2012 in the Afghanistan-Pakistan borderland, about half reached the international market through Pakistan (and less than one ton was seized by Pakistan officials).

Drug abuse in Karachi has created a public health disaster seemingly without end. The nation itself has but three rehabilitation centers, and some 200 private centers, and methadone, the preferred treatment for heroin addiction is generally available in neither service. The unfortunate addicts who are jailed are forced to go "cold turkey", like it or not.

In early 2013, the heads of Karachi police admitted before the Pakistan Supreme Court that the morale of their men had been shattered since the courts refused to punish gangsters and pushers. Worse, the courts were "sluggish" in the prosecution of criminals charged with murder of policemen. It was claimed that while 162 police had lost their lives in the line of duty, only three killers were brought to justice.

When police officials were queried about reported 'no-go' areas within the city that the police would not enter, they were questioned about the existence of 13 areas dominated by gangsters, and 29 areas off-limits to "people of a particular ethnicity." The officials were hesitant in their responses,



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unwilling to admit that such areas existed, even though one of the most fearsome places was located across from the Pakistan Naval Base. It was also clear, from a police intelligence warning issued in 2011, that Karachi was about to suffer from an influx of ruthless TTP terrorists from the north. That had come true. The TTP had already managed to infiltrate the previously lawless 'no-go' areas of Manghopir and Sohrab Goth and had made them their own.

Attacking the "no-go" enclaves

On hearing the evidence provided by the Karachi officials, Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Caudry was obviously dissatisfied with the anarchy that existed in the port city. It was hard to determine whom he considered more lax, the police, or the Ranger leadership assigned to the city. He ordered them both to initiate at once an operation to eliminate the 'no-go' areas. It was a start.

However, without the national will to eliminate crime and corruption in the city, and the public safety and judicial personnel needed to effect a change, there was little optimism that the situation would soon improve.

A major reason for pessimism is that the TTP have already become major players in the sale and control of land, an aspect of the Karachi economy long considered the domain of investors "with close links to the major political parties and forces amongst the establishment." (*Dawn*, 31 March 2003) According to one news report, there are at least thirty TTP factions now present in the city. Most are controlled by factions loyal to terrorist leaders Hakimullah Mehsud or Mullah Fazlullah. They are ruthless elements. Even more ruthless than the gangster element that had been running the city.

As things now stand, the betting is that the situation in Karachi is bound to get worse before it gets better.

Special Travel Benefit for Saudis a "Slap in the Face"

Source: <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3947/special-travel-benefit-for-saudis-a-slap-in>

Saudi Arabia, the nation which produced 15 of the 19 hijackers in the 9/11 attacks, is about to

who is eligible for getting fast-tracked for entry into the United States.



become one of a handful of countries whose travelers can bypass normal passport controls at major U.S. airports. Sources tell the Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT) that this will mark the first time that the Saudi government will have a direct role in vetting

An agreement to accept Saudi Arabian applicants into the Global Entry trusted traveler program drew little notice when it was announced in January. Now, some officials question why the country merits such a benefit – which is similar to a theme park "fast pass" to avoid long lines – when other allies like Germany and France are not yet included. A program for Israeli travelers was reached last May but has not been implemented.

Travelers approved for the program can skip the normal Customs and Border Protection (CBP) lines starting next year and enter the country after providing their passports and fingerprints at a kiosk. Only Canada, Mexico, South Korea and the Netherlands currently enjoy the benefit, although pilot programs could expand it to a handful of others.



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Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the agreement in January after meeting with Saudi Interior Minister Prince Mohammed bin Nayef. It "marks another major step forward in our partnership," Napolitano said at the time. "By enhancing collaboration with the Government of Saudi Arabia, we reaffirm our commitment to more effectively secure our two countries against evolving threats while facilitating legitimate trade and travel."

Details about how the plan will work with the Saudis have not been released. Nayef's ministry, however, will be responsible for screening which applicants will be considered when the pilot program begins next year. It's not known whether the Saudi ministry will share its raw intelligence about applicants with its American counterparts. What is known, based on information provided by a Homeland Security source, is that each individual who makes it into the program will have been vetted by both the CBP and by the Saudi Interior Ministry against various databases.

The Department of Homeland Security declined to make anyone available to answer questions about Saudi Arabia's inclusion in the Global Entry program after repeated requests throughout last week, and after indicating someone would provide more details.

That is cause for concern, given lingering questions about possible Saudi support for some of the 9/11 hijackers and given the Ministry of Interior (MOI)'s inconsistent record on sharing its intelligence on suspected terrorists and terror financiers. Additionally, recent studies by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified significant problems in the way DHS components use computer systems and process intelligence for posting watch list lookouts and overseas screening of foreign nationals.

Once accepted into Global Entry, travelers can enjoy the faster border entry for five years.

A memo obtained by the Investigative Project on Terrorism said Saudi applicants "must meet the individual vetting criteria of both CBP and the MOI, and successfully complete vetting by each side against information available in various law enforcement, customs, immigration, criminal, intelligence, and terrorist databases."

That doesn't bring confidence to those who have investigated Saudi Arabian connections to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., whose district lost more than 70 people during the attack on the Pentagon, called the pact a bad idea. He also stated that he had not previously heard about the deal.

"I think you have radical Wahhabism in certain elements in Saudi Arabia, and I think to be more lenient there than in other places would be a mistake," Wolf said. "There were 15 [hijackers] from that country, and there is a lot taking place in that region."

"Some of the people who went back to Saudi Arabia through Guantanamo – we find that they are in battlefields in Afghanistan or some other place, so I don't think it's a good idea."

Saudis have long been known for withholding information from their American counterparts. Wolf recalls that the Saudis obstructed former FBI Director Louis Freeh's effort to investigate the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing by refusing to share information.

"I think there has been a history of not cooperating," Wolf said.

The Saudis paved the way for 9/11 by funding the madrassas along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, which adds to Wolf's concern.

Unseen Information, Unanswered Questions

"Adding KSA to the program before a full vetting of the Kingdom's involvement in 9/11 is very unwise," said Sharon Premoli, a 9/11 survivor who has sued the Saudis for allegedly helping finance the attacks.

"We don't know if what they tell us is correct. Why should we trust them?" she said in an interview Thursday. She points to a 1998 agreement Saudi Arabia struck with bin Laden and the Taliban prior to 9/11. A 2011 Vanity Fair article described it this way:

In sworn statements after 9/11, former Taliban intelligence chief Mohammed Khaksar said that in 1998 Prince Turki, chief of Saudi Arabia's General Intelligence Department (G.I.D.), sealed a deal under which bin Laden agreed not to attack Saudi targets. In return, Saudi Arabia would provide funds and material assistance to the Taliban, not demand bin Laden's extradition, and not bring pressure to close down al-Qaeda training camps. Saudi businesses, meanwhile,



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would ensure that money also flowed directly to bin Laden.

"They didn't tell us that," Premoli said in the interview. "They haven't been forthcoming on anything."

Saudi officials deny that deal existed. The only way to find out is to continue investigating, Premoli said. She's perplexed that the brutal murder of 3,000 Americans even requires an effort to trigger additional investigation.

"Let's vet them properly. Let's really declassify. Let's look at all of it. Until it is done, it's an open wound. It's an unanswered question."

The Global Entry deal comes three years after U.S. officials briefly placed Saudi Arabia on a list of 14 countries whose travelers would face enhanced scrutiny when entering the United States. It followed Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's failed attempt to bomb a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day 2009.

A cable sent from the American embassy to the State

governments tied to terrorist acts, both the removal of Saudi Arabia from that list and its addition to Global Entry show the country enjoys "favored nation status. It's so extraordinary that they are so protected."

She was critical of the Bush administration for its warm relations with the Saudi royal family and is equally critical of the Obama administration for being "a continuation of the Bush administration." When the plaintiffs suing Saudi Arabia sought to appeal a decision absolving the Saudis to the Supreme Court, then-Solicitor General Elena Kagan filed an amicus brief siding with the Saudis.

Saudi Arabian officials say all the investigations into the 9/11 attacks exonerated them of any involvement. But two former U.S. senators who led inquiries into the attacks say that's just not so.

In affidavits submitted last year for plaintiffs suing the Saudis – including Premoli – former Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey and former Florida Sen. Bob Graham wrote that the book on Saudi Arabia's 9/11 connections should not be closed.

The 9/11 Commission on which he served lacked the time and resources "to pursue all potentially relevant evidence" involving Saudi Arabia, Kerrey wrote.

"Significant questions remain unanswered concerning the possible involvement of Saudi government institutions and actors in the financing and sponsorship of al Qaeda, and evidence relating to the plausible involvement of possible Saudi government agents in the September 11th

Attacks has never been fully pursued," Kerrey wrote.

Graham, who was chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee at the time of the attacks, was co-chairman of a joint congressional inquiry. He has spent years arguing that a 28-page chapter from that inquiry would cast things in a different light if it ever is declassified.

"Based on my experiences as the Co-Chair of the Joint Inquiry, and the evidence collected by the Joint Inquiry during the course of its investigation into the events of September 11, 2001, the information contained in the Final Report of the 9/11 Commission,

Department that was published by Wikileaks reported that Saudi government officials expressed "shock to be included on the list" and threatened to "to re-evaluate areas of cooperation, including counter-terrorism cooperation" if it was not rescinded.

The policy was dropped three months later, replaced with a new program designed to use threat assessments and intelligence of traveler's behavioral traits and travel patterns.

To Premoli, who is pushing legislation to strip sovereign immunity protection from



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and reports and published material I have reviewed, I am convinced that there was a direct line between at least some of the terrorists who carried out the September 11th attacks and the government of Saudi Arabia," Graham wrote in his affidavit.

Hijackers and Their Helpers

That line may have come in the form of Omar al Bayoumi, a Saudi who befriended hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Midhar. While the 9/11 Commission Report describes Bayoumi as "an unlikely candidate for clandestine involvement with Islamist extremists," Graham believes he was a Saudi government agent.

Al-Bayoumi first met the hijackers in 2000, helped them find an apartment and "fronted the initial payments for that apartment" along with other financial help, Graham noted.

"During the period that he assisted the hijackers, al-Bayoumi's allowances from a ghost job with a Saudi private firm and contractor with ties to the Saudi government increased eightfold. During that same period, Al-Bayoumi had an unusual number of telephone conversations with Saudi government officials in both Los Angeles and Washington."

All this convinces him al-Bayoumi was a Saudi agent. "To this date, this evidence has not been fully explored and pursued, to the considerable detriment of the American public." In a column co-written with Premoli last fall, Graham said the classified chapter from the congressional inquiry focuses on the hijacker's financial support while they were in the United States. "Sadly," Graham and Premoli wrote, "those 28 pages represent only a fraction of the evidence of Saudi complicity that our government continues to shield from the public, under a flawed classification program which appears to be part of a systematic effort to protect Saudi Arabia from any real accountability for its actions."

Abdulaziz al-Hijji, an executive with the Saudi government oil company Aramco, lived in Sarasota until just before the 9/11 attacks when he is reported to have suddenly left the U.S. Al-Hijji now lives in London. Recent media reports indicate al-Hijji met with 9/11 terror leader Mohamed Atta and current al-Qaida fugitive Adnan el-Shukrijumah while he lived in Sarasota. Graham has also looked into the al-Hijji matter and reportedly met with the FBI

deputy director in November of 2011 and the deputy director refused to discuss the al-Hijji matter. Graham said, "I think that in the period immediately after 9/11 the FBI was under instructions from the Bush White House not to discuss anything that could be embarrassing to the Saudis."

Saudi Arabia sends thousands of travelers into the United States each month, and more than 92 percent of Saudis who seek entry visas receive them, Asharq al-Awsat reported. In 2012, 20,677 student visas were granted to Saudi citizens.

The United States and Saudi Arabia do about \$60 billion in business each year, most of which is Saudi oil exports.

The ambiguity of Saudi Ministry of Interior's role is of particular concern, especially when it comes to who qualifies as a "low-risk traveler." Although individuals with defined al-Qaida ties likely would not get a pass, worries arise particularly when it comes to those who support Hamas or Hizballah.

"I wouldn't trust them as far as I could throw them," Jim Phillips, senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at the Heritage Foundation, said regarding the Saudi Interior Ministry.

Although the Saudi Interior Ministry has largely decimated al-Qaida's infrastructure in the kingdom since 2003 in the wake of a series of bombings and killings of Westerners in the kingdom, Phillips says the ministry's reliability as a partner remains an open question.

In an interview Tuesday, Graham reserved judgment on the program until more details are released on its implementation. He noted that the United States "went out of its way to placate the Saudis" after 9/11, arranging flights out of the country for Saudi nationals when all other air traffic was grounded, and waging "an effort to keep from public view the role of Saudis" in the 9/11 attacks.

Including Saudi travelers in Global Entry may be "a continuation" of an American policy of deference toward Saudi Arabia. "The question is what was the first step in approving a country to be involved in this? What are the requirements?" Graham asked. "This is not a theoretical. This really happened that 15 Saudis came into the country, I think all by aviation ... It would seem there would be some red flags."



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Wolf suggested that the House Homeland Security Committee should examine the terms of the agreement to learn how it happened and it will work.

"It's a slap in the face," Premoli said. "Whatever they ask for, they get. There's nothing they can't have."

Foreign Military from Islamic Countries Disappear from our U.S. Military Bases "Islamic Sleeper Cells are Generated"

29 Apr 2013

By Dave Gaubatz

Source 1: Dave Gaubatz Educational Newsletter 29 Apr 2013 (davegaubatz@gmail.com)

Source 2: Nena Wiley (CoyoteArz@aol.com)

This article could be a book, but I will give a brief summary. In the U.S. our military bases have programs to bring citizens/scientists from Islamic based countries to the U.S. to train them on many of our weapons systems and some of our most highly guarded technology systems. The U.S. military also bring foreign military personnel from Islamic controlled countries to train on our aircraft, to include how to fly the various U.S. military aircraft. Many of these foreigners disappear into the underground 'Islamic Sleeper Cells' throughout America. This must stop. Kirtland AFB, NM, Wright Patterson AFB, Oh. and Lackland AFB, Tx. are three of the top offenders.

Intelligence that would not be provided to the American public is freely provided to foreign nationals from Islamic based countries that support terrorism against us. In addition thousands of foreigners from Islamic based countries are trained at our military bases about aircraft systems and how to fly them. Lackland AFB, Texas is one of our prime offenders in this category. When I was a Special Agent for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations we continuously had open cases on foreign citizens who suddenly left our installations and disappeared into unknown areas of America. I have written previously about 'sleeper cells'. These are some of the people who go underground into sleeper cells. They are trained military personnel who have a working knowledge of English and have been trained on our weapons systems. Immediately after the attack on 9-11, other Agents and myself were given orders to attempt to track these 'lost' foreigners down. It was an impossible hunt. There was a major concern some of the 9-11 Islamic hijackers had even trained in our military flight schools.

Our intelligence officers and law enforcement could help prevent another attack if they tracked down the missing military foreign nationals who have disappeared from our bases. The U.S. military does not like to report to the public or our political leaders the disappearances of foreign nationals under their control. I encourage readers to contact the 'Foreign National Office' (specifically the Air Force Research Laboratory/ (AFRL/DE) and ask how many foreign scientists are working alongside our most prized U.S. scientists. Then contact the Foreign National Representative that handles the foreign military students (from Islamic countries) and ask them how many foreign students are missing from their installations. Again I stress these are where the Islamic sleeper cells generate from.

Efforts to Address the Medical Needs of Children in a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear Incident

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-438>

What GAO Found

According to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), about 60 percent of the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) medical countermeasures in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) have been approved for children, but in many instances approval is limited to specific age groups. In addition, about 40 percent of the CBRN countermeasures have not been

approved for any pediatric use. Furthermore, some of the countermeasures have not been approved to treat individuals for the specific indications for which they have been stockpiled. For example, ciprofloxacin is stockpiled in the SNS for the treatment of anthrax, plague, and tularemia, but is not approved for these indications. Countermeasures may be used to treat unapproved



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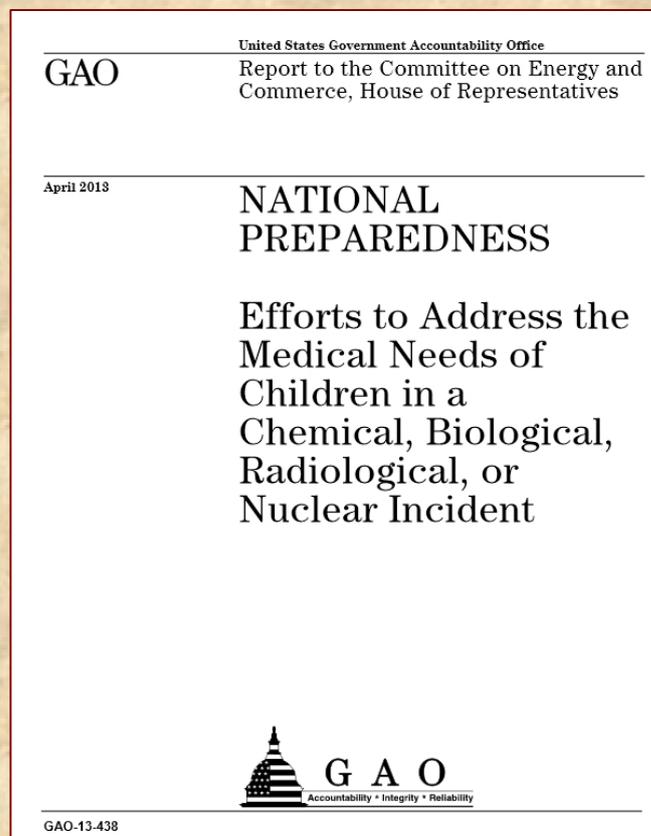
age groups or indications under an emergency use authorization (EUA) or an Investigational New Drug (IND) application submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

HHS faces a variety of economic, regulatory, scientific, and ethical challenges in developing and acquiring pediatric CBRN medical countermeasures. High costs and the high risk of failure associated with testing and research of pharmaceutical products on children, difficulties in meeting regulatory requirements for approving CBRN countermeasures, and scientific and ethical obstacles to safely evaluating countermeasures for children all pose challenges to developing pediatric countermeasures. Despite these challenges, HHS has taken steps to focus agency efforts on the pediatric population, adapt pediatric formulations from existing medical countermeasures, and prepare and review materials for EUAs and INDs in advance of public health emergencies.

HHS addresses dispensing of pediatric medical countermeasures in more than half of its 12 response plans and in its guidance, and seven state and seven local government plans that GAO reviewed included details about pediatric dispensing. Seven of the 12 HHS plans include information about pediatric medical countermeasures; however, HHS officials stated that these plans are intended to provide guidance for emergency response at the federal level, and not at the state or local levels, which is where dispensing would occur. CDC and FDA also provide guidance on pediatric dispensing that state and local governments can use in their planning. For example, CDC developed guidance about receiving, distributing, and dispensing contents from the SNS to help state and local emergency management and public health personnel plan for the use of countermeasures from the SNS. Response plans for all 14 of the state and local governments that GAO reviewed also included details about dispensing to the pediatric population during an emergency. For example, these seven states and seven local governments all adopted some version of a "family member pick-up" policy--sometimes referred to as a "head of

household" policy--which would allow adults to pick up medicines for other family members, including children, during an event.

In commenting on a draft of this report, HHS



concluded with our findings. HHS emphasized that the needs of the pediatric population have been a priority for HHS and that the department is continuously progressing in this area.

Why GAO Did This Study

The nation remains vulnerable to terrorist and other threats posed by CBRN agents. Medical countermeasures--drugs, vaccines, and medical devices--can prevent or treat the effects of exposure to CBRN agents, and countermeasures are available in the SNS for some of these agents. Children, who make up 25 percent of the population in the United States, are especially vulnerable because many of the countermeasures in the SNS have only been approved for use in adults. HHS leads the federal efforts to develop and acquire countermeasures.



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GAO was asked about efforts to address the needs of children in the event of a CBRN

state and local governments have addressed this issue. To address these objectives, GAO

Appendix I: Pediatric CBRN Medical Countermeasures in the Strategic National Stockpile

Table 1 presents additional information about certain types of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) medical countermeasures available in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) by CBRN threat, as well as their regulatory status, for the pediatric population. The information presented is a general overview of countermeasures that are available for the pediatric population in the event of a CBRN incident, and does not include a complete list of all of the variations of each countermeasure.

Table 1: Overview of Certain Types of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Medical Countermeasures Available in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and Their Regulatory Status for the Pediatric Population

CBRN threat	Types of medical countermeasures available in the SNS	Regulatory status for the pediatric population ^a
Anthrax (<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>)	Oral solid antimicrobials	Three oral solid antimicrobials are available in the SNS to prevent or treat anthrax. One is approved for postexposure prophylaxis and treatment of anthrax in all children. Another is approved for postexposure prophylaxis for all children, but it is not approved for treatment of anthrax in any population. The third is not approved for postexposure prophylaxis or treatment of anthrax in any population. The antimicrobials that are not approved for postexposure prophylaxis or treatment would need to be used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for unapproved age groups, including adults, for these indications.

incident. This report examines (1) the percentage of CBRN medical countermeasures in the SNS that are approved for pediatric use; (2) the challenges HHS faces in developing and acquiring CBRN medical countermeasures for the pediatric population, and the steps it is taking to address them; and (3) the ways that HHS has addressed the dispensing of pediatric medical countermeasures in its emergency response plans and guidance, and ways that

reviewed relevant laws, agency documents, and reports, and interviewed HHS officials, industry representatives, and subject-matter experts. GAO also reviewed a stratified sample of emergency response plans from seven state and seven local governments, based on geographic location and population size, to assess how these governments address pediatric dispensing.

► **Read full report at:** <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/654264.pdf>

Risk of Cancer Is 15% Higher In 9/11 Responders

By Sarah Glynn

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/259600.php>

The risk of cancer is 15% higher in 9/11 responders compared to the general population not exposed to Ground Zero, according to a new study.

The research was conducted by Mount Sinai Hospital's World Trade Center Health Program and was published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

Almost 21,000 rescue and recovery workers who worked at Ground Zero were analyzed in

the report. The experts explained that they found more cases of blood, lymph, prostate, thyroid, and soft tissue cancers than they anticipated.

Data from 2001 to 2008 were gathered and analyzed for the purpose of the investigation. Scientists found **575 cancer cases** among the responders of 9/11. Epidemiologists anticipated



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finding 499 cases for that same size in the general population.

The responders involved in the research lived in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The workers were 85% male and their average age was 38 on the day of the attack.

They worked at Ground Zero for a median of fifty-seven days and 43% were exposed to dust clouds sent up when the Twin Towers collapsed.



According to the authors, **the incidence of certain cancers was higher than expected in the general population.**

The incidence of:

- thyroid cancer was 239% greater
- soft tissue cancers was 226% greater
- blood and lymph cancers 36% greater
- prostate cancer 21% greater

The results are similar to a report by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's WTC Health Registry on NYC residents, as well as a different study by the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) which found that firefighters had at least a 19% higher risk cancer compared to colleagues who were not exposed to the toxic cloud produced by the collapse of the twin towers..

Study co-author Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc, FAAP, Dean for Global Health and the Ethel Wise Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, said: "Previous studies have looked at cancer incidence rates after September 11, but did not report on

associations according to levels of exposure. This study is significant because for the first

time it examines associations between several types of cancers in a specific population - WTC rescue and recovery workers - and levels of exposure to the dust on the debris pile in lower Manhattan." "Just seven years after the attack, our study has shown an increase in cancer even at this early stage," Dr. Jacqueline Moline, a researcher of the Mount Sinai report said to *Opposing Views*.

The author explained that cancer associated with carcinogens at Ground Zero could take several years to develop.

Moline said: "The fact that we are seeing early increases in many types of cancers makes it all the more critical for us to be vigilant in our medical surveillance of anyone who had WTC exposure and to provide treatment for them if necessary."

Although the results of this report are significant, they should be interpreted with caution, warned Samara Solan, MD, an Instructor of Preventive Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and corresponding author.

She pointed out that people should make note of:

- the short follow-up and long latency period for most cancers
- the intensive medical surveillance of this cohort by the research team
- and the small numbers of cancers at certain sites



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"However, our findings strongly highlight the need for continued follow-up and medical surveillance of WTC responders," Solan concluded.

Last year, the National Institute for Occupational Safety (NIOSH) announced that

50 types of cancers were added to the list of diseases that have affected 9/11 victims and would be federally funded, meaning that another 70,000 emergency service workers as well as other 9/11 survivors would be entitled to free medical care.

► **Read also:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/wtc/stac/cancer.html>

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Source: <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Want-a-career-Pre-Hospital-Medicine---.html?soid=1109079818541&aid=6GwpTBsifYM>

The Emergency Medical Technician's scope of practice includes basic skills focused on the acute management and transportation of critical and emergent patients. This may occur at an emergency scene until transportation resources arrive, from an emergency scene to a health care facility, between health care facilities, or in other health care settings.

professionals as an integral part of the emergency care team.

Emergency Medical Technicians' scope of practice includes basic, non-invasive interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with acute out-of-hospital medical and traumatic emergencies. Emergency care is based on assessment



In many communities Emergency Medical Technicians provide a large portion of the out-of-hospital care. In some jurisdictions, especially rural areas, Emergency Medical Technicians provide the highest level of out-of-hospital care. Emergency Medical Technicians work alongside other EMS and health care

findings. Additionally, Emergency Medical Technicians provide care to minimize secondary injury and provide comfort to the patient and family while transporting the patient to an emergency care facility.



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An Emergency Medical Technician's knowledge, skills, and abilities are acquired through formal education and training. The Emergency Medical Technician has the knowledge of, and is expected to be competent in, all of the skills of the EMR. A major difference between the Emergency Medical Responder and the Emergency Medical Technician is the knowledge and skills necessary to provide medical transportation of emergency patients.

The Emergency Medical Technician level is the minimum licensure level for personnel transporting patients in ambulances. The scope of practice is limited to basic skills that are effective and can be performed safely in an out-of-hospital setting with medical oversight and limited training.

The Emergency Medical Technician transports all emergency patients to an appropriate medical facility. The Emergency Medical Technician is not prepared to make decisions independently regarding the appropriate disposition of patients. The Emergency Medical Technician serves as part of an EMS response system, assuring a progressive increase in the level of assessment and care. The Emergency Medical Technician may make destination decisions in collaboration with medical oversight. The principal disposition of the patient encounter will result in the direct delivery of the patient to an acute care facility. In addition to emergency response, Emergency Medical Technicians often perform medical transport services of patients requiring care within their scope of practice.

Why are Buddhist monks attacking Muslims?

By Alan Strathern

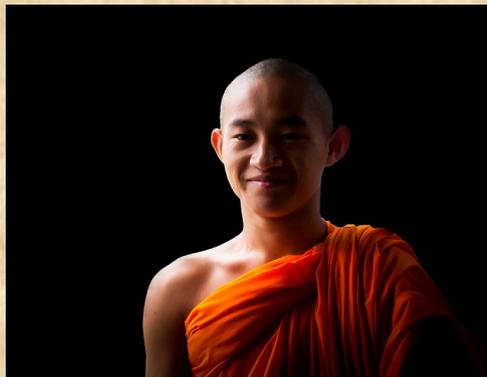
Source:http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2013/05/why-are-buddhist-monks-attacking-muslims_2.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+terrorismwatch%2FJTvK+%28Terrorism+Watch%29&utm_content=Yahoo!+Mail

Of all the moral precepts instilled in Buddhist monks the promise not to kill comes first, and the principle of non-violence is arguably more central to Buddhism than any other major religion. So why have monks been using hate speech against Muslims and joining mobs that have left dozens dead?

This is happening in two countries separated by well over 1,000 miles of Indian Ocean - Burma and Sri Lanka. It is puzzling because neither country is facing an Islamist militant threat. Muslims in both places are a generally peaceable and small minority.

In Sri Lanka, the issue of halal slaughter has been a flashpoint. Led by monks, members of the Bodu Bala Sena - the Buddhist Brigade - hold rallies, call for direct action and the boycotting of Muslim businesses, and rail against the size of Muslim families.

While no Muslims have been killed in Sri Lanka, the Burmese situation is far more serious. Here the antagonism is spearheaded by the 969 group, led by a monk, Ashin



Wirathu, who was jailed in 2003 for inciting religious hatred. Released in 2012, he has referred to himself bizarrely as "the Burmese Bin Laden".

March saw an outbreak of mob violence directed against Muslims in the town of Meiktila, in central Burma, which left at least 40 dead.

Tellingly, the violence began in a gold shop. The movements in both countries exploit a sense of economic grievance - a religious minority is used as the scapegoat for the frustrated aspirations of the majority.

On Tuesday, Buddhist mobs attacked mosques and burned more than 70 homes in Oakkan, north of Rangoon, after a Muslim girl on a bicycle collided with a monk. One person died and nine were injured. But aren't Buddhist monks meant to be the good guys of religion?

Aggressive thoughts are inimical to all Buddhist teachings. Buddhism even comes equipped with a practical way to eliminate them. Through meditation the distinction between



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your feelings and those of others should begin to dissolve, while your compassion for all living things grows.

Of course, there is a strong strain of pacifism in Christian teachings too: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," were the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

But however any religion starts out, sooner or later it enters into a Faustian pact with state power. Buddhist monks looked to kings, the ultimate wielders of violence, for the support, patronage and order that only they could provide. Kings looked to monks to provide the

He destroyed his opponents. After the bloodshed, some enlightened ones consoled him: "The slain were like animals; you will make the Buddha's faith shine."

Burmese rulers, known as "kings of righteousness", justified wars in the name of what they called true Buddhist doctrine.

In Japan, many samurai were devotees of Zen Buddhism and various arguments sustained them - killing a man about to commit a dreadful crime was an act of compassion, for example. Such reasoning surfaced again when Japan mobilised for World War II.

Buddhism took a leading role in the nationalist

Buddish Terrorist Brunt Muslim's Homes & Many Mosques

in Meikhtila Town, MYANMAR 22 March , 2013



popular legitimacy that only such a high moral vision can confer.

The result can seem ironic. If you have a strong sense of the overriding moral superiority of your worldview, then the need to protect and advance it can seem the most important duty of all.

Christian crusaders, Islamist militants, or the leaders of "freedom-loving nations", all justify what they see as necessary violence in the name of a higher good. Buddhist rulers and monks have been no exception.

So, historically, Buddhism has been no more a religion of peace than Christianity.

One of the most famous kings in Sri Lankan history is Dutugamunu, whose unification of the island in the 2nd Century BC is related in an important chronicle, the Mahavamsa.

It says that he placed a Buddhist relic in his spear and took 500 monks with him along to war against a non-Buddhist king.

movements that emerged as Burma and Sri Lanka sought to throw off the yoke of the British Empire. Occasionally this spilled out into violence. In 1930s Rangoon, amid resorts to direct action, monks knifed four Europeans.

More importantly, many came to feel Buddhism was integral to their national identity - and the position of minorities in these newly independent nations was an uncomfortable one.

In 1983, Sri Lanka's ethnic tensions broke out into civil war. Following anti-Tamil pogroms, separatist Tamil groups in the north and east of the island sought to break away from the Sinhalese majority government.

Violence has left many Burmese Muslims homeless

During the war, the worst violence against Sri Lankan Muslims came at the hands of the Tamil rebels.

But after the fighting came to a



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bloody end with the defeat of the rebels in 2009, it seems that majority communal passions have found a new target in the Muslim minority.

In Burma, monks wielded their moral authority to challenge the military junta and argue for democracy in the Saffron Revolution of 2007. Peaceful protest was the main weapon of choice this time, and monks paid with their lives.

Now some monks are using their moral authority to serve a quite different end. They may be a minority, but the 500,000-strong monkhood, which includes many deposited in monasteries as children to escape poverty or as orphans, certainly has its fair share of angry young men.

The exact nature of the relationship between the Buddhist extremists and the ruling parties in both countries is unclear.

Sri Lanka's powerful Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa was guest of honour at

the opening of a Buddhist Brigade training school, and referred to the monks as those who "protect our country, religion and race".

But the anti-Muslim message seems to have struck a chord with parts of the population.

Even though they form a majority in both countries, many Buddhists share a sense that their nations must be unified and that their religion is under threat.

The global climate is crucial. People believe radical Islam to be at the centre of the many of the most violent conflicts around the world. They feel they are at the receiving end of conversion drives by the much more evangelical monotheistic faiths. And they feel that if other religions are going to get tough, they had better follow suit.

Alan Strathern is a fellow in History at Brasenose College, Oxford and author of *Kingship and Conversion in Sixteenth-Century Sri Lanka: Portuguese Imperialism in a Buddhist Land*.

Cocaine flows through Sahara as al-Qaida cashes in on lawlessness

By Afua Hirsch

Source: http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/may/02/cocaine-flows-through-sahara-al-qaida?CMP=tw_t_gu&goback=.gde_1528217_member_237809941



The wreckage of a Boeing 727, which was believed to have been carrying up to 10 tonnes of cocaine when it crashed in the Malian desert. Photograph: Serge Daniel/AFP/Getty Images

As the daily power cut struck Timbuktu, the town and surrounding desert were plunged into

a sandy, grey darkness. Mohamed – a 31-year-old native



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of the town dressed in rich, deep blue cloth that engulfed his head in the traditional Tuareg style – seemed to shrink further into the shadows. He tipped ash into a saucer as he talked and smoked, telling his story for the first time.

"I didn't know cigarette trafficking was illegal," he said, exhaling into the black. "I smoke, everyone here smokes, so it didn't seem serious. But when I started transporting cocaine ... I'm a Muslim, I knew it was wrong." In 2009 Mohamed, who spoke to the Guardian on condition of anonymity, joined a team that drove packages of cocaine across the Sahara. He and his boss – who introduced him to the illicit trade in cigarettes as a young apprentice – were lured into the business by the apparent wealth of Moroccan and Algerian narco-traffickers whom they encountered in desert towns.

"When we transported cigarettes, I would be paid around 100,000 CFA francs [about £130] for each trip. With cocaine, I earned 1 million," Mohamed explained. "We would drive through the desert in convoys, and each car would earn roughly 18m CFA – the driver, security man and I would all be paid a fee, and my boss would keep the rest."

It is impossible to estimate how many young Malians are, like Mohamed, drawn into drug trafficking by the prospect of earning big money in short periods. In a region where youth unemployment and poverty are high, the prospect of travelling for days at a time through one of the most inhospitable terrains on earth offers little deterrent.

"It was hard, but there was no other way I could earn that kind of money," said Mohamed. "Our routes were never fixed, but we would drive 24 hours a day, without stopping, until we got there. We would eat tinned food, and prepare tea in the car. The most important thing was to get there as quickly as possible."

The UN estimates about 18 tonnes of cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$1.25bn (£800m), crosses West Africa every year – nearly 50% of all non-US-bound cocaine. Most of it originates in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, and travels to West Africa on private jets, fishing boats and freighters along the notorious "Highway 10" – the shortest route between the continents along the 10th parallel of latitude.

Now the role of al-Qaida-linked Islamists – who controlled northern Mali from early 2012 until

they were ousted by French and African troops this year – is fuelling fears for the potential of the drug trade to destabilise the region.

"There is hard evidence of the link between al-Qaida and cocaine trafficking in the Sahara," said Dr Kwesi Aning, director of academic affairs and research at the Kofi Annan international peacekeeping training centre in Ghana. "In the beginning, the trade was mainly dominated by Tuaregs and middlemen who guided traffickers to water and fuel dumps in the desert. But after al-Qaida got involved around 10 years ago, we saw a massive increase in the quantities of cocaine involved. They had the networks, and they had the logistical know-how."

Experts say the lack of law enforcement in the Sahara has allowed both Islamism and the cocaine trade to flourish, with vast, inhospitable, mountainous desert borders all but impossible to police. Many in Mali also accuse successive regimes of the now ousted president Amadou Toumani Touré of being deeply complicit in the trade.

The region's lawlessness was blamed for the 2009 "Air Cocaine" incident, when a Boeing 727 believed to have been carrying up to 10 tonnes of cocaine was found burnt-out in the Malian desert. In 2010, a Malian police commissioner was convicted in connection with attempts to build an airstrip in the desert for future landings. And in the same year, the UK Serious Organised Crime Agency reported that a plane from Venezuela had landed in Mali, and that its cargo was driven by 4x4 vehicles to Timbuktu before authorities lost track of the convoy.

"You have to bear in mind that we are talking about the middle of nowhere," said Pierre Lapaque, representative of the United Nations office on drugs and crime (UNODC) regional office for west and central Africa. "It's a huge piece of sand where you can easily cross borders without knowing it. It is a serious challenge for law enforcement.

"On top of that, these are countries where law enforcement officers are poorly trained, poorly equipped and corrupt, and where logistics don't work. Put that together, and it's a nice opportunity for criminals," he added.



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The Nigerian former president Olusegun

Lapaque said: "We have heard about camels



Obasanjo, commissioner for the recently formed West Africa Commission on Drugs, said: "These criminal groups have the money to buy influence, which makes it difficult to apprehend them. It is affecting the normal operations of civil, military and paramilitary officials. [Drug traffickers] are even paying for political campaigns."

Mohamed said traffickers were highly organised and had well-established means of making their presence even harder to detect. "We waited to collect the drugs at a place between the mountains in the desert called 'al-Hanq' he explained. "The drugs were transported there by camels which travelled across the desert without a guide. The camels were trained by being starved and taken through the same route repeatedly, and fed when they arrive at al-Hanq, until they learned to do the journey alone.

"We would continue in convoys of 4x4s, but we had ways of hiding," Mohamed added. "A reconnaissance vehicle would always go ahead, with no drugs on board, and alert us to any obstacles. We would put grease on the car and stick sand on it as a camouflage, that way it's impossible to see from a distance in the desert."

being trained to carry drugs. These are criminal groups which are well organised, and you have to understand that they have a business approach. They are weighing the potential risks against profits, which are really huge."

Mohamed said he had learned the risks first hand, and has now left the business after his convoy was attacked by heavily armed bandits. "We had stopped to repair a problem with the car, when a car mounted with weapons opened fire on us," he said. "I ran three hundred metres on foot until the shooting stopped, but three of my colleagues and all the attackers were killed. Two vehicles were burnt completely. It scared me so much, I told my boss I didn't want to be involved any more."

Mohamed said his boss is now a senior figure in the drug trade, with a mansion in the Nigerian capital, Niamey. In Timbuktu, the presence of drug chiefs is an open secret, he says, although many were forced to flee during the war.

"Everyone knows who in Timbuktu is doing drug trafficking, even the government," Mohamed said. "When senior officials [in the last government] came to Timbuktu, the drug traffickers were the ones who provided them with 36 brand new 4x4s."

Afua Hirsch is the Guardian's west Africa correspondent based in Ghana.



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RoboGuard for perimeter protection

Source:http://i-hls.com/2013/04/roboguard-for-perimeter-protection/?goback=.gde_2861654_member_235847113

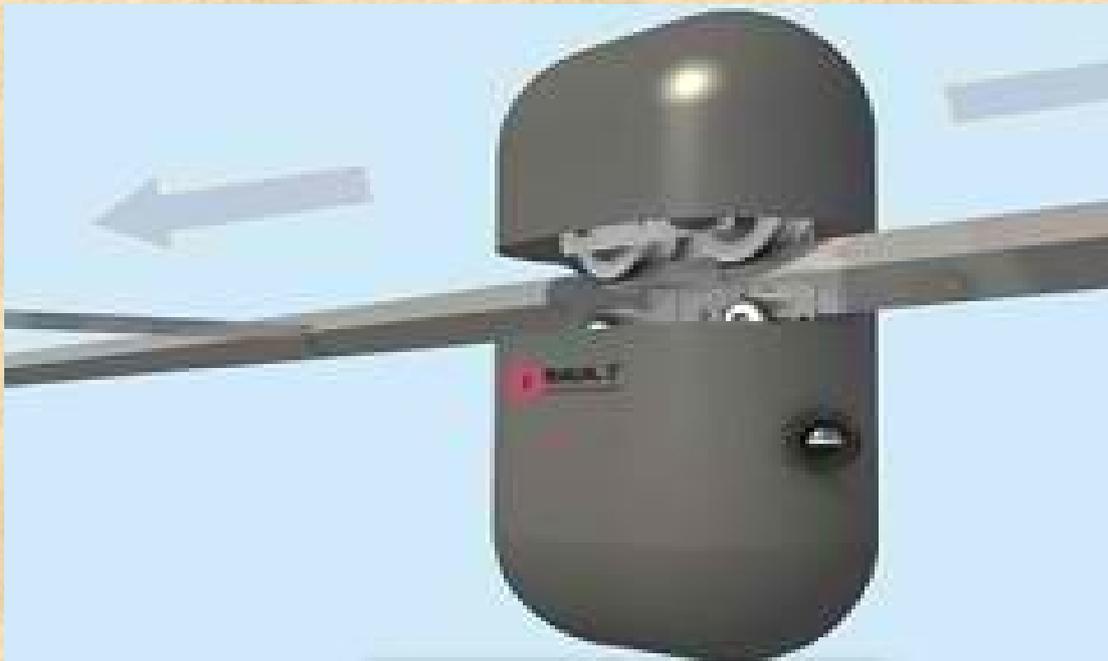
One of the main challenges in keeping borders and perimeter fences secure is the amount of



false alarms a sensory perimeter intrusion

Magal S3, an Israeli company developing, producing and installing products in the perimeter security field, has offered a solution to the problem. Its Roboguard is a fence patrol robot providing automatic inspection capabilities and quick response to intrusion alerts.

The robot is mounted on a rail attached to the fence, which also provides it with electricity and can be up to 500 meters long. It has a bunch of sensors, including cameras for remote vision, IR illumination for night vision, GPS for location



detection fence tends to produce. Any animal can trigger these systems, and the people responsible for the given perimeter have to treat all alerts as real and send manned teams



to check every possible point of intrusion.

awareness, a microphone and a speaker to let controllers communicate with intruders and a built-in computer vision system that enables it to “understand” what it sees, thus saving the need for a remote controller to watch its captured video in real-time. In addition, Roboguard is equipped with pepper-spray for basic self-defense or deterrence ability, and a backup battery.

The robot can operate autonomously or be controlled by any Security Management System (SMS); video and commands are wirelessly transmitted over WiFi, and it is able to travel at a speed of up to 60km/h, giving it quick access to relatively wide areas.



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“Live” targets for anti terror units

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2013/04/this-live-target-for-anti-terror-units/>

Over the next three months, Australian company Marathon Targets will deliver its newest generation of smart targets to several militaries, including the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, the Australian Army and another NATO nation’s army.

Equipped with humanoid heads and torsos, the robots roll around like a four-wheeled Segway. Laser rangefinders allow them to sense their surroundings and move easily and autonomously around a live-fire range. They can navigate in and out of buildings, react with “intelligent” behavior to scatter or hide when shooting starts, and are designed to provide a realistic moving target for marksmen to engage.

According to Defense News the newest version of Marathon Targets’ T-40 4-Wheel Drive smart target offers several improvements over its older kin. It can accelerate and move faster than before, and its lower portion has shrunk — meaning the emphasis will be on the humanoid target rather



Marathon Targets’ managing director for North America.

This was a skill that previously left Marine Corps testers unsatisfied.



than the armored mechanism carrying it. The time needed to recharge the battery has been reduced from eight hours to 2.5 hours, and it can operate at higher temperature ranges. Finally, replaceable external speakers allow it to “talk” or emit simulated gunshots.

Perhaps most importantly, the T-40 can now handle “very steep grades,” said Ralph Petroff,

“The Marathon targets used in the comparative test had two wheels and required a flat, level surface to operate,” said a subject matter expert from the Marine Corps. “This was not practical for use on Marine Corps ranges and a four-wheel Marathon target will be evaluated in the upcoming months. The capability to operate on existing Marine Corps ranges without modification to the infrastructure acknowledges the necessity for new capabilities to be affordable to field and sustain.”

The Marine Corps conducted a Foreign Comparative Test in July 2011 using funding from the Office of the Secretary of Defense in an attempt to find a “better live-fire moving target,” the

expert said.

While the Marathon robots are just one available option, they have certain benefits — such as free movement (not along a defined path), autonomous behavior in response to being fired upon, and applicability for different training scenarios.



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Beyond TSA checkpoints: Weaponizing everyday items sold in airports

By Darlene Storm

Source: <http://blogs.computerworld.com/security/22026/beyond-tsa-checkpoints-weaponizing-everyday-items-sold-airports>

So if the TSA confiscated your dangerous tube of toothpaste over 3 ounces, or perhaps took possession of another object on the prohibited items list, it's all "for the safety and security of the traveling public." Right? Well the answer is no, not so much, especially after seeing a



presentation that showed just how easily a person can make a weapon *after* going through TSA airport security. After two years of research into the effectiveness of airport security, Evan Booth aka "treefort," founder of Recursive Squirrel Interactive, showed how a person could weaponize everyday objects found in airport shops that are beyond TSA checkpoints.

TSA blogger Bob Burns has the unenviable job of defending the TSA and frequently highlights the "scary" items that TSA agents take away from travelers to keep air travel safe. If a prohibited item were discovered in a carry-on, then it would be confiscated and, in some cases, the person could be fined or arrested. Yet there are lots of people who believe the TSA is nothing but security theater that violates our privacy with pat downs and body scanners.

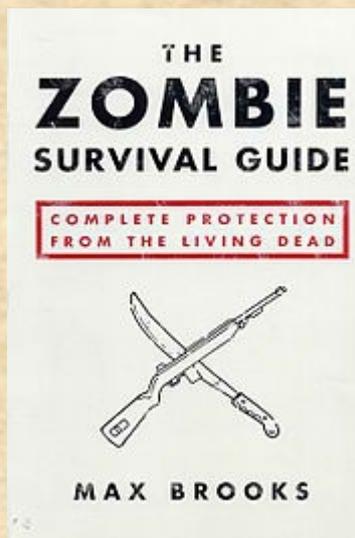
Others have said that the "TSA should stop banning items, stop the 'unending nightmare' of USA air travel." But all the banning, scanning and confiscating is worthless if you can build a makeshift lethal weapon *after* you've successfully passed through TSA security.

Evan Booth is talking about a "seldom-discussed facet of airport security" at Hack in the Box (HITB) security conference in Amsterdam. He also presented Terminal Cornucopia at CarolinaCon as seen in the video embedded below. Booth takes a partly humorous and partly horrifying look at how "a marginally resourceful and MacGyveresque individual can breeze through terminal gift shops, restaurants, magazine stands and duty-free shops to find everything they need to wage war on an airplane."

Booth visited stores inside airports, beyond the TSA checkpoints, and with a variety of items available for purchase, then crafted melee and other weapons before explaining terrifying yet plausible attack scenarios. His methodology is as follows: Step 1: Define scope. Step 2: Identify basic attack vectors. Step 3: Research makeshift weaponry (such as those made in prison and perhaps read the *Zombie Survival Guide*.) Step 4: Identify/collect materials. Step 5: Proof of concept builds.

A part of me hates to go more in-depth about weaponizing everyday items found inside airport gift shops and cafes in case some sicko thinks it is a

brilliant idea. If you wonder where a person hell-bent on making a weapon after passing beyond airport security would do so,



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Booth suggested that a restroom is the perfect workspace. The hand dryer would provide cover noise. There is water and there are power outlets to provide electricity. The baby changing table could double as the workbench. In build one, Booth combined parts from a double-walled tumbler (a plastic cup from Starbucks), an air drone, and a Zippo lighter to craft a blowgun. In build two, he used magazines, Lady Liberty refrigerator magnets, braided leather belts and Scotch tape to build a martial arts weapon such as on the TSA's banned items list; it failed to puncture a melon on the first try. However, when he altered it by using dental floss instead of the leather strips, the nunchuck-like weapon managed to demolish a coconut. In other builds, he used lighters and umbrella parts to craft a mix

smartphone over Wi-Fi. He then discussed other possible weapons that could be built from store purchases beyond airport security checkpoints like a Taser, a tossable fireball and a shiv. Next, Booth gave three "plausible attacks" scenarios that ranged from getting into the cockpit, to causing a fire that was triggered to detonate via smartphone. He ended his presentation with "Have a safe flight home." Booth told Nu.nl that he was annoyed by how much money has been dumped into airport security such as with body scanners that violate privacy and appear not to work. To avoid problems with the authorities, Booth contacted them and offered to demonstrate his research. No one bothered to reply to him. Because modifying items that can be purchased past airport security into weapons



between a slingshot and a crossbow, a crossbow, and a spiked bat with a pointy Washington Monument metal pencil sharpener at the tip.

You might never look at Zippo lighters, disposable lighters, a drone and tape the same again after watching Booth harvest parts and basically turn them into a *bomb*. His receiver and transmitter communicated via infrared light for line-of-sight, but Booth said that a Parrott AR.Drone, such as is sold at the airport Brookstone store, is controlled through a

for use on a plane is unlikely to have occurred to most of us, Booth's talk was perhaps scarier than the one at Def Con 20 about how hackers can inject ghost airplanes in radar. Yet there may be one even more alarming at HITB 2013; Hugo Teso will present Aircraft Hacking: Practical Aero Series and will demonstrate "how to remotely attack and take full control of an aircraft." If you are interested, you can read the article: [Hacker uses an Android to remotely attack and hijack an airplane.](#)

Darlene Storm is a freelance writer with a background in information technology and information security.

Finland: T&RH magazine

Source: <http://turvallisuus.com/>

T&RH magazine is the largest professional publication at the Finnish security, safety and risk management market. Large scale of pertinent knowledge is given in printed form but



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also digitally with contemporary information as videos, news and status reports in the website www.turvallisuus.com. The magazine is published six times a year. Its mission is:

- To promote continuous learning and cooperation;
- To offer practical advice to its readers and information service users;
- To introduce useful and effective ways to optimize the undisturbed continuity of the company operations;
- To support companies in protecting their assets (people, information, property, etc.);
- To help responsible people in finding positive and economic argumentation in their resourcing ventures;
- To encourage companies to develop counter-measures against unwanted phenomena as an integral part of the overall business development.

Specialties

Security management, risk management, information security, safety management, technical security, security education and training.



'969': The three digits that are terrifying Muslims in Burma

Source: http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2013/05/969-three-digits-that-are-terrifying.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+terrorismwatch%2FJTvK+%28Terrorism+Watch%29&utm_content=Yahoo!+Mail

Brightly-coloured posters and stickers bearing the number "969" are popping up in cities all

anti-Muslim campaign led by a prominent monk based in Mandalay. Wirathu, who likes to refer



over Burma. These look innocuous enough at first glance. However, "969" actually denotes an anti-Islam campaign led by hardliner Buddhist monks. Burmese Muslims say it has stirred up hatred and paranoia, resulting in a string of bloody anti-Muslim riots across the country over the past weeks.

The three digits '969' originally refer to the Buddha's "three jewels", but they are now being used as a brand name for a nationalist,

to himself as the "Burmese Bin Laden", was jailed in 2003 for inciting riots against Muslims, but was released as part of a general amnesty in 2012. Since then, he's spearheaded the fast-growing '969' movement, making numerous speeches calling on Buddhists to "buy 969" and boycott Muslim-owned stores.

Anti-Muslim sentiment has boiled over repeatedly since the '969' campaign first emerged several



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months ago. In late March, rioters went on a three-day rampage in the central town of Meikhtila, burning down Muslims' homes, businesses, and mosques. About 40 people



were killed. The remnants of Muslim-owned stores were spray-painted with the digits '969'. Many witnesses said that during all this, the police stood by and watched. Shortly afterwards, more riots erupted in the Bago region after travelling monks preached the '969' ideology. And early this week, fresh clashes broke out in Oakkan, a town north of Rangoon, where at least one person was killed. With no end to these tensions in sight, thousands of Muslims displaced by these recent riots are staying shut up in refugee camps. According to the latest census, Muslims make up about 4 percent of Burma's total population.

Aung (not her real name) lives in Rangoon. She is Muslim.

I started seeing '969' stickers and signs in Rangoon just a couple months ago. Some shopkeepers put them on their storefronts, and taxi drivers stick them to their windshields. It's a minority, but it belies a wider boycott of

Muslim stores. Supporters of '969' have been passing out pamphlets telling people not to shop at Muslim-owned stores.

My sister owns a store, and has lost nearly all her customers since the start of this campaign. They know she's Muslim – she looks Muslim, and wears a scarf. Like many other Muslim business owners, she is facing serious financial troubles because of this boycott.

"All of my closest friends are Buddhists, and all of them avoid me these days"

I recently visited one of my oldest friends' stores, and noticed she had put up a '969' sign. She's Buddhist and has recently started treating me like a stranger, so I didn't dare ask her why she did this. All of my closest friends are Buddhists, and all of them avoid me these days.

I don't feel safe in Rangoon anymore. I don't think Muslims are safe anywhere in this country right now. I would like to go live abroad, but my parents are too old to move, and I can't leave them alone.

"The more we see the '969' signs, the more we feel unsafe"- Ko Moe Myint (not his real name) is a technician who lives in Naypyidaw, Burma's capital. He is Muslim.

In Naypyidaw, the '969' campaign has really kicked off in the past few days. Unknown people in vans are now going around house-to-house, shop-by-shop to distribute '969' stickers and DVDs. They're also putting stickers up in public areas, like at bus stops. It's like they're carrying out a marketing campaign! They're doing this mainly along Yaza Hta Nay Road, which is a major business area but is also home to a mixed community of Buddhists, Muslims and some Chinese business people.

Recently, I've also seen lots of DVDs of Wirathu's speeches being sold in town. One store I went to had about 100 copies.

Newspaper vendors sell it out on the street, too. Lots of copies are spreading hand-to-hand. Others spread his speeches online, mainly through Facebook.



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“Some ‘969’ campaigners told people that meat and vegetables sold at Muslim-owned stores were poisonous”

This campaign is clearly influencing Buddhists quite a lot. For example, I’m currently building a house, and some of my employees are Buddhists. They’ve just quit. They either don’t

‘969’ is a sign of violence, a threat. The more we see the signs, the more we feel unsafe. Buddhist and Muslim communities that had lived together peacefully in the past are now torn apart because of ‘969’. As long as this campaign exists, I don’t think there will be any stability in Burma.



want or don't dare to talk to me anymore. I saw '969' stickers on their motorbikes. Buddhists now go only to shops owned by Buddhists. Some '969' campaigners warned people not to eat meat and vegetables bought at Muslim-owned stores. They told them that it was poisonous! They said that it was not poisonous immediately, but in six months... Some Buddhists say that the '969' campaign doesn't attack other religions, that it is just expressing pride in Buddhism. However, since it's emerged, Muslim communities across the country have been targeted! For us Muslims,

This flyer (above) reads: "Protect your race and religion. Avoid to buy anything with the label of 969, meaning 'halal'. Don't deal with Muslim 'Kalar' [a derogatory term for Burmese Muslims] for friendship, marriage, or business. Myanmar girls must avoid falling in love with Muslim 'Kalar'. Everyone must be responsible for preventing Myanmar from becoming an Islamic country." Photo courtesy of MMedia. (<http://www.mmediagroup.com/news/12968>)



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Book review – A Delicate Truth: Spy-novel master does modern terrorism tale

Source: http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/life_and_entertainment/2013/05/05/1-spy-novel-master-does-modern-terrorism-tale.html

Fifty years ago, at the height of the Cold War, John le Carre published his most famous novel: *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*. Times have changed, and so has the intelligence community, but human nature

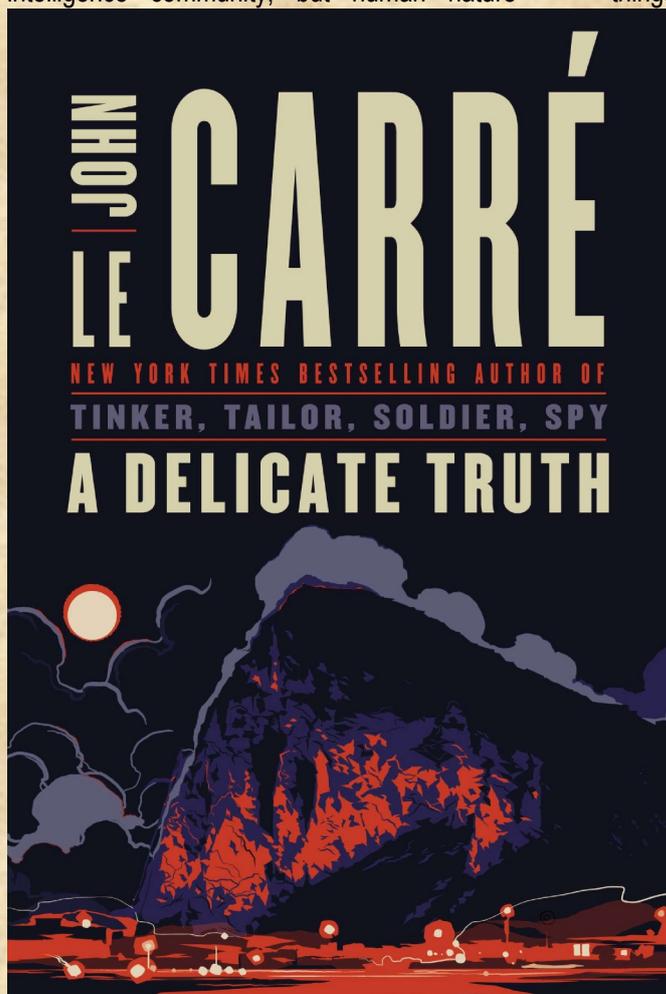
British soldiers and U.S. mercenaries during which a terrorist is supposed to be captured. Meanwhile, ambitious Toby Bell — “a 31-year-old British foreign servant earmarked for great things” — begins to suspect that the people whose orders he is following have personal agendas that are interfering with the best interest of the country. Bell begins his own strictly private investigation of them.

Le Carre treats his readers as intelligent enough to make connections not immediately apparent among a vast cast of characters, all with thoroughly well-concealed motives. In the first half of the book, the pieces of the puzzle gradually fit together; in the second half, suspense takes over.

Some writers in their 80s might be content to rest on their technological laurels, but le Carre has clearly done his research into the potential and limits of current technology, and his fictional use of it is convincing.

So is his depiction of a world in which national boundaries are becoming increasingly meaningless, defense contractors have as much power as politicians, and bonds spring up between the most unlikely partners.

This is a very British novel, both in terms of its loyalty to the traditions and landscape of the nation's rolling countryside, and in its assumption that the reader will have a grasp of the



hasn't. Le Carre's latest novel, *A Delicate Truth* (to be released on Tuesday) unfolds between 2008 and 2011, a time when international terrorism has become the worst threat to Britain, and private intelligence-gathering has become a force to be reckoned with.

The plots and intricate structures of le Carre's novels are among their primary pleasures, so it's best not to give too much away. But it's safe to say that *A Delicate Truth* begins on Gibraltar, where a middle-aged British diplomat — code-named Paul, out of his depth and struggling to understand what he has gotten himself into — is waiting for an operation by

intricacies of the British political system and the structure of the diplomatic and intelligence communities.

Unlike most authors of spy novels, le Carre has always been most concerned with the ethics of his flawed characters, and that hasn't changed here: Even his most admirable characters have murky desires and would just as soon deny to themselves some of the things they know about their behavior.

He also writes prose that is as witty as it is insightful. *A Delicate Truth* is a delightful read that unnerves as it entertains.



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The Boston Bombings and Understanding the Islamic Worldview

Interview with Mark Durie

Christian Worldview Radio – April 27, 2013

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/3497/boston-bombings-islamic-worldview>

David Wheaton: Perhaps you watched the Boston Marathon bombings that killed four people and injured more than 200 others and wondered, "Why would two young Muslim men, who were granted political asylum in America years ago, educated in our schools, and received financial aid from U.S. taxpayers, set off two bombs in order to murder and maim as many Americans as possible?"

It's a very good question. It has been said that, "All Muslims are not terrorists ... but almost all terrorist attacks against America are committed by Muslims."

Why is this? What is it about Islam — or perhaps about America? — that leads two young Muslims to murder the people that have actually taken them in?

Mark Durie, an Australian pastor and author of three books on Islam joins us from Australia *The Christian Worldview* all the way from Australia.

Many pastors are trying to find common ground between the Christian faith and Islam, for instance the document that came out a few years ago in America, *A Common Word Between Us and You* signed by many evangelical leaders and the leaders of Islam. Why have you focused on the critical differences and pointed out some of the negative aspects of Islam?

Mark Durie: I think we do have precious common ground with Muslims, but it's in our humanity, not in faith.

I think it's really important to hold love together with truth, and not to abandon one for the other, or to pit them against each other. Truth means acknowledging the differences, which are great and significant, and not glossing over them or pretending they don't exist. When you're dealing with a very different faith it takes an effort and care to really understand those differences. That's been part of my work, to help people understand what seems incomprehensible, what those differences really are.

DW: The *Free Republic* reported on April 15, saying this, "Shortly after terror bombs exploded and murdered over 12 people at the Boston marathon – I guess that's an incorrect number – members of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah were reported to be dancing in the streets of Gaza, handing out candies to passers by. The head of an Islamic organization in Jordan, the Muslim Salafi group, said he's 'happy to see the horror in America' after the bombing attacks in Boston. 'American blood isn't more precious than Muslim blood,' said Mohammad al-Chalabi, who was convicted in an Al-Qa'ida-linked plot to attack US and other Western diplomatic missions in Jordan. 'Let the Americans feel the pain we endured by their armies occupying Iraq and Afghanistan and killing our people there.'"

Reportedly some people in the Muslim world celebrated the Boston bombings. The vast majority of the Muslim world not condemn it – I know there were some select Muslims who did.

MD: I think there are certainly Muslims who regard the West and America as the enemy and rejoice in what they regard as inflicting pain and harm on their enemy. So there are some like that. I think some Muslims in American also really prefer to emphasize that Muslims are the real victims – that's a theological theme in Islam, that Muslims are the victims – so they don't want the attention to be taken away from that. Also some Muslims don't want to apologize for Islam. It causes them distress to have to engage with this [incidents of Islamic terrorism] and they resent being held to account for their faith. So there's a deeper denial sometimes, at least among Western Muslims about Islamic radicalism. All these factors sometimes make it difficult for Muslims to engage.

DW: Now the response of the parents of bombers – the mother and the father – they had this to say in the immediate aftermath of the bombing: ...

[Mother:] "What happened is a terrible thing, but I know that my kids had nothing to do this."

[Father:] "Somebody clearly framed them. I don't know exactly who framed them but they did. They framed them and then they were so cowardly that they shot them dead. There are policemen like that."

[Mother:] "They were being killed just because they were Muslims. Nothing else."

[Interviewer:] "Do you think they'll get a fair trial?"

[Mother:] "Only Allah knows it. I don't know."



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DW: So that was the mother and the father of the two bombers. You could understand how parents are in denial sometimes. But it seems that there is an unbridgeable truth gap between the West and the Muslim world. For instance, whether it is just denying the patently obvious of what took place in Boston, but even on a broader scale, denial of the holocaust; or saying that 9/11 was not done by Muslims, it was an inside job; or the 'fact' that America is out to take over the world – that sort of thing. In your studies is there an unbridgeable truth gap between the West and the Muslim world?

MD: I think there's an emotional world-view gap that drives the truth gap. Shame and honour are very powerful forces in Islamic culture, and there's a desire to claim the moral high ground of being a victim. They did this to them "just because they are Muslims," the mother of the bombers said.

"We are the victims!" one Muslim scholar was screaming on al-Jazeera, in a debate with Wafa Sultan, who is a doctor who left Islam. She had challenged him, saying, look Muslims had done some bad things, but he just began to scream at her: "We are the victims!"



This sense that "**We** are the victims: there's nothing wrong with us, it is someone else's fault": that is what drives these wild conspiracy theories and denial of obvious and plain truth. I think underlying it is something like shame or just some sort of fear, and this creates the sense of unreality. The Muslim world is awash with bizarre conspiracy theories. There **is** a truth gap, but it is

because of an emotional world-view gap.

DW: Chris Matthews, a politically liberal host here in America, had this to say as they were trying to find a possible reason or motivation behind these bombings.

[Clint Van Zandt, FBI Profiler:] "The pieces we don't have Chris is "Where was their inspiration? Where did they get their guidance? Who taught them how to build the bombs? Where did they build them? These are a lot of questions."

[Chris Matthews, interrupting and shouting over Van Zandt:] "Why is that important? Why is that important to prosecuting? Is that important to prosecuting? I mean, what difference does it make why they did if they did it? I'm being tough here but I don't know whether, when you look at all this evidence..."

Frankly Mark, I **do** want to know why they did this. How much credence is there to [the claim that] Muslims conducting terrorist attacks in America is because of America's "meddling" in the Islamic world, like that previous quote, of being involving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Others will say they hate our freedom and lifestyle and they try to kill us because of that.

Contrary to what Chris Matthews just said, I really do want to know what motivates these Islamic terrorists, these two young men specifically, to do this kind of thing.

MD: Well the first thing is that it is not just Americans that are being attacked by radical Muslims. Just recently the Coptic cathedral in Cairo was attacked and someone was shot. Actually Christian minorities in Muslim countries are attacked and hated as well, so it is not just America.

The root of the problem is in the Qur'an. The Qur'an says "Fighting is obligatory for you, though you dislike it." [Sura 2:126]. The word in Arabic for fighting means "to kill." And it says also "I shall cast terror into the hearts of the disbelievers. Cut off their heads, and cut off their limbs." [Sura 8:12]

There's a stream that's at the core of Islam that generates hatred against non-believers. Christians are being killed and attacked in Nigeria and in the Sudan, and that's not because they are a world power or a dominant force.

There is an old Islamic doctrine that the blood of infidels is **halal**: it can be taken. It's not a crime to attack a non-Muslim, and the radicals, like the Tsarnaev brothers, they are taught this sort of worldview. It's the devaluation of the lives of non-Muslims in these radical versions of Islam that's the real problem.



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The blame-the-victim response – "it's our fault that we're being killed" – that's a terrible mistake to fall into. That's just what the terrorists **want** you to think – that it's your fault.

DW: So if America weren't involved in the Middle East, let's say not involved in Afganistan and Iraq - let's say still supporting Israel as an ally - these kind of things would still happen?

MD: Oh absolutely. The hostility would only increase. America stands for the freedom and the power and might of the non-Muslim world, and that's enough to justify the jihad. You won't get peace by withdrawing from those places. It's not going to happen.

DW: I watched these Boston bombings and the aftermath in the media, and I thought "What are they really trying to accomplish, these two Muslim men, by just setting off two bombs and randomly killing some civilians on a street in Boston. One would think that would turn world opinion against them, but it doesn't seem to. What do you think is trying to be accomplished? Are they trying to take over America? Obviously that's not going to work. They can't do it with a couple of bombs on a sidewalk in Boston.

MD: Well, there's two reasons. One is, as the Qur'an says, to strike terror in the hearts of the enemy [Sura 8:60, see also 3:150, 8:], to condition fear in who they [the terrorists] regard as the enemy, which is non-Muslims.

And the other is, as a leading scholar in Syria [Al-Bouti see [here](#)] said in a ruling made about suicide bombings, it is permissible to do it to spite the enemy, that is to hurt them. So there's the desire to hurt someone who is thought to be an enemy. That's the pleasure of inflicting harm on your enemy.

DW: Mark, let's come back to America, from the standpoint of Americans to this. Why don't you think President Obama ever mentions the words Muslim or Islam in connection with terrorist attacks like this in Boston, when clearly the Islamic religion is the motivating force behind these Muslims doing this?

MD: For one thing he has a secular liberal view that all religions are much the same. So he denies that Islam is the reason or makes any contribution to these acts.

Furthermore he **identifies** with Islam – as he has explained to the Muslim world – because his father was a Muslim and he was exposed to Islamic worldview and background when he was a kid. So he is very deliberate about deflecting attention away from Islam. He has forbidden his spokespeople to make any links between Islam and terrorism. It is his deliberate policy to do that.

DW: The political left here in America were openly hoping that the bombers would be an American terrorist, like a Timothy McVeigh, the guy who blew up the Federal Building in Oklahoma, sort of a home grown right-wing extremist type person. They were hoping the bombers would not be Muslim. Why do you think the political Left want to protect Islam, especially when Islam is so against what the Left holds dear, things like sexual "freedom", homosexuality, multiculturalism... None of these things are tenets of Islam. They stand against those things, but the political left sides with the Muslims, they go soft on calling this what it is, Islamic terrorist.

MD: It's true, David, that those on the left wouldn't last long in an Islamic state, but they support the Islam project. That's a really fascinating thing and there's a number of reasons that all come together. One is that the left hasn't really come to terms with the failure of communism, and they don't actually have an ideal to hold out as a result, except that they hate capitalism, and thus they hate America as well, and they share that hatred with radical Islam. So on the basis that "Whoever is my enemy's enemy must be my friend," there's a natural partnering there.

Another is the victimhood thing. The left loves a victim, and Islam promotes itself – Muslims promote themselves – as victims, so there's a partnering there.

And another is that both ideologies are totalitarian, so there's somehow an affinity where the two work together. But as you say, radical sharia law would just destroy many of the projects that the left holds dear.

DW: I've often thought that the Islamic world – those who are intent on world domination – think that the bigger force to deal with first are those who hold the conservative or Christian worldview in the west, and once they are dealt with there's going to be no problem to take out the political left.

Mark, these young men, the Boston bombers, had been in America – they were actually given political asylum here in America, escaping their homeland over in the former Soviet Republic of Chechnya. They had been in America for many years – I think at least one of them had been here for about ten years — and were supported financially to a large extent by Americans taxpayers. From your understanding, your research, how does one get radicalized to the point that they would actually attack the country that had helped them?



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MD: I think there's two reasons. One was explained by their uncle, Uncle Ruslan, [\[here\]](#) who had absolute contempt for them. He said they did not 'settle' – that is, they couldn't find a meaningful way of making a path for themselves. Tamerlan had wanted to be an engineer, but he did not do well enough; then he wanted to do boxing, but he wasn't quite good enough at that; he felt superior but he wasn't getting on.

But the [second] key factor then was that they were exposed to radical teachers who told them about their superiority as conservative Muslims, and offered them this sense of significance, the hope of achieving paradise if they gave their lives in jihad. It's that radicalisation, the teaching, the doctrine, which was the key issue.

DW: The wife of the older bomber. She was just a regular American girl. I think she was just in college. She met the older bomber and then was married to him, and she actually converted to Islam, which is to me very unusual, to grow up in America, to know the lifestyle here in America of personal freedom versus voluntarily taking on the constrictions of Islam with the headcovering and the different kinds of lifestyle restrictions. What is allure of Islam for a American girl who decides all of a sudden to convert to that religion?

MD: It's interesting David that quite a lot of women are converting to Islam in the West, more perhaps than men. One woman explained to me that sometimes Muslim men are good looking and attractive, so there's that factor.

And for some young women, the modern secular west seems rootless, and morally and spiritually lost and Islam seems to offer safe-haven, a place where you know what you are supposed to do, where you've got a clear place, and where you don't have to put yourself on show.

Sometimes women are ignorant and deceived.

There's also the issue of dominance. It seems that Katharine Russell partnered with a young man who was abusive and dominating and he put a lot of pressure on her. All those factors can come together.

DW: A strain of Islam, both preached by some Imams and practiced by certain followers, actually encourages death – either death by martyrdom for the cause of Islam, as the only sure path to Allah, or also death to non-Muslims, as you have been talking about, and that's where we see these terrorist attacks as something that pleases Allah. Now it's just the opposite in the Christian faith. Jesus said "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." Jesus also said in John 8:44 "He, Satan, was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and a father of lies." I don't want to be too extreme on this, because Satan is the father of all false religions, because he's very happy that people are religious but not following the one and only true way through Jesus Christ. How do you categorise Islam compared to other false ways?

MD: I think it's true that Islam does emphasize death, and the Qur'an criticizes the Jews for loving life [Sura 2:96]. And it's also true that Islam is in many respects very antagonistic to core values of the gospel. Muhammad, for example, hated crosses and would destroy anything that had a cross on it. Also Islam has been the most devastating ideology in terms of its impact on the Christian world. Most of the ancient Christian world was overwhelmed. His track record is really incredibly devastating. I believe Muhammad was a false prophet. His message was not true. He did not lead people to God but away from God.

Is it the ultimate? Is it the worst expression of the Satanic delusion, that all of us can be affected by? I'm reluctant to say that, but certainly militant Islam has had a hugely devastating effect.

This is one reason why I find it very distressing when people in the West speak of "the prophet Muhammad". He's not a prophet. He's a false prophet. And we need to find ways that really distance ourselves from the claims of Islam, so that we don't just accept them or speak about it with reverence and respect. Because it is not a true religion.

DW: What would you say to those professing Christians that think that Islam and Christianity can work together because of our shared values of "loving God and loving neighbor"? A lot of Christians think that Allah and God – and Muslims used those words interchangeably — are the same thing. How would you respond to that Mark?

MD: I think it's tempting to think that people of a different faith just believe more or less the same things that we do. We look at another faith and think "Oh it must be the same." But that's just too easy. You need to pay attention to what people actually teach and believe. And even some leading Christian thinkers and writers like Miroslav Volf from Yale



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University have said "Islam teaches love of the neighbor." It's not true. Islam teaches love of the **Muslim** neighbor, but not of the non-Muslim neighbor.

The Qur'an actually teaches Muslims to show harshness to non-Muslim neighbors and to fight against them [Sura 9:123, Sura 48:29] so you shouldn't look to religion to be the basis of working together. You should look to common humanity.

I think Christians and Muslims **can** work together, but not based on a shared religious belief, but rather on their shared humanity, their conscience, their awareness of right and wrong that's not necessarily based on religion at all, but is just part of the human condition.

DW: What have you found that helps Christians and people in general understand and deal with Islam in the best way?

MD: I think it's really important to study Islam for yourself. Look at the original sources. There are some very good books that make those sources available. Take the Life of Muhammad: to understand how different it actually is, you really need to be confronted with teachings that say do not love non-Muslims. You need to read those things thoroughly. My book **The Third Choice** explains Islam clearly, and that's a resource.

Another thing is you need to set aside the need to be comforted, such as thinking that all religions are the same, or everyone is basically decent: that's not a good basis for examining these differences. You have to pay attention and look at the issues for what they are.

Another is don't try to find solutions too quickly. Solutions come later. First you have to understand the problem and live with that and understand **that** first. The solutions will come as you allow those facts to come to your mind.

DW: Tell us what the situation is like in Australia with regards to Australia? Are you experiencing a lot of the same things, maybe more, because you are closer to the Islamic world? What's it like down there Mark?

MD: About 2.4% of the Australian population is Muslim. They come from many, many different countries, so their stories are very diverse, because they come from different places. Some Muslims have had difficulties settling here, and we have certainly have the radicals here too – as in the US, where I think there have been hundreds of potential Boston bombings that have been thwarted by the FBI – we've had issues here too: people have been arrested and imprisoned for plotting here. In general most Muslims are doing pretty well and adapting well to Australia, but it's not all roses by any means.

One really good thing that's happened here is that both sides of politics have repeatedly said very clearly we're not going to have sharia law here. There's one law for all. All people are going to be equal before the law. That's our common law tradition. And if you want to live in Australia that's what have to put up with, and that's the way it works. That's been good: our government has made very clear statements about our values and our legal system to the Muslims that have come into the country. And I wish government leaders around the world would say that very clearly to their Muslim immigrants.

DW: Now Mark one final question. You've written three books on Islam. You're a pastor. You speak very graciously and yet the truth that you speak might be offensive to some Muslims in Australia and Muslims who are listening today. What has been the response to a pastor saying the kinds of things you say? It doesn't seem to be inflammatory. You point out the differences, which I think is completely fair game. What has been the response that you get from the Muslim world.

MD: I've had a range of responses. Sometimes Muslims have been intrigued by what I've had to say and I've had some very interesting interactions with them. Understanding the religion enables that to happen. Occasionally people have just been offended and they dismiss you, but I find that if you love people and you express your views graciously, and you don't assume that the person who you're speaking to has certain beliefs, and you ask them what they believe, and inquire about what they believe, you can have a very good relationship with them. I have friends who debate with Muslims in Hyde Park in London, and often if you can engage in a very frank and open way you can connect very powerfully, much better than if you have a wishy-washy fearful "Oh we'll all be the same" approach. You are much less likely to have a significant engagement with Muslims if you have that view.

*Mark Durie is an Anglican vicar in Melbourne, Australia, author of **The Third Choice**, and an Associate Fellow at the Middle Eastern Forum.*



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Chicago Muslim leader rips ‘Blow Your Brains Out’ doll

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/19902758-418/chicago-muslim-leader-rips-blow-your-brains-out-doll.html>

A joke birthday card that depicts an Islamic girl doll as a suicide bomber who’ll “Blow Your Brains Out” drew criticism Saturday as “bigoted



and moronic” from a leader of the Chicago area’s Muslim community.

The card, which shows a picture of a “talking doll” wearing a hijab — the traditional head scarf worn by many observant Muslim women — has the words “She’ll Love You To Death” and “Pull string for message — if you dare!” printed on its front.

“Hope your birthday is a BLOW OUT!” is printed on the inside.

“The joke is that if you wear a hijab, you’re a terrorist — it’s that primitive,” said Ahmed Rehab of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, who wants the card to be withdrawn. “It’s an ugly stereotype. Muslim women who wear the hijab face dirty looks, catcalls and even abuse — and it’s connected to irresponsible ‘jokes’ like this.”

The card, made by New Jersey-based Nobleworks, is a spoof of “Aamina, the Muslim Doll,” a toy designed to teach Muslim children basic Arabic phrases such as “Peace be unto you” and “If God wills it.”

It was available until it sold out Friday at He Who Eats Mud, a Lake View card and novelties store at 3247 N. Broadway, where cards targeting other religions also are sold.

The store’s owner credited the Boston Marathon bombing for boosting sales and said Saturday he plans to reorder the \$2.95 suicide bomber card “because they’re selling well.”

“This isn’t Hallmark — we’re not a politically correct store,” said the man who identified himself as the store’s owner. He would not give his name.

He said he doesn’t see anything wrong with offering “dark humor” that presents “commentary on what is happening in the world today.”

He said he’s been in business for 38 years and occasionally gets complaints from offended customers, including Catholics who were unhappy about a Pope John Paul II gag and Democrats upset at a Barack Obama T-shirt that bore the words: “I had 1,000,000 people at my inauguration and only 4 missed work.”

“This is a liberal neighborhood, and I serve



adult customers,” the owner said. “People have the right to be offended. But if they don’t want to shop here, they don’t have to.”

Liberator – The first functional 3D weapon

Source: <http://defcad.org/liberator/>



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UNHEEDED WARNINGS - The Lost Reports of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

By Richard J. Leitner and Peter M. Leitner

"Early in the Reagan presidency, a little-known group of congressmen and staffers concerned over the emergent threat of Islamism, organized a Task Force designed to collect intelligence on, and raise public awareness of, radical Islam and its violent strategy and terrorist tactics. This small band of brothers traveled throughout the world to gather firsthand knowledge for the scores of reports it published – many of them presented in deadly detail. Their files covering in early 1980 of chemical weapons manufacturing in Sudan and of Saddam Hussein's transfer of Iraq's WMD facilities and materials to Sudan, Yemen, and Algeria provided ground truth concerning the origins, motives, financing, sponsorship and intentions of Al Qaeda and other leading terrorist groups. It is required reading for anyone serious about overcoming this global menace."

Robert C. McFarlane, National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan (1983–1985)

"Richard and Peter Leitner are the first to provide the public with in-depth analysis and a comprehensive compendium of the primary-source material developed through 15 years of research by the U.S. Task Force on Terrorism. Important reading for anyone trying to understand the threats to our national security and what steps the U.S. government has taken to keep America secure."

William J. Tucker III, Author of Jihadist Strategy: Confrontation As Practiced by Osama Bin Laden and Ayman Al Zawahiri

"The thorough research conducted by this father-son team further demonstrates knowledge that was available but never activated. This effort should challenge readers to query: What else was known yet neglected? More vital information remains on the 'cutting-room floor' than in readily accessible volumes of paper in the public domain. Read and heed!"

Richard "Dick" Marcinko, Rogue Warrior

"Peter and Richard Leitner have provided an important body of government documents concerning the evolution and manifestation of Islamic terrorism and other events of the late 20th century. Making them available to the public, analytic, and policymaking communities is a major achievement towards enhancing our understanding of these significant issues."

Richard Weitz, Ph.D. Senior Fellow and Director, Program Management, Hudson Institute

"Unheeded Warnings should prove to be one of the most important publications about terrorism since the 9/11 Commission Report of 2004. It chronicles the work done by a relatively unknown congressional task force that although not officially part of the intelligence community produced first-rate analysis of the growing Islamist threat. That the task force warnings went unheeded is part of the tragedy of 9/11, but its reports remain relevant today."

James Bissett, Former Canadian Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania

"Finally, Peter and Richard Leitner, using unclassified reports, pull down the veil and show us all that the warnings and warnings were on our walls, that 9/11 should have not surprised anybody. In plain congressional fashion, they take us back to the end of the '70s when the Islamic Revolution in Iran raged to power, Ayatollah Khomeini and America became the target. From the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by Iranian 'students' to the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut (by no other but the late Imam Mugnyyah) and the attacks in Dhahran, Nairobi, and Aden, we faced the same enemy and failed to prevent, eliminate, or block the next attack."

David Holsley, former Time Magazine correspondent and retired Colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces

EDITED BY
RICHARD J. LEITNER & PETER M. LEITNER



UNHEEDED WARNINGS

THE LOST REPORTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE

VOLUME I: ISLAMIC TERRORISM & THE WEST

EDITED BY
RICHARD J. LEITNER & PETER M. LEITNER

VOLUME I: ISLAMIC TERRORISM & THE WEST





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CROSSBOW BOOKS
WASHINGTON

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The first two volumes of a pentology on terrorism - **Vol I:** Islamic Terrorism and the West; **Vol II:** The Perpetrators and the Middle East. You can read both books in the "CBRNE-CT Papers" [link](#) of the Newsletter's website. Highly suggested!

▶ Authors are in pursuit of a publisher to edit Vol III, IV and V with a possibility of a Vol VI as well. If there is interest contact Peter Leitner at: higginsctcenter@gmail.com

Warning bells ring as white Britons 'retreat'

Source: <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/at-a-glance/general-news/warning-bells-ring-as-white-britons-retreat-1-5649625>

A "retreat" of white Britons from areas where minorities live is limiting cultural integration, according to research by think tank Demos.

Analysis of Census 2011 figures shows that 45 per cent of ethnic minorities in England and Wales live in areas where less than half the population is white British, while 41 per cent live in wards that are less than half white.

Trevor Phillips, former chairman of the Equalities Commission and Demos Associate, said white Britons choosing not to live in minority-dominated areas "ought to make us a little anxious".

He said: "This very interesting piece of research reveals a number of vital findings about how people in England and Wales are living together. First, it shows a kind of 'Ambridge effect' – a welcome minority advance into areas previously only the preserve of the white majority.

"It also demonstrates a greater degree of ethnic mixing within cities, although unfortunately this appears to be mostly between minorities. What ought to make us a little anxious is the 'majority retreat' it has



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unearthed – white people leaving minority-led areas and not being replaced – which isn't good news for the cause of integration.”

The 4.1 million ethnic minorities who now live in white minority areas is a significant increase from the 2001 Census, when only around one million minority Britons lived in such wards.

parts of the country, with fewer than 800 wards which are more than 98 per cent white compared with more than 5,000 in 2001.

Eric Kaufmann, a professor at Birkbeck College who carried out the detailed analysis, said: “These results present a mixed picture. While ethnic mixing and integration is being helped



A statement from Demos said: “Demos researchers attribute this mainly to white British people choosing not to move to minority-dominated areas, in what Trevor Phillips has described as ‘majority retreat’.

“In these areas, departing white British are replaced by immigration or by the natural growth of the minority population. Over time, the end result of this process is a spiral of white British demographic decline.”

But integration between ethnic minorities is now more common than it was during the last census in 2001.

Demos said minority white areas were generally multi-minority, since new British minorities such as Somalis have taken up housing vacated by established minorities, such as Afro-Caribbeans.

Figures also show that more ethnic minorities are moving to live in white-dominated rural

by more minority people moving into England's whitest areas, the most concentrated minority areas are just becoming more so.

“This is essentially due to a large increase in the ethnic minority population in its areas of concentration over the past ten years due to natural growth and immigration. This trend has outpaced minorities’ wider spread across the country.”

Demos director David Goodhart said the limited integration would lead to further problems with employment and familiarity with cultural codes. He said: “The greater concentration of the ethnic minority population means there is less opportunity for interaction with the white mainstream. One problem with this relates to employment. Most jobs come through knowing someone, and most of those



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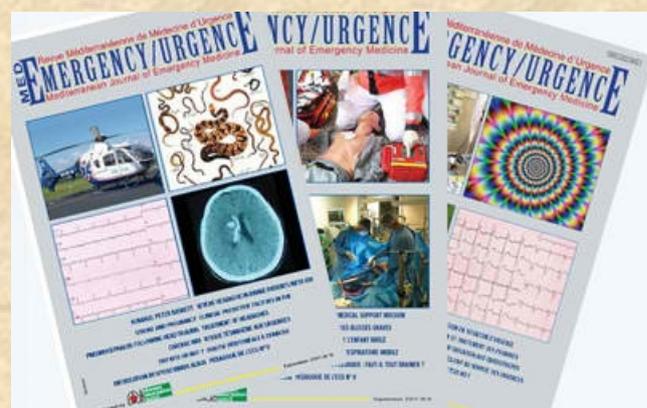
hiring for good jobs are from the white majority. Migration Watch chairman Sir Andrew Green said the findings were a sign that Britain is becoming more segregated.

He said: "This is extremely serious. It is undeniable evidence that we have indeed been sleepwalking into segregation as Trevor Phillips warned seven years ago and it is the

clear result of Labour's mass immigration policy.

"Public dismay at the pace of change in our communities largely explains why so many voted as they did in the local elections.

"The case for a sharp reduction in immigration is now overwhelming."



MEDITERRANEAN JOURNAL FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

"WHERE EMERGENCY PROFESSIONALS
SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE"

FIRST FORUM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN & ARAB COUNTRIES

A new initiative for Emergency Medicine

Source: <http://newhealthconcept.net/med-emergency.asp>

Med Emergency, the Mediterranean Journal of Emergency Medicine, is a new publication that is being published in Lebanon and distributed in the Mediterranean and the Arab countries. It is one of New



Health Concept's (NHC) main projects to support healthcare professionals improve the quality of care they deliver. In contributing to these efforts, the idea and concept of Med Emergency were born as one way to raise the interest of the health sector in emergency medicine to become a platform for disseminating international scientific findings, information and research about emergency medicine and for discussing issues that have policy implications in the region.

The journal seeks the contribution of professional medical and health practitioners as well as health policy actors and decision makers so as to reflect the development of the emergency field worldwide. It covers topics from prevention and care to the organization, governance, policy and politics of emergency medicine and health.

The journal also seeks to be a significant reference for medical students and registered nurses and a resource for healthcare professionals' continuing education. The journal accepts

submitted articles in English and French, to ensure it caters to the diverse professional community. At the time being, it is being distributed on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December).

Besides its educational, advocacy and communication roles, Med Emergency can be a good source of publicity for major health and medical service providers, medical and health suppliers as well as institutions and companies that have an interest in promoting their products among a professional community and a budding student clientele.

The journal reaches in its distribution the relevant international organizations such as the WHO, professional and scientific societies such as IFEC, ACEP, EuSEM, ACEM, PanArab TEMS, etc. Moreover, it currently has identified few regional and international partners such as the Global Network of Emergency Medicine.



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We hope that this initiative will contribute to the growth and quality emergency health and medicine in the MENA region and all over the world, and will be a platform for practitioners and policy makers to disseminate their opinions and research findings pertaining to this field and a prominent resource to medical students, registered nurses and allied health professionals for their continuous professional development.

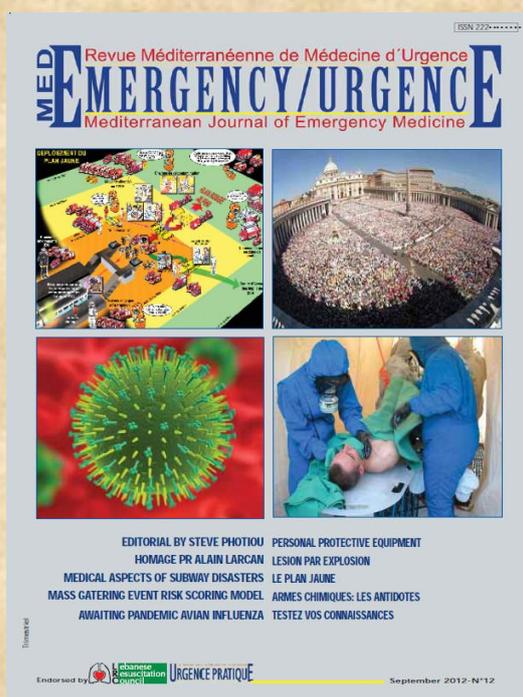


FREE issues at: <http://newhealthconcept.net/med-emergency-issues-free.asp>

Disasters: Who is Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?

By Steve Photiou, MD

Source: http://newhealthconcept.net/uploads/pdf/Med_Emergency_12.pdf



EDITORIAL

Beyond any doubt, disasters do happen. Regardless of their origin (natural or manmade), disasters occur on a worldwide scale. Even while these lines are written, a heat wave strikes throughout Southern Europe, while many other events take place: wild fires in Greece, Bulgaria, USA and Italy; an earthquake in Indonesia; a hurricane in the Atlantic; a typhoon in the Pacific; a flash flood in Russia and the Philippines; an oil refinery explosion in Venezuela; an anthrax epidemic in Russia.

Naturally, disasters always occurred but, statistically speaking, approx. 16,000 disasters have occurred in the last 100 years; of those, 30% occurred in the last 15 years. Which is the reason? Technology, urbanization, globalization, easy travelling and so on. How do disasters affect human life in all of its

expressions? Loss of life, worsening of life quality and health, economic loss, financial loss, resource loss, etc.

The problem is what society can do, as a whole, to avoid disasters. Natural disasters are, more or less, unavoidable, while manmade disasters may sometimes be avoidable. What can society do, in order to reduce the effects of disasters is to mitigate them: that is to reduce its effects, to try to make them less severe?

The golden rule of mitigation is prevention of situations and conditions that can lead to disaster: for instance, to build quake-resistant buildings on lands that are less prone to seismic events; to monitor new or re-occurring diseases; to announce timely weather changes to the populace and increase alert to health care systems, and so on. Who is called to face frontline the health effects of disasters are health care systems and, especially, emergency department health care professionals. When disaster strikes, multitudes of victims – often in severe conditions – present to hospitals. In order to face the contingency, emergency departments and hospitals must shift their activity from ordinary to a disaster model, in which the level of health care becomes dynamically suitable (the best possible, in terms of resources) to the situation. Eventually, once the event is over, the EDs' activity should shift to normal, as soon as possible.

In order to achieve these aims, education in disasters, a sort of “disaster culture” is paramount. It is necessary for administrators, because they are called to handle responsibly the crisis, to address issues and to inform the populace in the right way. It is necessary for the populace, because informed people know what to do, when to do it, and how to do it, in order to



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possibly avoid loss of life and resources.

It is necessary for Emergency Medicine professionals, because they have to face the burden of increased numbers of patients in an unfamiliar setting of lack of personnel and of resources, in a probably dangerous environment, and sometimes with the anxiety for the well being of one's own family.

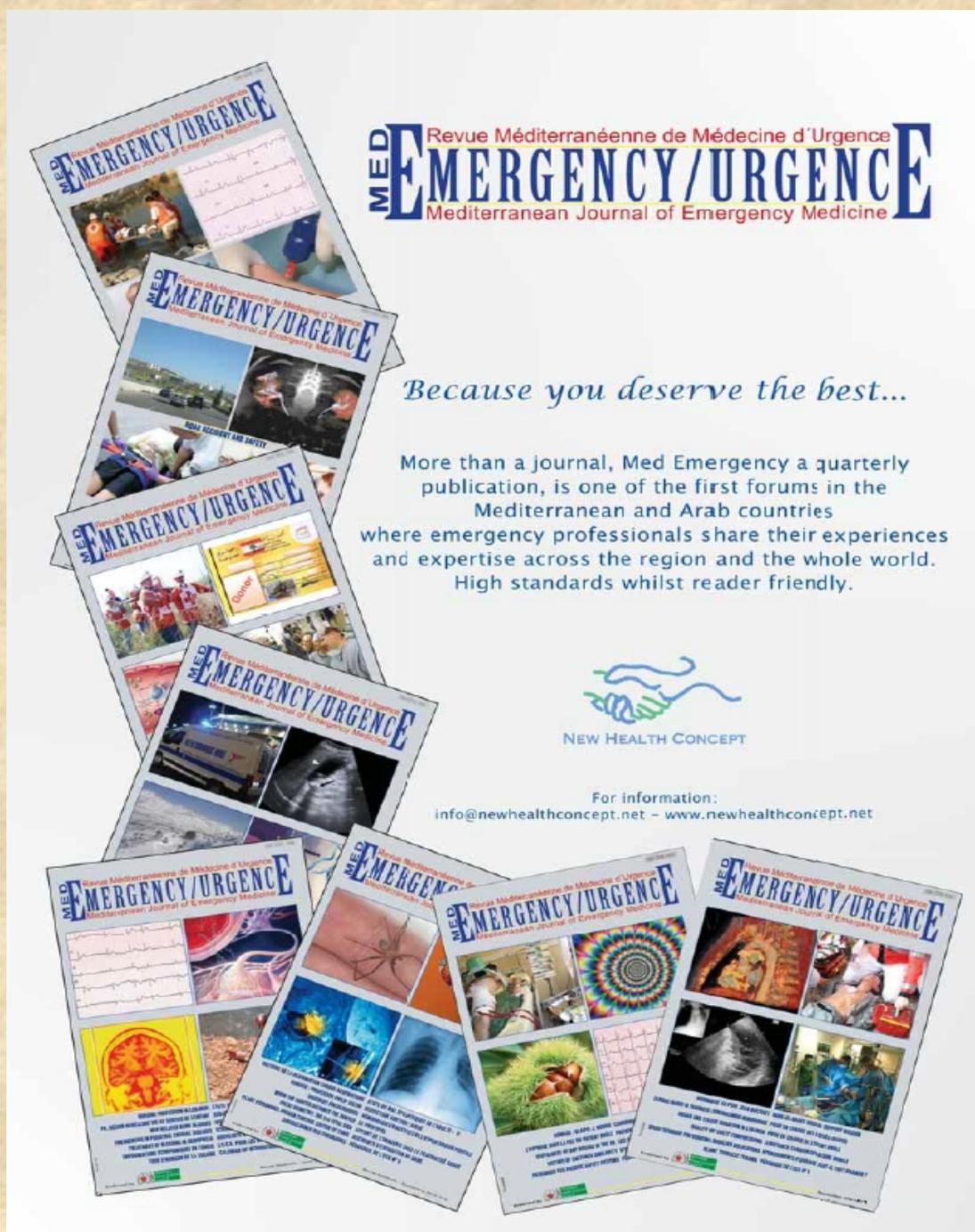
Education in Disaster Medicine should become part of curricula in Medical Schools, and especially during residencies in Emergency

Medicine, given that emergency physicians are the first ones to get involved in disasters.

Education in Disasters for the populace will help people cope with the severe conditions of a disaster. Building up Education in Disasters will help us all build our "strong brick house" against the Big, Bad Wolf.

Efstratios (Steve) Photiou, MD, MSC (DM)
Chairman, Disaster Medicine Section, European Society for Emergency Medicine

Steve Photiou, MD is also the Co-Editor of CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter.



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'Towering inferno' fears for Gulf's high-rise blocks

By Bill Law

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-22346184>

There were no casualties in the Tamweel Tower blaze in Dubai, but the building was gutted

Fears of a "towering inferno" disaster in the Gulf are growing after fires left residential buildings heavily damaged in the United Arab Emirates cities of Sharjah and Dubai.

The Arab Gulf states are home to some of the most spectacular high-rise towers in the world. But some building experts say that many of those towers are sheathed in a highly flammable material that puts occupants at risk. One expert in the UAE has estimated that 70% of the high-rise buildings there have panel facade cladding made of a combustible thermoplastic core held between two sheets of aluminium.

When the panel ignites, fire spreads rapidly, racing to the top of the building and sending flaming debris hurtling to the streets below. "Like a Roman candle" is how one observer described it.

The initial cause of the fire can be something as simple as a discarded cigarette butt or a charcoal barbecue left unattended on a balcony.

A fire at the Al Hafeet Tower in Sharjah on 23 April was eerily similar to a blaze that gutted the Tamweel Tower in Dubai last November. And the 40-storey Al Tayer tower in Sharjah also suffered a similar fate in April 2012.

In all three cases fire roared up the sides of the building as individual panels ignited and burst

into flame. No deaths were reported from any of the fires.

"[The facades] are good-looking, long-lasting and easy to maintain, but they have one big problem - they burn rapidly," Thom Bohlen, of the Dubai-based Middle East Centre for Sustainable Development, told the BBC.

Lack of investigations

Mr Bohlen, the institute's chief technical officer, said that the UAE has passed new legislation banning the use of flammable facades, but it only applies to new building construction.

"That doesn't take care of the problem with current buildings", he said, adding the costs of refits will be "extremely expensive".

Mr Bohlen estimates that "at least 500 buildings" in UAE cities are sheathed in the flammable panels.

The sheathing has not been used in the UK since the 1980s and codes in the United States specifically prohibit their use in buildings of more than three or four storeys, he said.

Mr Bohlen is not alone in voicing concerns about the risk of fire in many of the high-rise towers that pepper every major Gulf city - or about the failure to pin down what is causing many fires.

At a recent health and safety conference in Doha, the capital of



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Qatar, another expert spoke of a huge number of fire incidents that had not been properly investigated.

Playing catch-up

Mr Bohlen says that the unprecedented growth of Gulf cities has meant that though the



The Gulf's high-rise towers pose huge challenges for firefighters

Steve Wood is the safety and health director for the Middle East division of the giant US technology corporation AECOM.

According to a local Qatari newspaper, Mr Wood told delegates at the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) meeting that in 2012 alone the causes of more than 1,000 fires in Qatar remain unknown.

"The reason why it's not known is maybe because they are too busy extinguishing fires and not resourced enough to investigate them," he is quoted as saying.

Qatar, with its huge gas reserves, is per capita the wealthiest country in the world. It has spent billions of dollars in recent years on enormous building projects that have radically transformed the Doha skyline.

But sufficient money for fire investigation appears not to have been set aside.

Like other Gulf countries, Qatar has regulations and legislation on the books, mostly modelled on the United States and the UK, but at the conference Mr Wood was quoted as saying codes are open to interpretation.

"Some clients may go for the least strict requirements, thinking 'which ones are the least I need to comply?'"

buildings go up with astonishing speed, regulation and adequate enforcement lag behind.

That is because codes are simply adopted from other countries, but the context and enforcement mechanisms in which those codes developed are often missing or lacking in comprehensive application.

"There is not a lot of code depth in the Gulf. Codes are borrowed and it takes a long time to develop [codes]. They are coming but they haven't caught up," he says.

Mr Bohlen believes that there are still Gulf authorities that need to adopt unified fire codes based on international standards that are very stringent about the materials that can be used. And he also believes that the potential risk these buildings pose should be brought to public attention.

Occupants of residential towers that burst into flames have spoken about the lack of fire alarms at the time of the blaze but most seem unaware that they and their families are living in potential firetraps.

Although some Gulf governments have expressed concerns and are revising and updating their practices, safety still appears to be taking a back seat in the headlong rush to build.



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Focus minds

And with huge expatriate populations and acute housing issues, authorities have more often than not turned a blind eye, allowing contractors and owners to make decisions that could have disastrous consequences.

Mr Bohlen says that what might serve to focus minds and help to avert a towering inferno tragedy are insurance companies.

"They will ultimately find and force a solution because the financial implications for them of a series of fire disasters is not something they will want to deal with," he says.

But whether it is properly enforced tough regulations or expensive refits driven by insurers, Mr Bohlen is certain of one thing: "This is definitely a problem that needs to get resolved."

Bill Law is Gulf analyst at BBC News.

Economic Weapons of Mass Destruction: Mortgages in the Era of Mass Terror

By Laura Gottesdiener

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/laura-gottesdiener/foreclosure-crisis_b_3230004.html

Terrorism is a tricky act to define, particularly when household appliances have become weapons of mass destruction. Earlier in April, as the National Guard and Boston Police scoured the city's suburbs in search of two men believed to have planted the fatal marathon bombs, another story of violence and mass insecurity surfaced.

As the *New York Times* reported, "The banks that created risky amalgams of mortgages and loans during the boom -- the kind that went so wrong during the bust -- are busily reviving the same types of investments that many thought were gone for good."

In other words, the well-heeled boys are back in town, peddling predatory mortgages to be bundled and sold on Wall Street. Even the *Times*, generally bullish on business, struck a cautionary tone. "The revival also underscores how these investments, known as structured financial products, have largely escaped new regulations that were supposed to prevent a repeat of the last financial crisis."

Warnings of a repeat of the last financial crisis -- printed on the front page of the *New York Times*?

Yet, unlike the 24-7 coverage of Boston, the national response to the threat of economic mass destruction has been muted. That's because almost no one openly discusses the ongoing foreclosure crisis in terms of domestic terrorism. But that's exactly what it is, and we must recognize this if we want to prevent banks from causing more damage.

The Department of Homeland Security has the most comprehensive definition of terrorism, which explains that these acts must fulfill the following criteria.

The term "terrorism" means any activity that--

(A) involves an act that --

1. is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; and
2. is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States; and

(B) appears to be intended --

1. to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
2. to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
3. to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.

If you ask Helen James, a Chicago woman who has lived both on the streets and in shelters, being without a house in the U.S. is clearly dangerous to human life. When we spoke last summer she talked of untreated hemorrhoids and sleeping on benches during freezing Chicago winters. "I just don't want to die," she said.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 700 people without addresses die each year from hypothermia alone.

More Americans have frozen to death since the economic crisis began than have died in all terrorism attacks on U.S. soil in the last two decades -- September 11th, included.

As for the question of legality, Griggs Wimbley, a resident of small town North Carolina, is an expert on



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how the wave of recent foreclosures were in violation of U.S. criminal laws. He spent the better part of a decade investigating and fighting his own fraudulent foreclosure. "I've seen nothing but cheating," he said. He called Wall Street's reign throughout 2000s "a ten-year crime spree."

The hundreds of investigations and lawsuits over lending fraud, forgery (remember that robo-signing scandal?) and servicing regulations back up Wimbley's own experiences. And that's not to even mention the industry's widespread violation of the Fair Housing Act and other laws intended to prevent race-based housing discrimination, which was rampant in the lead-up to the financial crisis.

Lastly, Marcella Robinson and Nicole Shelton, co-founders of the grassroots homeowner group, Mortgage Fraud NC, can attest that the entire point of evictions is to produce widespread fear among civilians. Robinson, whose home was in foreclosure when we spoke, told me that she slept with a baseball bat at her bedside for the sense of security. Shelton, who had already been evicted from her home, said she was living in "a constant state of fear."

Why would Wall Street intend to intimidate millions of civilians? The rationale is that if people aren't terrified of being thrown out of their homes, they won't continue to repay the astronomical debts that are apparently the only thing keeping our economy afloat.

This argument has indeed influenced the policy of the U.S. government. Ed DeMarco, the head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency has been one of the most vehement opponents of homeowner relief, warning that the government must wield the specter of eviction or everyone will decide to default on their mortgages. As for the issue of "affect[ing] the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping," bankers don't need to resort to kidnappings; they've already taken the global economy hostage.

Since 2007, Wall Street has evicted four million families -- approximately ten million people -- from their homes. Millions more are ensnared in ongoing foreclosures. Over the last year, I've listened to the stories of hundreds of these families, and the most common experience I've heard is the feeling of insecurity and psychological terror.

Loss of security. State of fear. These are the same words, the same phrases that we are hearing people in Boston express. If mass insecurity and terror of default were what the banks wanted: it's mission accomplished. Yet, the banks aren't accused of terrorism. Nor are their financial products classified as WMDs.

Perhaps you're thinking that Wall Street isn't accused because terrorists must use bombs rather than bonds, because there's no such thing as economic terrorism, is there? The Pentagon certainly believed so, when in 2011 it issued a report positing that some unknown parties may have helped pushed the United States into the 2008 economic crisis through "financial terrorism." It's no surprise that the report's suspects included Islamic jihadists, the Chinese and Venezuela rather than AIG or Goldman Sachs.

That same year, American union organizer Steven Lerner himself became brand an economic terrorist when he suggested that homeowners band together for a mortgage strike. Conservative media called it an "ECONOMIC TERRORISM PLAYBOOK" (yes, in all caps), while a Utah congressman urged Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate these threats because they "clearly constitute domestic terrorism."

In other words, advocating for homeowner security amounts to acts of terrorism, while ensuring Wall Street's stability -- even if that means kicking people out of their homes and blaming Venezuela for the mortgage meltdown -- is simply U.S. policy.

The place that most clearly demonstrates this double standard is Detroit, where Michigan's governor recently imposed a state of martial economics -- a suspension of democracy to ensure financial security. With an emergency financial manager single-handedly running a city of more than 700,000 people, Michigan shows that today's underlying security question isn't physical. It's financial.

As local pastor Reverend David Bullock explained, "It's no longer '68 and '69 -- the hot riot summers. [The rich] are no longer worried about physical security. They are worried about their money."

That fact that the nation is experiencing widespread financial terrorism does not in any way make the attacks in Boston any less tragic. But it should make us angrier that Wall Street bankers are busy reviving the same weapons it unleashed on the nation only a few years earlier -- and that our government is doing nothing to stop them.



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Laura Gottesdiener is a freelance journalist in New York City. She has written for Ms. The Huffington Post, the Arizona Republic, the New Haven Advocate, AlterNet, and Waging Nonviolence (wagingnonviolence.org), where she is an associate editor. She won the John Hersey Prize at Yale University for a body of journalistic work and was a national finalist for the Norman Mailer Nonfiction Award for her 2009 investigation of girls' wrestling. She was actively involved in the Occupy movement and lived in Zuccotti Park from early October 2011 until the police raid in mid-November 2011. A Dream Foreclosed is her first book.

Money Laundering and The Drug Trade: The Role of the Banks

Source:<http://www.globalresearch.ca/money-laundering-and-the-drug-trade-the-role-of-the-banks/5334205>

Mexico is in the grip of a murderous drug war that has killed over 150,000 people since 2006. It is one of the most violent countries on earth. This drug war is a product of the transnational drug trade which is worth up to \$400 billion a year and accounts for about 8% of all international trade.

The American government maintains that there is no alternative but to vigorously prosecute

The Mexican drug cartels have caught the headlines again and again due to their murderous activities. The war between the different drug cartels and the war between the cartels and government security forces has spilled the blood of tens of thousands of innocent people. The drug cartels would find it much harder to profit from their murderous activity if they didn't have too big to fail banks willing to wash their dirty money.

In March 2010 Wachovia cut a deal with the US government which involved the bank being given fines of \$160 million under a "deferred prosecution" agreement. This was due to Wachovia's heavy involvement in money laundering moving up to \$378.4 billion over several years. Not one banker was prosecuted



their zero tolerance policy of arresting drug users and their dealers. This has led to the incarceration of over 500,000 Americans. Meanwhile the flood of illegal drugs into America continues unabated.

One thing the American government has not done is to prosecute the largest banks in the world for supporting the drug cartels by washing billions of dollars of their blood stained money. As Narco sphere journalist Bill Conroy has observed banks are "where the money is" in the global drug war.

HSBC, Western Union, Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase & Co, Citigroup, Wachovia amongst many others have allegedly failed to comply with American anti-money laundering (AML) laws.

for illegal involvement in the drugs trade. Meanwhile small time drug dealers and users go to prison.

If any member of the public is caught in possession of a few grams of coke or heroin you can bet your bottom dollar they will be going down to serve some hard time. However, if you are a banker caught laundering billions of dollars for some of the most murderous people on the planet you get off with a slap on the wrist in the form of some puny fine and a deferred prosecution deal.

Charles A. Intriago, president of the Miami-based Association of Certified Financial Crime Specialists has observed, "... If you're an



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individual, and get caught, you get hammered.

“But if you’re a big bank, and you’re caught moving money for a terrorist or drug dealer, you don’t have to worry. You just fork over a monetary penalty, and then raise your fees to make up for it.

“Until we see bankers walking off in handcuffs to face charges in these cases, nothing is going to change,” Intriago adds. “These monetary penalties are just a cost of doing business to them, like paying for a new corporate jet.”

This failure on the behalf of the US government to really crack down on the finances of the drug cartels extends to British banks as well. In July 2012 the US Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs issued a 339 page report detailing an amazing catalogue of “criminal ” behavior by London based HSBC. This includes washing over \$881 for the Mexican Sinaloa Cartel and for the Norte del Valle Cartel in Colombia. Besides this, HSBC affiliated banks such as HBUS repeatedly broke American AML laws by their long standing and severe AML deficiencies which allowed Saudi banks such as Al Rajhi to finance terrorist groups that included Al-Qaeda. HBUS the American affiliate of HSBC supplied Al Rajhi bank with nearly \$1 billion in US dollars.

Jack Blum an attorney and former Senate investigator has commented, “They violated every goddamn law in the book. They took every imaginable form of illegal and illicit business.”

HSBC affiliate HBUS was repeatedly instructed to improve its anti-money laundering program. In 2003 the Federal Reserve Bank of New York took enforcement action that called upon HBUS to improve its anti-money laundering program. In September 2010 the Office of Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) sent a, «blistering supervisory letter” to HBUS listing numerous AML problems at the bank.

In October 2010 this was followed up with the OCC issuing a cease and desist order requiring HBUS to improve its AML program a second time. Senator Carl Levin chairman of the Senate investigation into HSBC has commented that, “HSBC’s Chief Compliance Officer and other senior executives in London knew what was going on, but allowed the deceptive conduct to continue.”

Let us look at just a couple of the devastating findings in the Senate report. The main focus of

the report is the multiple failures of HSBC to comply with AML laws and regulations:

“The identified problems included a once massive backlog of over 17,000 alerts identifying possible suspicious activity that had yet to be reviewed; ineffective methods for identifying suspicious activity; a failure to file timely Suspicious Activity Reports with U.S. law enforcement; ... a 3-year failure by HBUS [a HSBC affiliate] , from mid-2006 to mid-2009, to conduct any AML monitoring of \$15 billion in bulk cash transactions ... a failure to monitor \$60 trillion in annual wire transfer activity by customers ...inadequate and unqualified AML staffing; inadequate AML resources; and AML leadership problems. Since many of these criticisms targeted severe, widespread, and long standing AML deficiencies,.....”

The report catalogues in great detail the failings of HSBC affiliates HBUS in America and HMEX in Mexico:

“from 2007 through 2008, HBMX was the single largest exporter of U.S. dollars to HBUS, shipping \$7 billion in cash to HBUS over two years, outstripping larger Mexican banks and other HSBC affiliates. Mexican and U.S. authorities expressed repeated concern that HBMX’s bulk cash shipments could reach that volume only if they included illegal drug proceeds. The concern was that drug traffickers unable to deposit large amounts of cash in U.S. banks due to AML controls were transporting U.S. dollars to Mexico, arranging for bulk deposits there, and then using Mexican financial institutions to insert the cash back into the U.S. financial system. ... high profile clients involved in drug trafficking; millions of dollars in suspicious bulk travelers cheque transactions; inadequate staffing and resources; and a huge backlog of accounts marked for closure due to suspicious activity, but whose closures were delayed.”

In the Senate hearing on 17 July 2012 Carl Levin Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs explained how HMEX helped the Mexican drug cartels:

“Because our tough AML laws in the United States have made it hard for drug cartels to find a U.S. bank willing to accept huge unexplained deposits of cash, they now smuggle U.S. dollars across the



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border into Mexico and look for a Mexican bank or casa de cambio willing to take the cash. Some of those casas de cambios had accounts at HBMX. HBMX, in turn, took all the physical dollars it got and transported them by armored car or aircraft back across the border to HBUS for deposit into its U.S. banknotes account, completing the laundering cycle.”

Senator Levin went on to [note how](#):

“Over two years, from 2007 to 2008, HBMX shipped \$7 billion in physical U.S. dollars to HBUS. That was more than any other Mexican bank, even one twice HBMX’s size. When law enforcement and bank regulators in Mexico and the United States got wind of the banknotes transactions, they warned HBMX and HBUS that such large dollar volumes were red flags for drug proceeds moving through the HSBC network.”

In December 2012 the Department of Justice cut a deal with HSBC which imposed a record \$1.9 billion dollar fine. It may sound a lot to ordinary folks but it is a tiny fraction of its annual profits which in 2011 totaled \$22 billion. Assistant Attorney General Lanny Bauer announced the settlement at a press conference on 11 December 2012. His comments reveal why the US government decided to go soft on such criminal behavior and show quite clearly how there is one law for the richest 1% and one law for the rest of us. Lenny Bauer said:

“Had the U.S. authorities decided to press criminal charges, HSBC would almost certainly have lost its banking license in the U.S., the future of the institution would have been under threat and the entire banking system would have been destabilized.”

Think about that statement for a moment. A bank that has quite clearly been caught out helping murderous drug criminals, terrorist groups, third world dictatorships and all sorts of criminal characters is to be let off with a slap on the wrist. No criminal prosecutions or even a mention of criminal behavior due to the fears that to do so would put the world economy in jeopardy. So there you have it. Banksters who engage in such behavior that is regarded as criminal by the vast majority of people on the planet are not only too big to fail they are also too big to jail.

After the Department of Justice announcement of the deferred prosecution HSBC Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said, «We accept

responsibility for our past mistakes. We have said we are profoundly sorry for them, and we do so again.”

Such statements will provide little solace to the families of the 150,000 people estimated by US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta to have been killed in Mexico’s drug war. Nor will it help the hundreds of thousands of Mexican citizens who have been forced to flee their homes and escape the violence by going to the United States or moving to other parts of Mexico.

Senator Elizabeth Warren appearing at a meeting of the Senate Banking Committee in February expressed frustration with officials from the US Treasury Department and US Federal Reserve over the issue of why criminal charges were not pressed on HSBC or any of its officials. The officials were evasive when she tried to draw them on the issue of what it takes for a bank to have its license withdrawn:

“HSBC paid a fine, but no one individual went to trial, no individual was banned from banking, and there was no hearing to consider shutting down HSBC’s activities here in the United States. So, what I’d like is, you’re the experts on money laundering. I’d like an opinion: What does it take — how many billions do you have to launder for drug lords and how many economic sanctions do you have to violate — before someone will consider shutting down a financial institution like this?”

Senator Warren finished the session by commenting on the glaring double standards within the US justice system:

“You know, if you’re caught with an ounce of cocaine, the chances are good you’re going to go to jail. If it happens repeatedly, you may go to jail for the rest of your life. But evidently, if you launder nearly a billion dollars for drug cartels and violate our international sanctions, your company pays a fine and you go home and sleep in your own bed at night, every single individual associated with this. I think that’s fundamentally wrong.”

On 4 March 2013 HSBC announced profits of \$20.6 billion in 2012 while it paid out a \$3 million bonus to its CEO. This outrageous state of affairs beggars’ belief after HSBC has been clearly caught out engaging in activity on behalf of murderous drug lords, terrorist financing banks and brutal third world dictatorships. Where is the British Government’s condemnation of HSBC? You may be waiting a long time for that considering the



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fact that Chancellor George Osborne and his fellow ministers are intimately connected to the British banking elite.

Long time observer of the Mexican drug war Bill Conroy comments that the deal cut with HSBC by the Department of Justice, "should illuminate for all the great pretense of the drug

war — no matter how hard US prosecutors, via the mainstream media, attempt to convince us otherwise. ...And it should lead us to conclude, if we are honest with ourselves, that the so-called drug war is little more than one immense "drug deal."

N.C. University becomes first in state to offer homeland security degree

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130507-n-c-university-becomes-first-in-state-to-offer-homeland-security-degree>

There are 380 security-related academic programs in U.S. colleges, most of which are two-year programs. Campbell University, established in 1887, has become the first university in North Carolina to offer a bachelor's degree program in homeland security, beginning this fall. The school says the new degree is a direct result of a rising interest in the field.

CAMPBELL
UNIVERSITY

Established 1887

Campbell University, which was established in 1887 and set a record with an enrollment of 3,049 in 2011, has become the first university in North Carolina to offer a bachelor's degree program in homeland security beginning this fall.

WRAL-5 reports that the school says the degree is a direct result of a rising interest in the field after the 9/11 attacks.

"What's interesting about that is what you see is that the discipline itself is maturing," David Gray, a criminal justice professor at Campbell, told WRAL. "It's only been really a discipline for 12 years, since 9/11, but it's starting to get more mature and more robust and more definition as far as what the topics are."

About fifty students have declared the major at Campbell. The degree is an expansion of the coursework which is already offered in the university's criminal justice program and other areas.

"It seems like a logical thing to do to help educate men and women to help with the global war on terrorism," Mark Hammond, dean of Campbell's College of Arts and Sciences told WRAL. "For us, the idea of expanding a very popular concentration in criminal justice and changing that into a full-blown homeland security (degree) became a no-brainer when we realized that very few institutions across the nation offer such academic programs."

There has been a significant rise in homeland security college programs across the country in recent years. The Center for Homeland Defense and Security says there are 380 security-related academic programs, most of which are two-year programs.

According to Gray, events such as the Boston Marathon bombings increased the public's perception of what homeland security is and does. Hewants to educate his students about the field.

"There're a number of lessons that we learn from the Boston Marathon attack," Gray said to students during a recent class. "You have to understand the importance of some of the international dynamics of what's going on in Chechnya, because it comes home to good ol' US of A."



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Syria: Passport To Paradise Found!

Source: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EejcYcsNv_w



Protecting Hospitals from 'New' Terrorist Threats

Source: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/05/130502104559.htm?goback=.gde_1989189_member_237599339

May 2, 2013 — Health care facilities play a vital role in the UK's terrorism contingency plans, but a new study by researchers at the Adam Smith Business School, Glasgow University, provides a timely warning to managers, regulatory bodies and government that crucial services such as hospitals are also potential targets for malevolent actions.

Most academic studies of terrorism threats concentrate on how health care services plan for and respond to mass-casualty terrorism attacks that may occur elsewhere in a city. However, writing in the latest issue of the journal *Public Management Review*, researchers Denis Fischbacher-Smith and Moira Fischbacher-Smith warn that health care managers, hospital designers and urban planners, as well as regulating authorities and national government, need to reassess their "Western-centric" view that



terrorists are unlikely to attack these health care services, particularly given evidence from attacks on other public buildings and services such as schools and transport systems.

Does this picture seem familiar in a hospital setting?

Their article "The Vulnerability of Public Spaces: Challenges for UK

hospitals under the 'new' terrorist threat," draws on the researchers' own experiences within health care buildings, warning that:

"Whilst it may seem obvious to some readers that hospitals are potential targets, our work with UK hospitals suggests that the threat potential is not something that is high on the managerial agenda."

They also highlight the fact that: "Perhaps one of the greatest challenges to health care managers and

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to governments, particularly in an evidence-based world, is how to plan for events that have no a priori evidence -- especially when resource allocation is often contingent on a rational business case."

The article discusses how and why acute health care buildings may be vulnerable to attack at multiple levels and emphasizes how gaps in the system create the potential for failure across layers of the organization.

Pointing out that there are potential risks from anti-abortion and animal rights activists, as well as known terrorist groups, the researchers provide scenarios and examples from their own experiences of how easy it can be to access health care buildings. They also identify the hitherto underestimated "risks from within" whereby health care staff may pose the highest level of risk, particularly if they become radicalized months or years after being appointed to a position of trust.

The authors state that the open and permeable nature of health care will remain its main vulnerability, and acknowledge the difficulty of raising awareness of risks among staff, patients and the local population while at the same time ensuring that patients and staff feel safe. This is especially difficult in the UK setting, where medical staff is frequently rotated from one hospital to another, and where large and complex hospital campuses make it difficult to know who should -- and who should not -- be in the building at any point in time.

Their report proposes that hospital managers should conduct an audit to uncover potential for failure at multiple points in their hospital system and consider the associated implications of these vulnerabilities. They should also assess the networks (both human and technical) that the hospital depends upon in order to function, and plan for resilience. It is vital for any such audit to be regarded as a continuous and iterative process in order to ensure that the organization learns and adapts to the dynamic nature of the threats.

In addition, managers need to communicate the importance of conforming to security protocols in order to raise awareness of the potential problems -- from either rogue colleagues or the threats from outsiders. Greater rigor is also needed in relation to recruitment and selection of all categories of staff in terms of background checks.

The most significant challenge, however, relates to the timeframe for addressing risks in relation to infrastructure investment -- given that policy-makers must ensure a proportionate response to the risks faced, and yet the timescale for major capital projects is often 10-20 years in a planning cycle.

The authors conclude: "Such a strategic approach to developing resilience will be necessary if government policies in terms of urban protection and health care performance are to have any hope of success. ... [M]any hospital providers are yet to fully engage in these debates."

*Denis Fischbacher-Smith, Moira Fischbacher-Smith. **The Vulnerability of Public Spaces: Challenges for UK hospitals under the 'new' terrorist threat.** Public Management Review, 2013; 15 (3): 330*

► **Read this VERY important paper at the Newsletter's website – link: "CBRNE-CT Papers"**

Abstract

This article considers the challenges for hospitals in the United Kingdom that arise from the threats of mass-casualty terrorism. Whilst much has been written about the role of health care as a rescuer in terrorist attacks and other mass-casualty crises, little has been written about health care as a victim within a mass-emergency setting. Yet, health care is a key component of any nation's contingency planning and an erosion of its capabilities would have a significant impact on the generation of a wider crisis following a mass-casualty event. This article seeks to highlight the nature of the challenges facing elements of UK health care, with a focus on hospitals both as essential contingency responders under the United Kingdom's civil contingencies legislation and as potential victims of terrorism. It seeks to explore the potential gaps that exist between the task demands facing hospitals and the vulnerabilities that exist within them.



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What the Muslim world believes, on everything from alcohol to honor killings, in 8 maps, 5 charts

By Max Fisher

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/05/02/what-the-muslim-world-believes-on-everything-from-alcohol-to-honor-killings-in-8-maps-and-4-charts/>

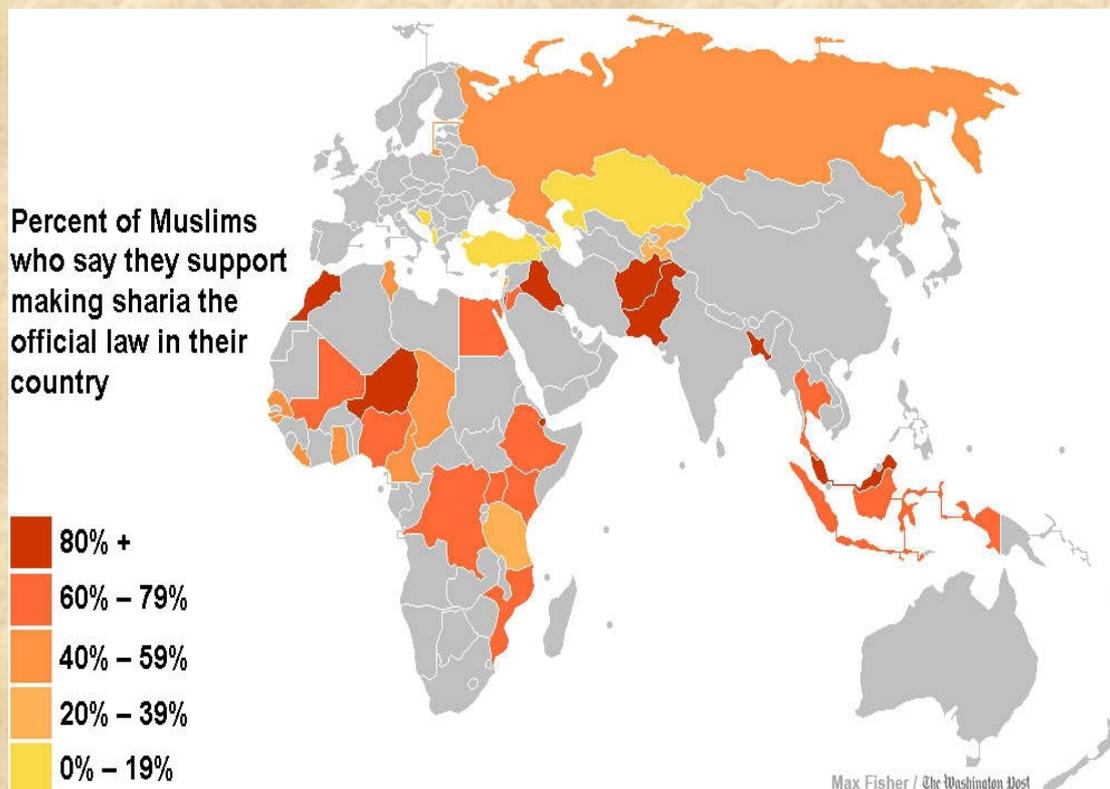
A sweeping, 226-page report from the Pew Forum explores attitudes and opinions from Muslim communities around the world. In the process, it turns up some fascinating insights into not just the views held in the “Muslim world” but the wide diversity of those views between Muslim communities. Here, we explore some of those insights using maps and charts.

First, some caveats. The findings here do not represent all Muslims; just as they show diversity of opinion between communities, so, too, is there diversity within communities. After all, a poll of all American Christians would not capture the differences between Baptists and Catholics, much less between New Jersey Catholics and Louisiana Catholics. There is, in other words, no such thing as a monolithic Muslim worldview.

Also, Pew unfortunately did not survey the world’s third-largest Muslim population, which is that of India, and does not include Muslims from Iran, China or Saudi Arabia, much less those who now live in the Western world. But it does offer a wide, comprehensive view of many of the world’s largest Muslim communities and their opinions.

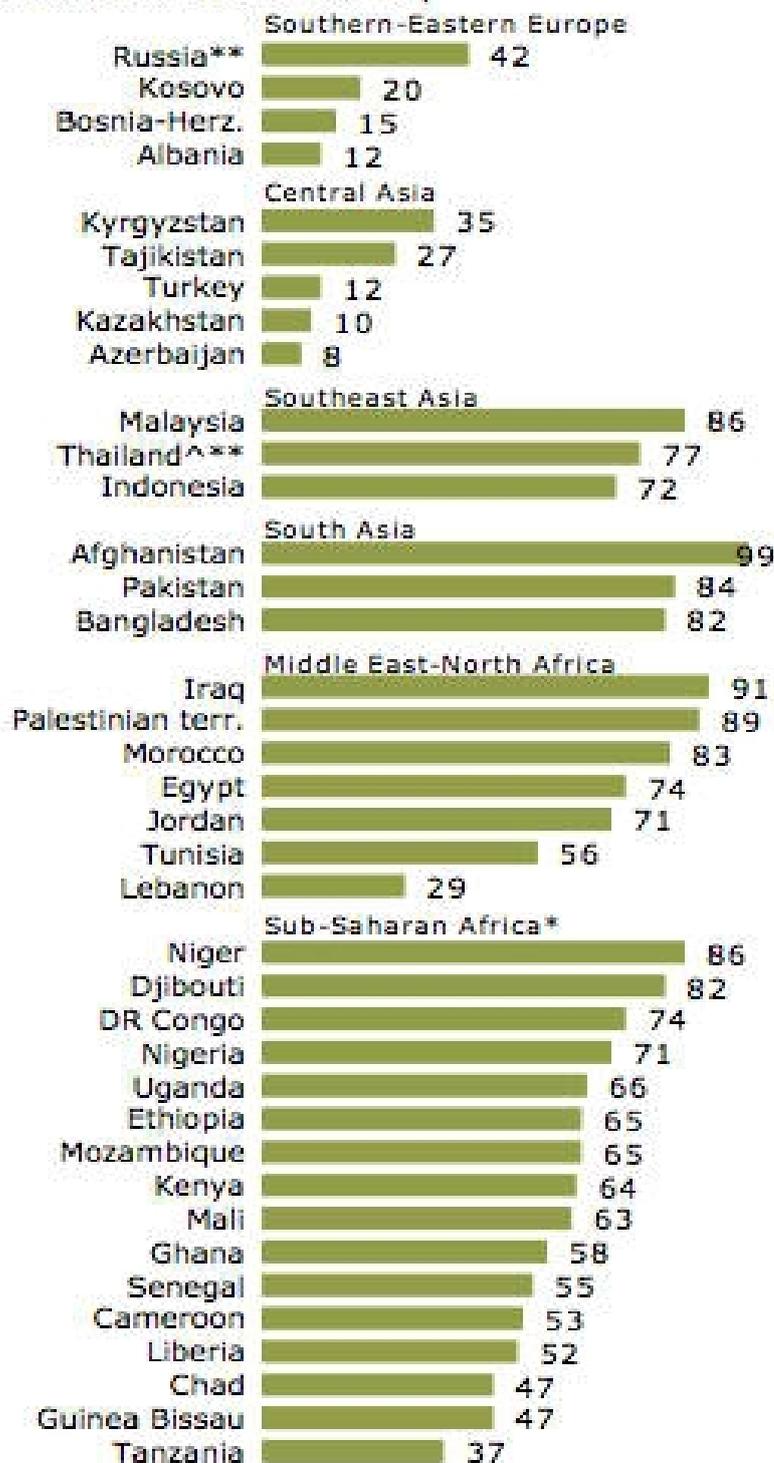
Now the data:

1. Most want to implement sharia, disagree about what that means



Support for Sharia

% of Muslims who favor making sharia the official law in their country



Majorities of Muslims in wide swaths of the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa say they support making sharia the official law of their country. Support is highest in Afghanistan, where 99 percent of respondents support sharia, followed by the Palestinian territories, Malaysia, Niger and Pakistan.

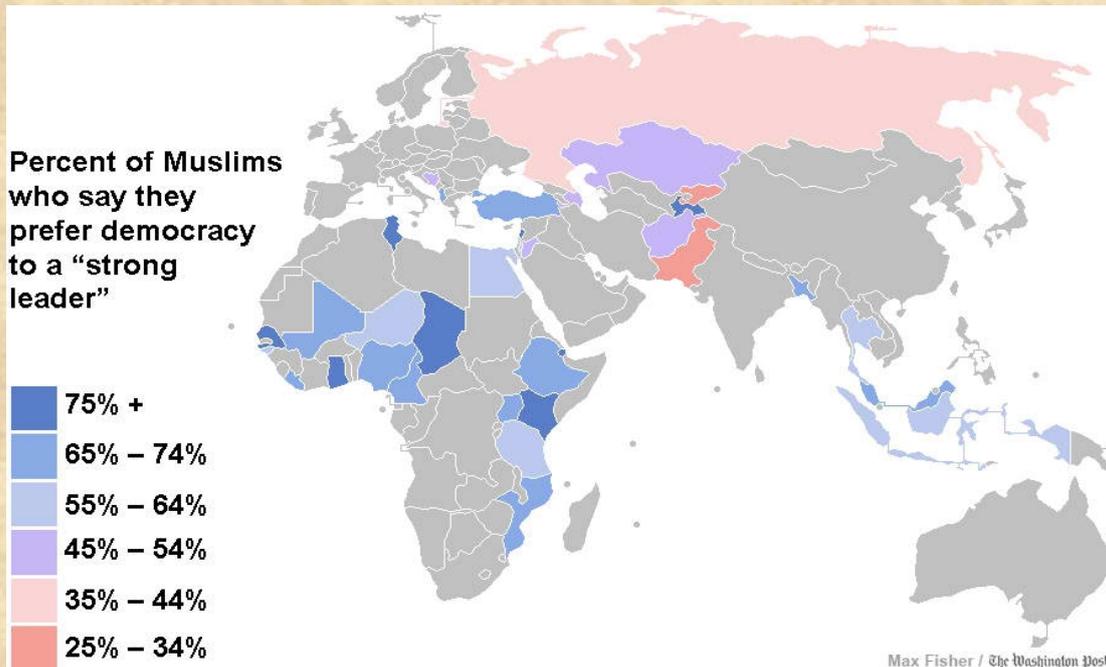
Support is lowest in Central Asia and Europe, where only minorities support sharia. In Turkey, where an Islamist political party has been in power for several years and has implemented some Islam-influenced conservative legislation, only 12 percent say they support sharia.

Pew points out that "sharia law" is not exactly clear, and people who say they support it often disagree on what it means. There is a wide divergence of opinion among people who support sharia, for example, on whether or not corporal punishment for thievery is acceptable, or on social issues such as divorce. In other words, Muslim communities seem to favor the idea of sharia law far more than any specific laws.



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2. Most Muslims prefer democracy

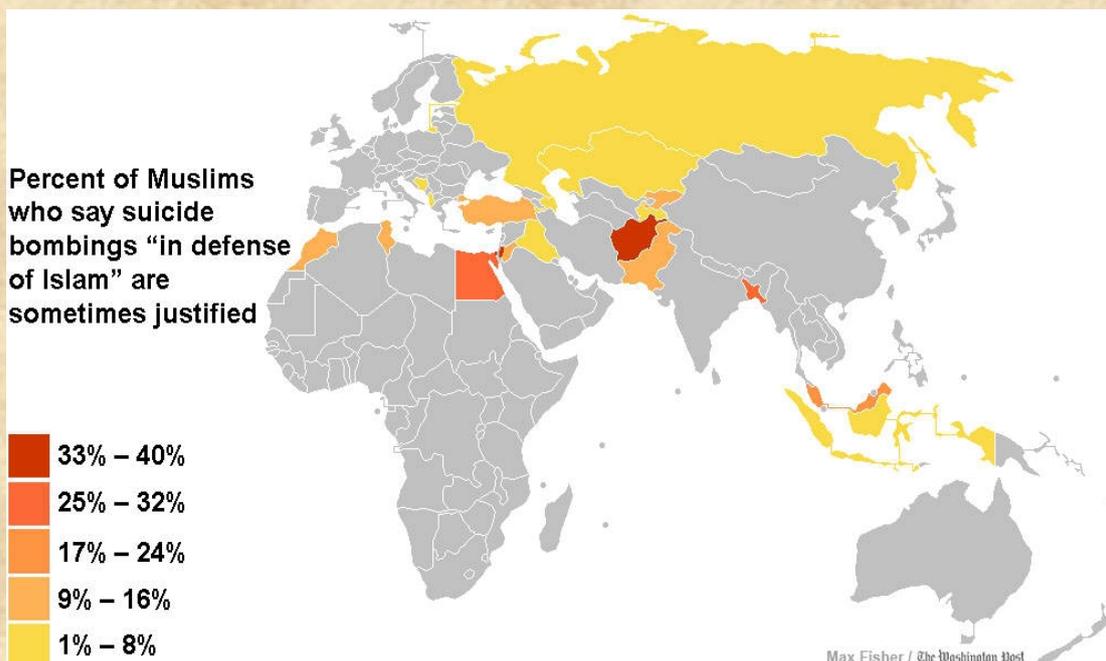


Wide majorities of Muslims in most countries say they prefer democracy over a “strong leader,” which is Pew’s standard question for determining support for democracy. Support is particularly high in Africa and Southeast Asia. It’s more mixed in the Middle East, with opinion varying between countries but generally leaning pro-democracy. Support is weakest in post-Soviet countries, as well as in Pakistan.

What’s interesting here is that, in general and with some significant exceptions, people seem to get the kind of government they want. Demand for democracy is high in Egypt and Tunisia, where protesters led peaceful revolutions in 2011, but it’s lower in Jordan, a monarchy, and in countries with authoritarian-leaning governments such as Russia, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan.

If there is any causal truth to this trend — in other words, if people are more likely to get the kind of government they want — then Pakistan’s unusually high support for a “strong leader” does not bode well for its troubled democracy.

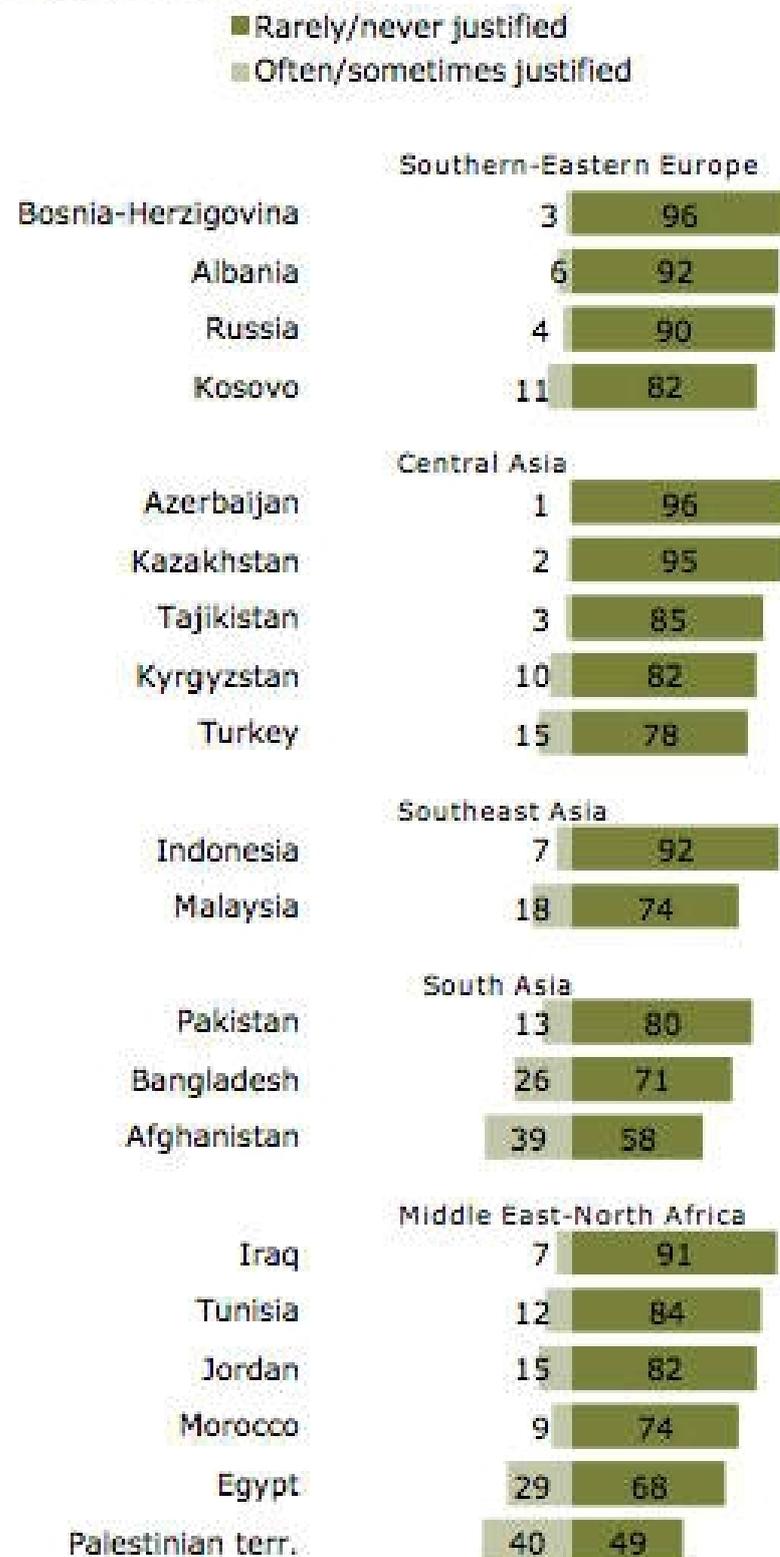
3. Few support suicide bombings, with exceptions



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Unsurprisingly, most Muslims say that suicide bombings in defense of Islam are never justified; majorities in every Muslim community surveyed reject the tactic. The only exception is the Palestinian

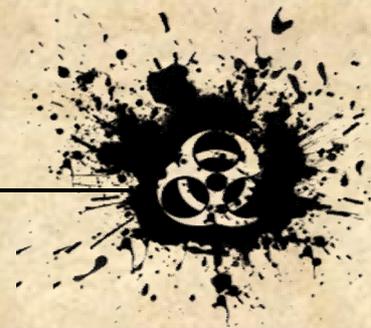
% of Muslims who say suicide bombing in defense of Islam is ...



Territories, where only 49 percent say they're never justified.

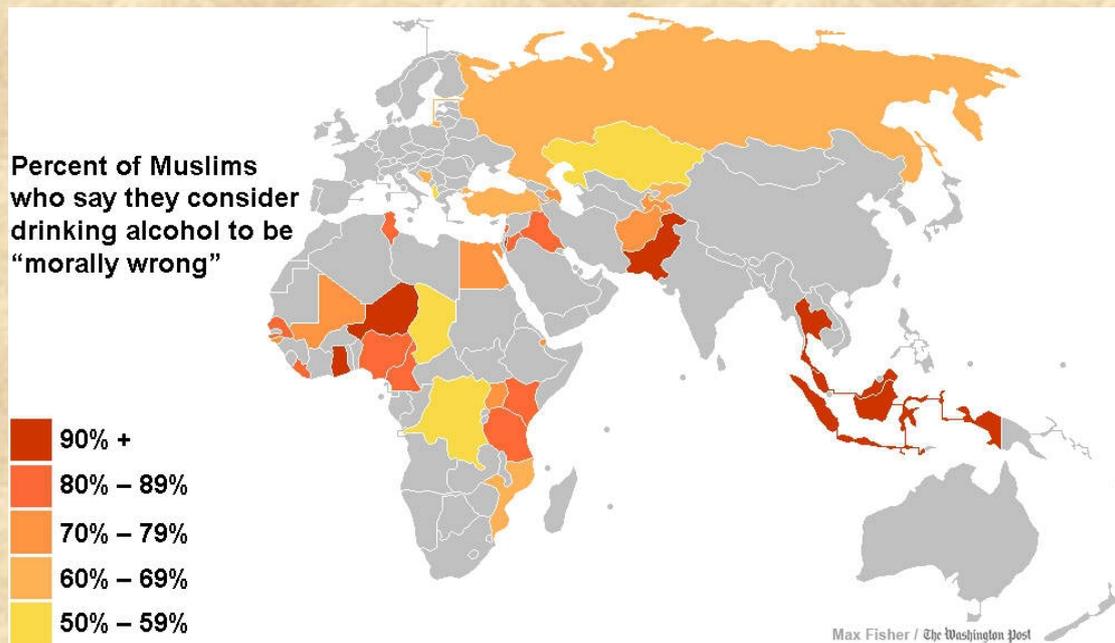
There are many countries in which less than 10 percent of Muslims say suicide bombings can be defensible, particularly in Europe and Central Asia. There are two countries where more than a third say suicide bombings are sometimes justified: the Palestinian Territories, at an alarmingly high 40 percent, and Afghanistan at 39 percent. Suicide bombings have not been common in Israel-Palestine since the Second Intifada, which ended almost a decade ago. But they are still common in Afghanistan.

I was surprised to see that there does not appear to be a clear, consistent correlation between countries where suicide bombings are prevalent and countries where Muslims condemn or accept them. Suicide bombings are far less likely to be supported in Pakistan than they are in Afghanistan, for example, though they occur in both. And the bombings are widely condemned in Iraq, where they've been causing havoc for years, but receive 29 percent support in Egypt, where they are very rare.



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4. Most Muslims reject alcohol, often by wide margins

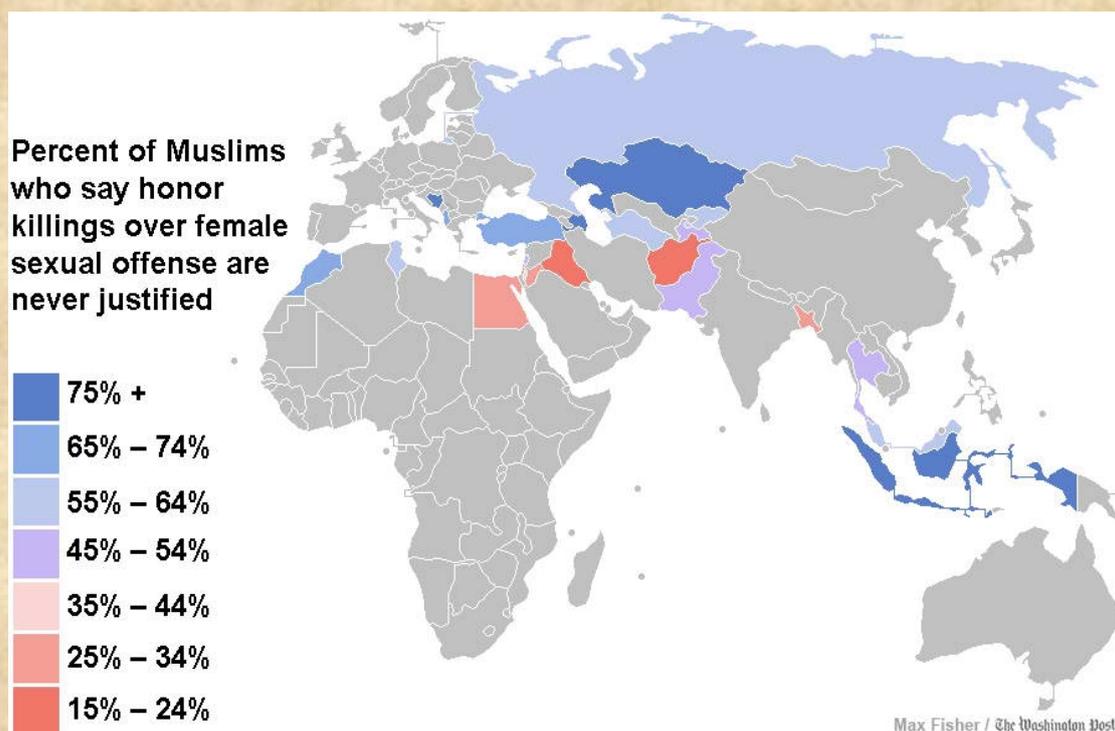


I admit that I was surprised by this: Across dozens of surveyed countries, a majority of Muslims in every single one said that drinking alcohol is “morally wrong.” The percentage of Muslims who reject alcohol soars well into the 90s in several countries, including in hard-partying Thailand.

The numbers in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia are generally on par with those in the Middle East. Even in the post-Soviet world, which otherwise appears relatively liberal in Pew’s results, majorities condemn alcohol.

Of course, just because people believe something is morally wrong doesn’t mean they never do it. As I’ve written before, the alcohol trade is prosperous even in ultra-conservative and officially booze-free Iran.

5. Mixed views on honor killings

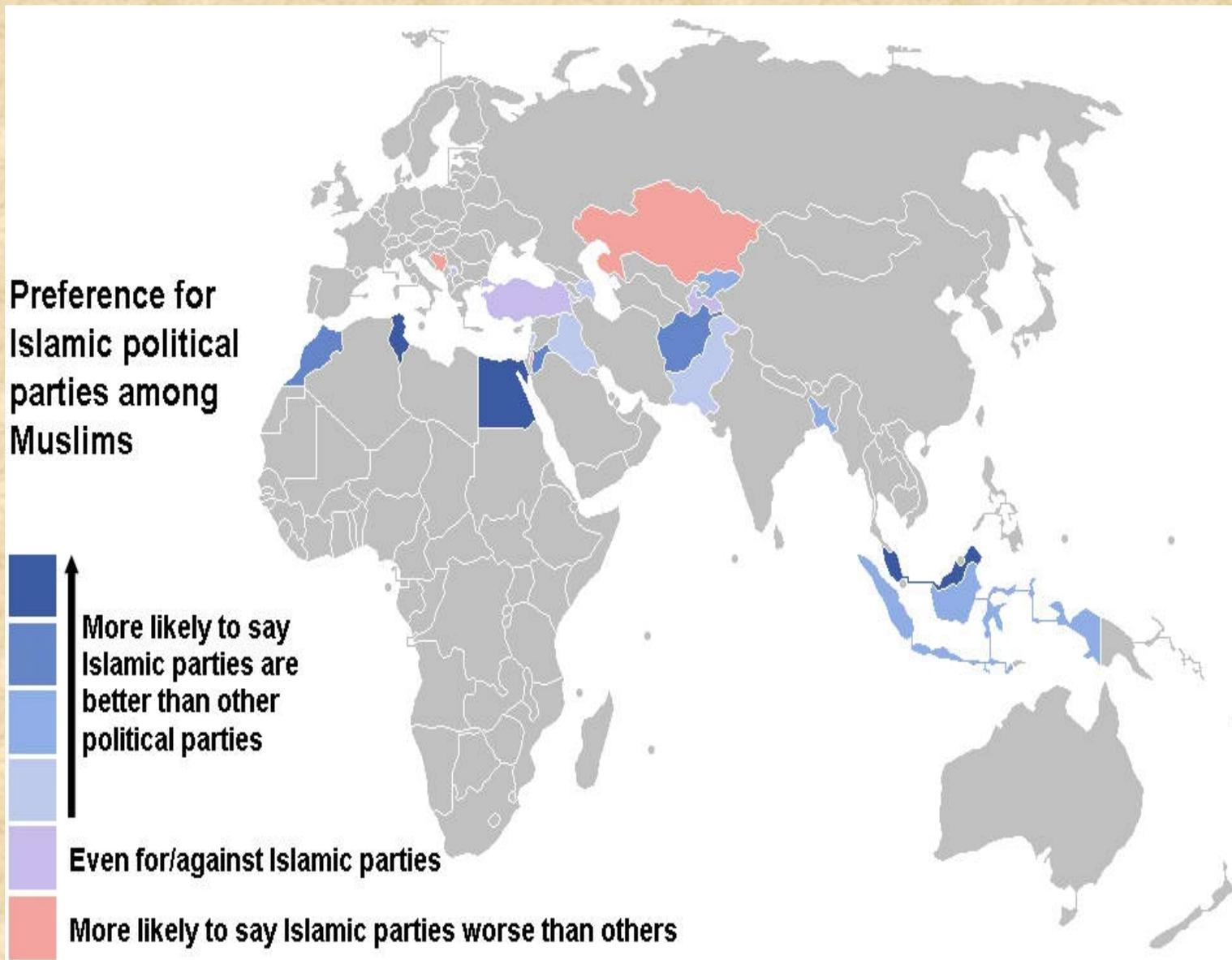


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Pew asked survey respondents “whether honor killings are ever justified as punishment for pre- or extra-marital sex.” In the practice, a person is killed — often by his or her own family — for having sex out of wedlock. The victim is typically a woman.

Honor killings still happen, and the data reflect why: Majorities of Muslims surveyed rejected the practice in only 14 out of 23 countries. Support for honor killings appears to be highest in Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan.

Survey respondents were generally more likely to support honor killings when the “offense” was committed by a woman rather than a man, although the margin is typically quite small. The difference was highest in Jordan, where Muslims are more than twice as likely to oppose an honor killing of a man than of a woman.



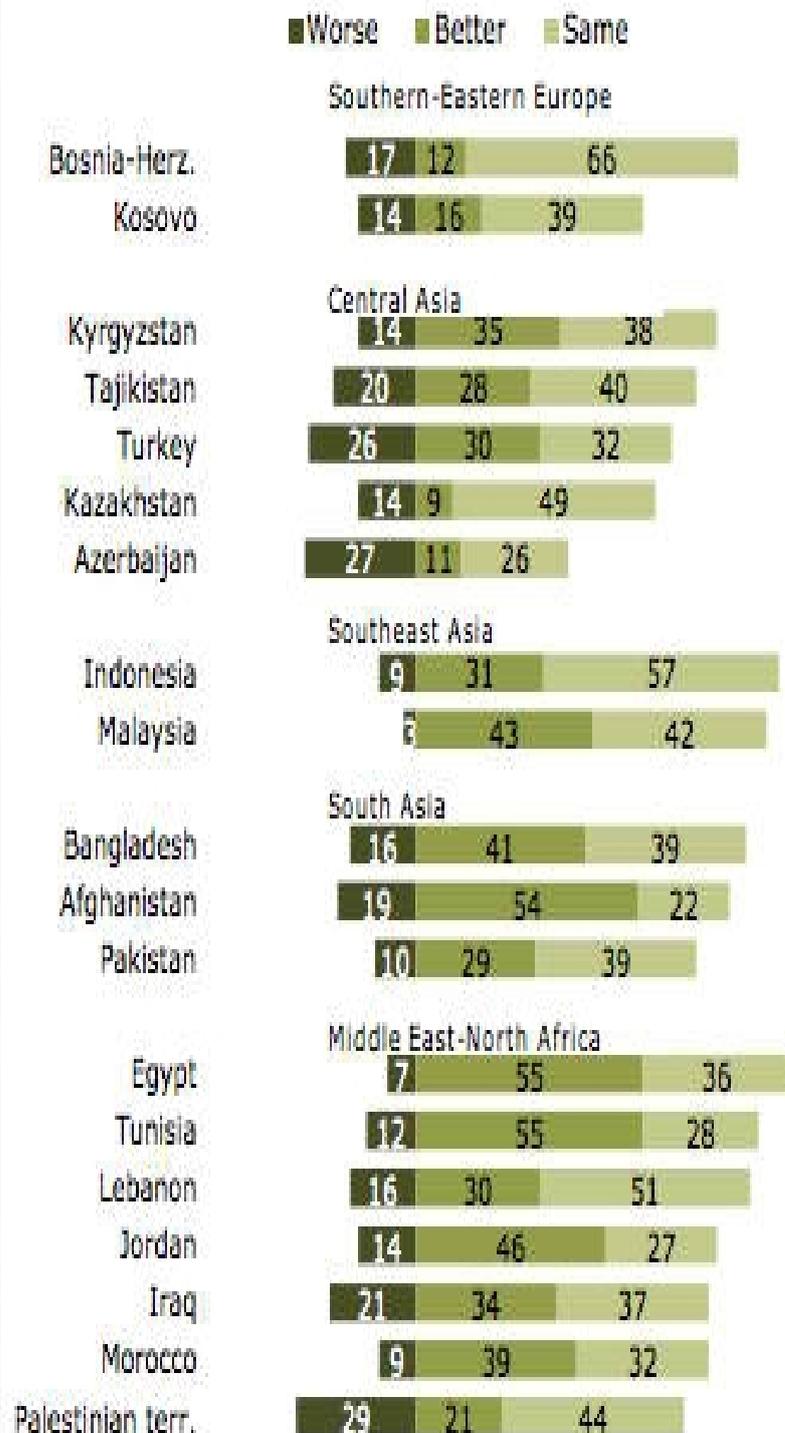
6. Wide support for Islamic political parties

Most people surveyed tended to say that they prefer Islamic political parties to other parties, with exceptions in the post-Soviet world and, surprisingly, in Turkey.



How do Islamic Political Parties Compare with Other Parties?

% of Muslims who say Islamic parties are ...



Here's how the map works: Pew asked people if they believe Islamic political parties are better than other parties, worse than other parties, or the same. In the blue countries, the respondents who called Islamic parties "better" outnumbered those who called them "worse." In red countries, the "worse" answers outnumbered those who said Islamic parties are "better." Purple countries found a tie or a marginal lead by Islamic parties. Islamic political parties are least popular in the Palestinian territories — perhaps indicating a rejection of Hamas — as well as in Kazakhstan and Bosnia. They also found little support in Turkey, where an Islamist party has been in power for a decade, a hint of trouble for Turkish Islamist leaders.

Amazingly, after the two years of painful and sometimes violent political turmoil since Islamists took power in Egypt, Egyptians showed more support for Islamic political parties than in any other country surveyed. That's good news for the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood's hold on power.



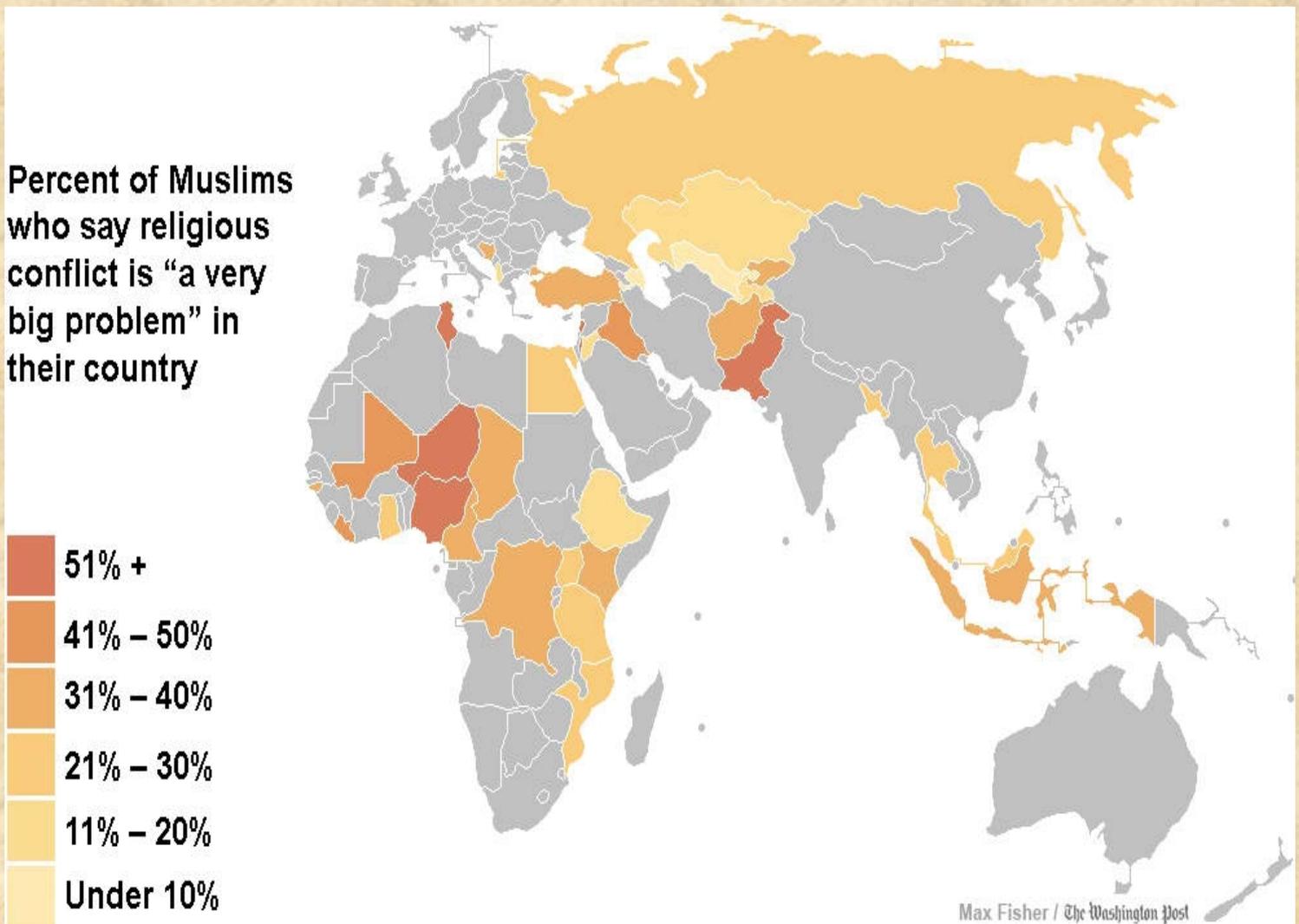
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7. Majorities in six countries support the death penalty for anyone who leaves Islam

A majority of Muslims in several countries say that any Muslim who leaves the faith should be executed, with the share who support this nearing two-thirds in Egypt and Pakistan. In Afghanistan, 78 percent say apostates should be killed.

As I wrote yesterday, the issue of apostasy is a complicated one with its roots in Islam's unique foundational history. But the effect is a deeply chilling one for religious freedom, with atheists and converts often persecuted.

8. Religious conflict seen as a big problem in Pakistan, Nigeria, Tunisia



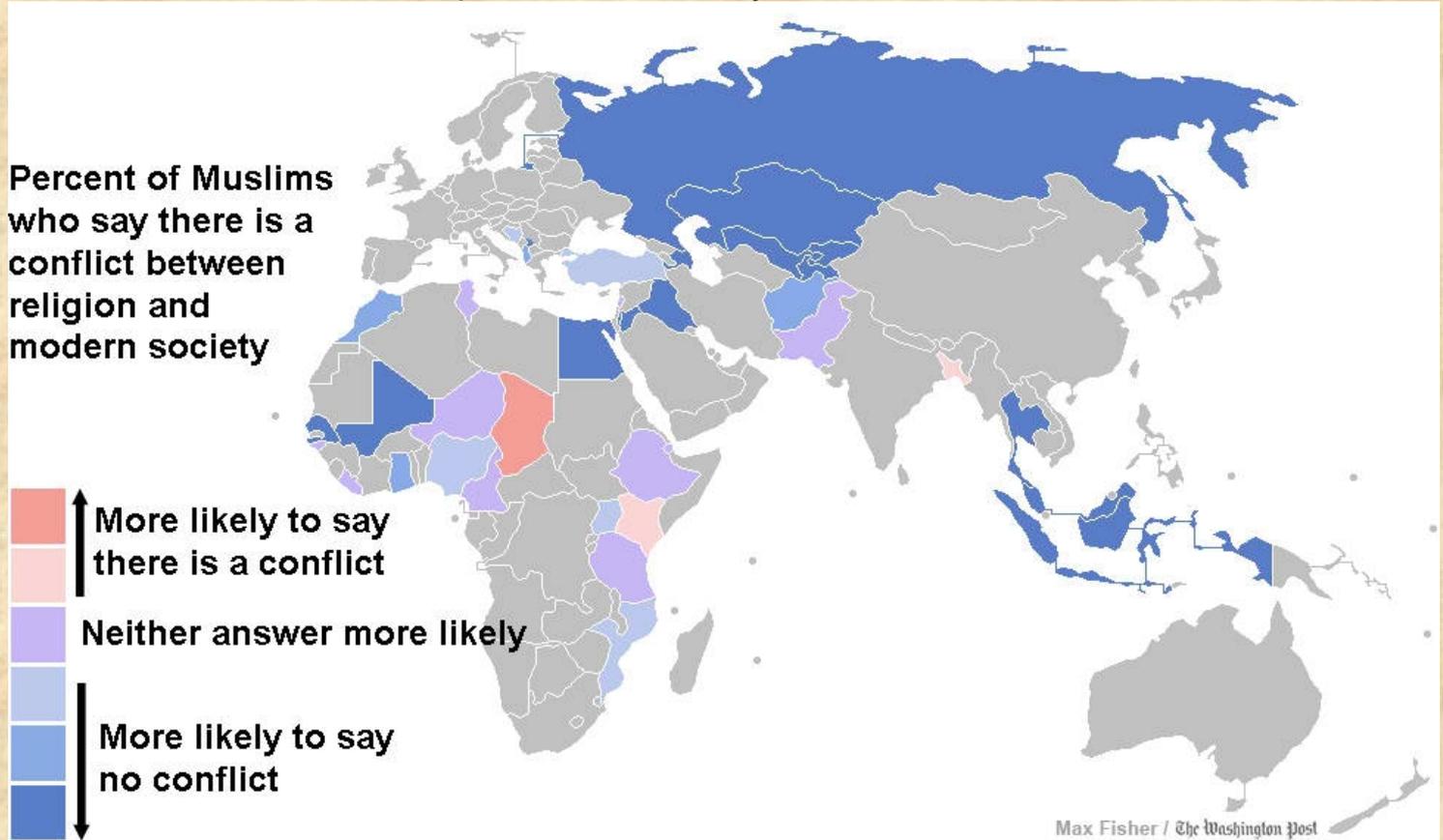
In most countries surveyed, less than half of Muslim respondents said religious conflict was a very big problem in the country. But majorities do believe this in Tunisia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Niger.

Each of these cases is obviously quite different, and keep in mind that calling conflict a “very big problem” is relative and subjective. Perhaps Tunisians, whose country is actually quite peaceful, answered yes in such large numbers because they are more sensitive to the violence that has come to their country since the 2011 revolution.

Religious violence, sometimes involving attacks with dozens killed, is indeed a big problem in Nigeria and Pakistan. In the latter, Shiite Muslims are most often targeted. The former has struggled with Muslim-Christian violence for years.

But the good news is that most do not see religious conflict as a very big problem in their countries, particularly in post-Soviet states.



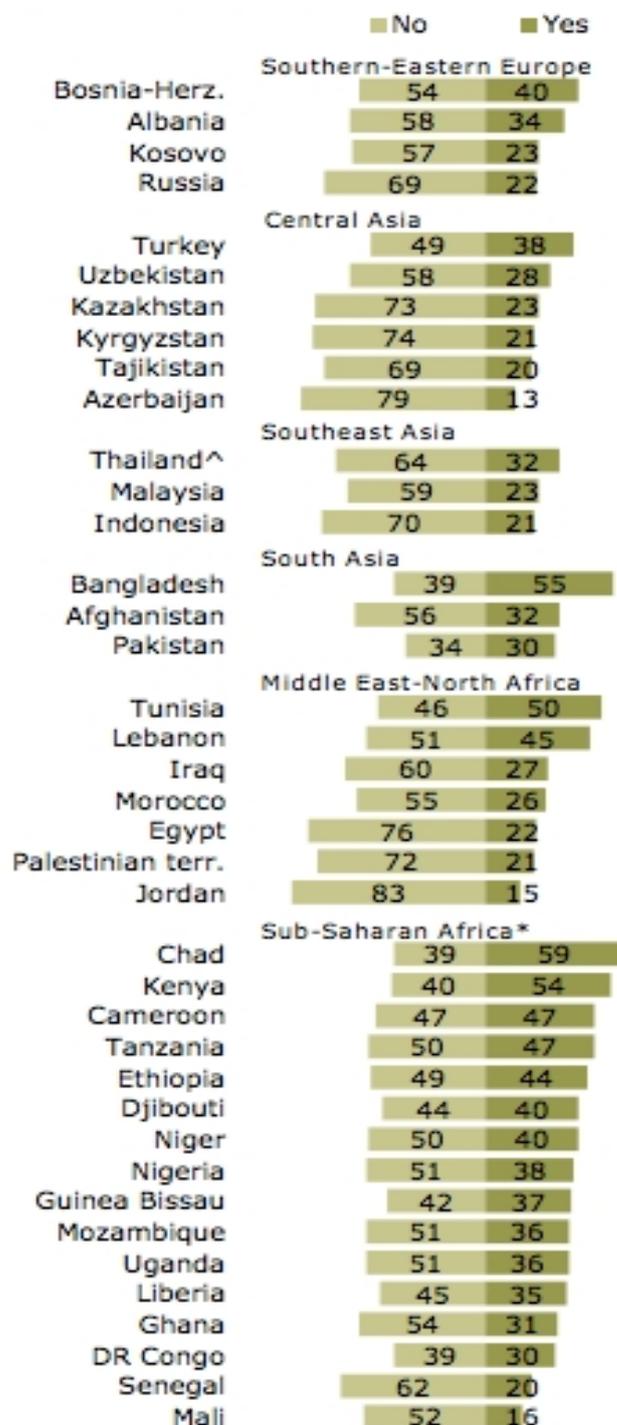
CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – June 2013**9. Most see Islam as compatible with modern society**

Earlier Islamist movements have argued that Muslim communities should return to conservative, traditional practices because their faith is somehow incompatible with modern society. But, with a small handful of notable exceptions, this view does not appear to have taken hold; most Muslims say their religion is not in conflict with modern society.



Is There a Conflict Between Religion and Modern Society?

% of Muslims who say ...



*Data for all countries except Niger from "Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa."

^Interviews conducted with Muslims in five southern provinces only.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q75.

The three countries where Muslims are more likely than not to see a conflict between their religion and modern society are Bangladesh, Chad and Kenya, all of which have indeed struggled to more fully integrate into the globalized world, although that struggle is not necessarily a function of Islam.

In a number of countries, though, Muslims are about as likely to answer yes to this question as no. Most of these are in Africa, although Pakistanis and Tunisians also appear to be struggling with questions of how to be at once Muslim and a member of the modern world.

Still, wide majorities in many countries say they see no such conflict, from the Middle East to Southeast Asia to Europe. And maybe this is the thing to keep in mind with the overall Pew survey and its findings.

Religion is in many ways subjective, and can be experienced differently within different cultural contexts. Attitudes about its place in the world are, often, self-actualizing: Muslims who see democracy or Islamist parties as preferable tend to put them into power. Muslim communities that accept honor killings tend to get them. And people who believe their faith is in conflict with the broader world are perhaps more likely to see that belief manifest. But that does not mean that



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Islam and the world are necessarily at odds, any more than it means that sharia must necessarily forbid, say, divorce. Opinions, after all, can and do change.

► Read the full report at:

http://www.pewforum.org/uploadedFiles/Topics/Religious_Affiliation/Muslim/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf

Max Fisher is the Post's foreign affairs blogger. Before joining the Post, he edited international coverage for TheAtlantic.com.

Islam vs. Islamism

By Daniel Pipes

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/pipes/12847/islam-vs-islamism>

What motives lay behind last month's Boston Marathon bombing and the would-be attack on a VIA Rail Canada train?

Leftists and establishmentarians variously offer imprecise and tired replies – such as "violent extremism" or anger at Western imperialism – unworthy of serious discussion. Conservatives, in contrast, engage in a lively and serious

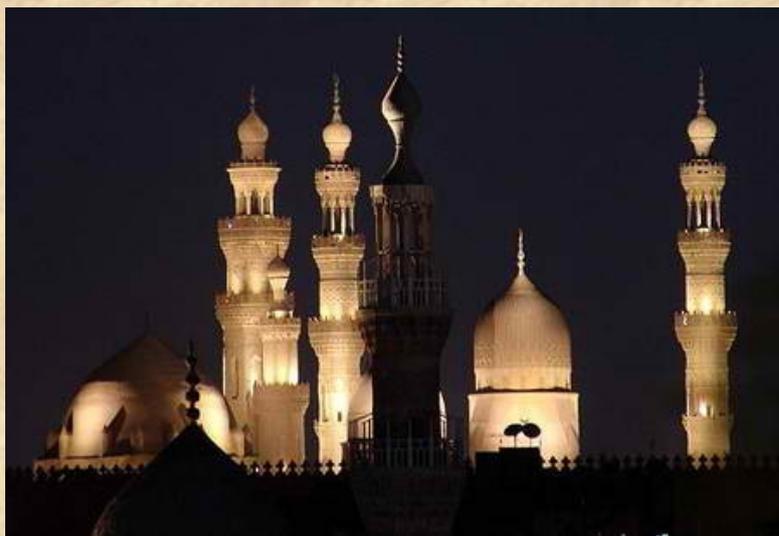
debate among themselves: some say Islam the religion provides motive, others say it's a modern extremist variant of the religion, known as radical Islam or Islamism. They quote Islamic scriptures to establish the centrality of Muslim supremacism, jihad, and misogyny, concluding that a moderate form of Islam is impossible. They point to Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's deriding the very idea of a moderate Islam. Their killer question is, "Was Muhammad a Muslim or an Islamist?" They contend that we who blame Islamism do so out of political correctness or cowardliness.

To which, we reply: Yes, certain continuities do exist; and Islamists definitely follow the Koran and Hadith literally. Moderate Muslims exist but lack Islamists' near-hegemonic power. Erdoğan's denial of moderate Islam points to a curious overlap between Islamism and the anti-Islam viewpoint. Muhammad was a plain Muslim, not an Islamist, for the latter concept dates back only to the 1920s. And no, we are

not cowardly but offer our true analysis.

And that analysis goes like this:

Islam is the fourteen-century-old faith of a billion-plus believers that includes everyone from quietist Sufis to violent jihadis. Muslims achieved remarkable military, economic, and cultural success between roughly 600 and 1200 c.e. Being a Muslim then meant belonging to a winning team, a fact that broadly inspired Muslims to associate their faith with mundane success. Those



Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque, completed in 972, represents one height of Muslim culture.

debate among themselves: some say Islam the religion provides motive, others say it's a modern extremist variant of the religion, known as radical Islam or Islamism.

As a participant in the latter debate, here's my argument for focusing on Islamism.

Those focusing on Islam itself as the problem (such as ex-Muslims like Wafa Sultan and Ayaan Hirsi Ali) point to the consistency from Muhammad's life and the contents of the Koran and Hadith to current Muslim practice. Agreeing with Geert Wilders' film *Fitna*, they point to striking continuities between Koranic



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memories of medieval glory remain not just alive but central to believers' confidence in Islam and in themselves as Muslims.



The modern Muslim trauma begins: Napoleon at the Battle of the Pyramids, 1798, as imagined by Antoine-Jean Gros.

Major dissonance began around 1800, when Muslims unexpectedly lost wars, markets, and cultural leadership to Western Europeans. It continues today, as Muslims bunch toward the bottom of nearly every index of achievement. This shift has caused massive confusion and anger. What went wrong, why did God seemingly abandon His faithful? The unbearable divergence between premodern accomplishment and modern failure brought about trauma.

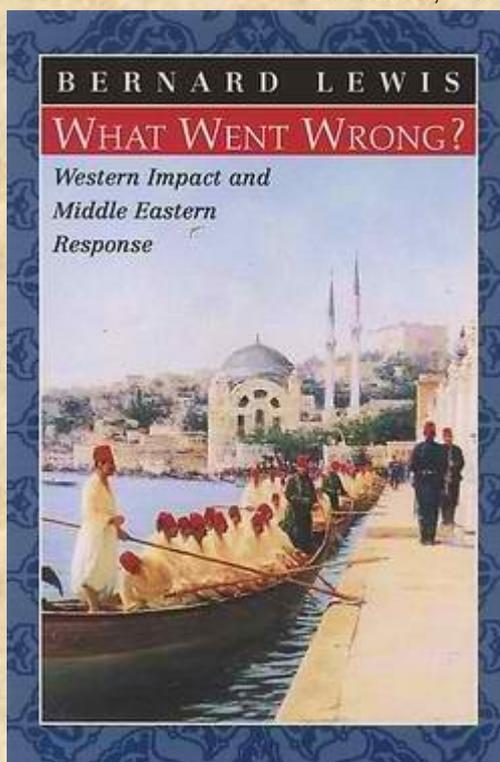
Muslims have responded to this crisis in three main ways. Secularists want Muslims to ditch the Shari'a (Islamic law) and emulate the West. Apologists also emulate the West but pretend that in doing so they are following the Shari'a. Islamists reject the West in favor of a retrograde and full application of the Shari'a.

Islamists loathe the West because of its being tantamount to Christendom, the historic archenemy, and its vast influence over Muslims. Islamism inspires a drive to reject, defeat, and subjugate Western civilization. Despite this urge, Islamists absorb Western influences, including the concept of ideology. Indeed, Islamism represents the transformation of Islamic faith into a political ideology. *Islamism* accurately indicates an Islamic-flavored version of radical utopianism, an -ism like other -isms, comparable to fascism and communism.

Aping those two movements, for example, Islamism relies heavily on conspiracy theories to interpret the world, on the state to advance its ambitions, and on brutal means to attain its goals.

Supported by 10-15 percent of Muslims, Islamism draws on devoted and skilled cadres who have an impact far beyond their limited numbers. It poses the threat to civilized life in Iran, Egypt, and not just on the streets of Boston but also in Western schools, parliaments, and courtrooms.

Our killer question is "How do you propose to defeat Islamism?" Those who make all Islam their enemy not only succumb



Bernard Lewis published a book in 2001 titled *What Went Wrong*.

to a simplistic and essentialist illusion but they lack any mechanism to defeat it. We who focus on Islamism see World War



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II and the Cold War as models for subduing the third totalitarianism. We understand that radical Islam is the problem and moderate Islam is the solution. We work with anti-Islamist Muslims to

vanquish a common scourge. We will triumph over this new variant of barbarism so that a modern form of Islam can emerge.

Mr. Pipes (DanielPipes.org) is president of the Middle East Forum.

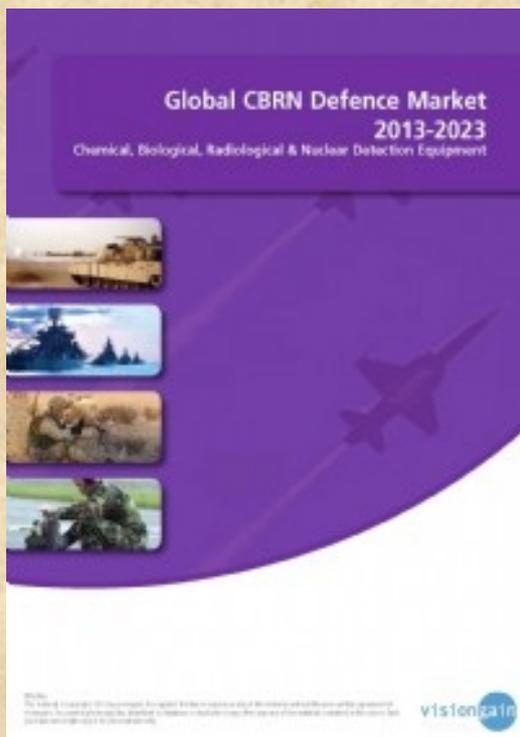
The CBRN Defense Market 2013-2023

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-cbrn-defense-market-2013-2023-2013-05-14>

Reportlinker.com announces that a new market research report is available in its catalogue:

Product Synopsis

This report is the result of SDI's extensive market and company research covering the global CBRN defense industry. It provides detailed analysis of both historic and forecast global industry values, factors influencing demand, the challenges faced by industry participants, analysis of the leading companies in the industry, and key news.



Introduction and Landscape

Why was the report written?"The Global CBRN Defense Market 2013-2023" offers the reader detailed analysis of the global CBRN defense market over the next ten years, alongside potential market opportunities to enter the industry, using detailed market size forecasts. What are the key drivers behind recent market changes?The global CBRN defense market is

estimated to value US\$9 billion in 2013. The market consists of CBRN protection, detection, decontamination, disposal, and simulation equipment, and is expected to witness a marginal increase during the forecast period, primarily due to modernization initiatives planned in North America and Europe, and threats from terrorism and hostile neighboring countries in the Asia Pacific and Middle Eastern regions. The market is expected to increase at a CAGR of 4.2% during the forecast period, to reach US\$13.7 billion by 2023. CBRN protection equipment is expected to account for the majority of the global CBRN defense market, followed by detection and decontamination systems.

What makes this report unique and essential to read?"The Global CBRN Defense Market 2013-2023" provides detailed analysis of the current industry size and growth expectations from 2013 to 2023, including highlights of key growth stimulators. It also benchmarks the industry against key global markets and provides detailed understanding of emerging opportunities in specific areas.

Key Features and Benefits

The report provides detailed analysis of the market for CBRN defense equipment during 2013-2023, including the factors that influence why countries are investing or cutting defense expenditure. It provides detailed expectations of growth rates and projected total expenditure. Despite a number of developed countries, mostly in Europe, having called for a complete shutdown of nuclear reactors in all countries around the world, global nuclear energy generation is expected to increase significantly over the forecast period. Rapidly increasing demand for electricity, along with increasing fossil fuel prices, are making nuclear power



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an increasingly attractive option for many countries, especially in those where large-scale alternative energy generation such as wind and solar are not feasible. It has also been reported that over 60 power reactors are currently being constructed in 13 countries including Turkey, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Poland, Bangladesh, Russia, the UAE, and India. All of these countries will have to spend on CBRN incident protection in order to ensure that tragedies such as the Fukushima spillover are avoided.

Key Market Issues One of the key issues facing the industry is to develop technically advanced and cost effective prototypes that can be transferred to mass production without much difficulty. The major impact is currently felt in developing advanced protective suits that need to counter changing threats while at the same time being light so as to minimize the physical load on the wearer. Specifically, companies are trying to address the heat load stress issue by aiming for a balance between a generic outfit and a highly technological garment. These innovations require significant funding and with the global economy just emerging from the economic crisis and defense budgets being cut, companies are hard pressed to get the required funding.

Since the CBRN protection industry is currently in its nascent stage, it requires considerable funding from the public and private sectors to develop effective counter measures against potential threats. However, recent years have witnessed various instances of neglect towards the CBRN sector; cancelled programs, cutbacks in research funding, and a focus on other defense sectors threaten to plague the industry. In 2004, the US Congress passed the

Project BioShield Act in a bit to get the private sector to develop medical countermeasures against CBRN terrorism agents and to provide a mechanism for the government to acquire these countermeasures.

Key Highlights

One of the main factors resulting in continuous demand for CBRN protection, detection, and decontamination equipment is the dual use of these agents in everyday life. The advancement in the fields of biotechnology, nuclear energy, and life sciences has the potential to bring about significant benefits for the betterment of mankind; however, these developments can also be used for hostile purposes and to perpetrate various instances of bio-terrorism, which is why it is imperative for scientists and the security community to constantly engage with each other and devise methods to prevent or counter any forms of CBRN terrorism.

Budget cuts are expected to prompt DoDs to provide war fighters and first responders with products already on the market or about to hit the market. These budget constraints are also expected to encourage the modification and refit of existing technologies and equipment in order to enhance the capabilities of CBRN defense forces while maintaining low budgets. As has been seen in the case of the US, the UK, and Japan, budget constraints have urged procurement departments to opt for dual use COTS products, which enables defense departments to save costs while at the same time provides CBRN defense personnel with equipment that offers a range of flexibility to meet multiple scenarios and requirements.

Will the “flying car” be used for homeland security ?

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2013/05/will-that-street-level-aircraft-be-used-for-homeland-security/>

Terrafugia Inc., the developer of the Transition street-legal airplane, announced its vision for the future of personal transportation. Building on its experience with the Transition program, Terrafugia has begun feasibility studies of a four-seat, vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) plug-in hybrid-electric flying car, the TF-X. Incorporating the state-of-the-art in intelligent systems, fly by wire controls, and currently available technology, the TF-X™ will further increase the level of safety, simplicity, and convenience of personal aviation.

“This is the right time for us to begin thinking about the future of the company beyond Transition® development,” says Terrafugia CEO/CTO Carl Dietrich, “We are passionate about continuing to lead the creation of a flying car industry and are dedicating resources to lay the foundations for our vision of personal transportation.”



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By directly addressing congestion and other transportation challenges currently being faced



internationally, widespread adoption of vehicles like the Transition and TF-X could result in significant economic benefits and personal time savings. Preliminary conversations with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the TF-X concept have demonstrated their willingness to consider innovative technologies and regulatory solutions that are in the public interest and enhance the level of safety of personal aviation.

Biologically 'Bonded' to Violence?

Book Review by Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin, Ph.D.

Adrian Raine. *The Anatomy of Violence: The Biological Roots of Crime*. Pantheon, 2013.

Source: <http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/publications/detail/biologically-bonded-to-violence>

Having been a fan of Adrian Raine's work since I first read *The Psychopathology of Crime* in 1993, I always thought that crime could be viewed through psychopathological lenses, which in turn means the interlocking between biology, genes, the body, the brain, the mind, the environment, culture and most especially maternal bonding. When I saw that Raine has just published *The Anatomy of Violence*, I was eager to read it.

This book is not for the faint of heart because he graphically exposes many kinds of gruesome cases and their violent criminals. Yet it is highly readable and engaging because Raine writes honestly, painfully, brutally truthfully and comprehensibly. He doesn't just accompany his readers along the disturbing path of violence explaining its biological roots, he bonds with them through his exhaustive and

painstaking knowledge and research. As the founder entering new territory in his pioneer field of neurocriminology, Raine has opened new frontiers on the mind of the violent perpetrator. He also raises public health issues, ethics and addresses legal questions concerning neuroscience and the criminal mind.

This book is critical for all those who want to understand the underpinning of violence and their variances, be it domestic violence, mass murders, rape, serial killing and even the political violence of terrorism. It has been written for the lay public and it should be required reading for all students, teachers, policy makers and those involved with problem solving violence and trauma.



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The political violence of terrorism, though, is not a subject which Raine has chosen to delve into but his book has great applicability to it. Counterterrorism experts love to make the distinction between political violence and all other forms of violence as if somehow political violence is sacrosanct. Raine shows us that violence is violence. Which category it falls into, is nothing more than a social construct. Even the alleged motivations for political violence propelled by ideologies, at the end of the day still overwhelmingly have biological roots with a complex psychosocial history, often involving abuse. Elsewhere I have written that political ideologies and their alleged motivations function as a girdle holding together a rage filled violent, brittle personality. He raises the issue of genocide and Hitler but the topic of charisma is not touched. Admittedly he could not have dealt with all of the sociobiological aspects of violence, thought he does a brilliant job of laying out the entire terrain of biology for violence in what will

become a canonical text. Bravely, Professor Raine puts aside the plague of political correctness when he tells us:

"One of the continuing problems is that this research field [neurocriminology] borders on the politically incorrect. The left doesn't like it and the right doesn't like it either. Liberals and center-left parties fear that the research will be used to stigmatize individuals and take attention away from social problems, the true causes of crime. Conservatives and the center-right are concerned that it will be used to let offenders off the hook and take away responsibility and retribution." (P. 368)

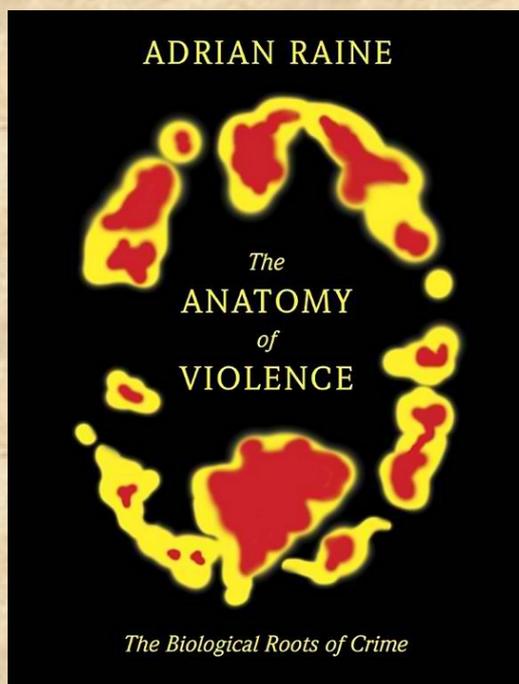
Raine's research spans both the nurture nature conundrum and factors in the importance of maternal attachment. When the bond between mother and infant is disrupted by severe abuse, the combination in conjunction with the biology makes for a nightmare waiting to happen. The mother builds the biological

motherboard of the baby's brain in utero and through the earliest years with the help of paternal genetic material and father if he is in the picture. Raine stresses that biology is not destiny and that it is never too soon to work with this fragile environment of mother and baby in order to prevent the making of a mass murderer.

Furthermore, Raine does address the subject of epigenetics, or environmental influence on the expression of genes. My hunch is that it plays a significant role in violence in the Middle East. Epigenetics was one of the favorite topics of my mentor, the late Detroit psychiatrist psychoanalyst and leading authority on the history of child sacrifice, Sander Breiner, M.D. He would have loved Raine's book. I am reminded here of Abby Stein's fine work in *Prologue to Violence: Child Abuse, Dissociation and Crime* as well as Kathy Seifert's *How Children Become Violent*. Adam Lankford in *The Myth of Martyrdom* shows too how the suicide bomber harbors a history of psychopathology, especially depression, and also stresses its biological

dimension.

Nonetheless, I did have some quibbles with *The Anatomy of Violence*. There was no discussion of autism nor mirror neurons for empathy. While autism is considered a developmental disorder and not a psychopathology, the Unabomber, Chou, Loughner, Lanza, Breivik and others have been diagnosed with Aspergers. Of course not every child who is diagnosed with autism will become violent. Just as not everyone who has a brain scan and a low heart rate (including Raine as he self-discloses) will become a violent offender. However, when I spoke with special ed teachers in Minnesota where I lived for over thirty years, they worried about who would become violent. Raine refers to early childhood screening in Minnesota as an exemplary model. Israel has a great program concerning early childhood



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development, including parenting called Tipat Khalav (lit. A drop of milk) which reaches all sectors of the population, including the Arab minority and the Haredim, UltraOrthodox Jews, who are struggling with violence within their midst as well.

While Raine does note the important work of John Bowlby on maternal attachment and the affectionless psychopath, Bowlby was certainly not the only psychoanalyst to investigate crime and violence. Most notably, Melanie Klein did ground breaking work on children and criminality. She was also the founder of British Object Relations which remains crucial to understanding the unconscious communication of violence. No doubt the line between nurture and nature will continue to become more blurred. It would be worthwhile to turn to those working in neuropsychanalysis. I could foresee a very productive and interesting dialogue between Professor Raine and the psychoanalytic world.

There is much to be gained from psychoanalytic thinking which would enhance Raine's stellar work. To cite only one tiny example in which even Raine admits that the father of a perpetrator lacked good judgment is the case of Kip Kinkel, a fifteen years old in Springfield, Oregon. Raine writes -- "and he [Kinkel] loved guns. That's not uncommon, especially in the rural American Northwest. So he was delighted when his father, Bill, bought him a 9-mm Glock semiautomatic handgun. Bill bought it because he had difficulty connecting with his son, and he thought maybe a gun would help."

(P. 330-331) Kip proceeded to kill his highly regarded schoolteacher parents and classmates, wounding many as well. Like Adam Lanza, Kinkel went to school and opened fire in the cafeteria.

Raine's narrative seemed to beg for a more in-depth and viable explanation rather than keeping the discussion at the level of the allegedly well intended father who tried to "bond" with his son over the hard cold object of

a weapon. Bill bought his son a Glock rather than taking himself to therapy in order to understand his own son. Raine does raise the question that maybe parenting should require a license. In the Kinkel's case, it might very well have saved his parents. Melanie Klein would have had a lot to add to this case discussion. To my ear, there was an glaring problem right under their nose in "bonding" and attachment. Such a problem links back to the first bonding experience in life -- with the mother. Did his father unconsciously create a kind of "murder zone" like some families who create a "suicidal zone"?

Families are messy and violent, as Raine himself notes. We see entire families caught up in political violence like the Tsarnaevs. It will only be a matter of time that the public will demand more effective measures to fight violence, even for acts of political terrorism. Adrian Raine has presented us with THE key to the root causes of violence found in biology but he also notes and stresses that the first years of life are critical in order to "immunize" a young child from becoming a violent perpetrator offender. No matter what your political persuasion may be, this is a book that needs to be read by all. Furthermore, *The Anatomy of Violence: The Biological Roots of Crime* needs to be made available for the non-Western global lay public. Any respectable publishing house would seek to facilitate seeing this book translated into Arabic, Persian and Korean for starters. These potential readers deserve insight into the violence that tragically besieges them.

Are we biologically "bonded" to violence? Not if we read and support Professor Raine's courageous ground breaking work nor if we seriously invest in parenting, in public health policies concerning early childhood screening and maternal attachment enhancing the mother-infant bond. We have a chance to make this world a better place for our children and our children's children. Let's not miss out on this important opportunity. **Read the book!**

*Dr. Nancy Kobrin, a psychoanalyst with a Ph.D. in romance and semitic languages, specializes in Aljamia and Old Spanish in Arabic script. She is an expert on the Minnesota Somali diaspora and a graduate of the Human Terrain System program at Leavenworth Kansas. Her new book is *The Banality of Suicide Terrorism: The Naked Truth About the Psychology of Islamic Suicide Bombing*.*



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Muslim Brotherhood Inside American Colleges

By Ryan Mauro

Source: http://www.clarionproject.org/analysis/mb-front-succeeds-partnering-us-universities/?utm_source=RadicalIslam.org&utm_campaign=bedcb0c1df-issue_915_16_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_01be8b04e3-bedcb0c1df-3009809#fm



Nazareth College in Rochester, NY, is just one of many American universities who are "partnering" with the International Institute of Islamic Thought, a verified Muslim Brotherhood front group.

In 1988, an FBI informant inside the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood network warned that it had a front called the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT). The IIIT leadership, the source reported, said they were in the first of six phases to "institute the Islamic Revolution in the United States." Their current objective was to "peacefully get inside the United States government and also American universities." *And they have.*

The source warned that the Muslim Brotherhood in America has "unlimited funds" and has "set up political action front groups with no traceable ties to the IIIT or its various Muslim groups." The source's identification of IIIT as a front is verified in a 1991 U.S. Muslim Brotherhood memo. The Brotherhood itself lists IIIT as number 28 of "our organizations and the organizations of our friends," working toward the Brotherhood's self-defined goal, which it says is a "grand *jihad* in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within." IIIT's Director of Academic Outreach from 1984 to 1994 was Sayyid Syeed, a founder and former secretary-general of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). Footage from 2006 shows him saying, "Our job is to change the

Constitution of America" (you can view it in *The Grand Deception*).

ISNA is also identified as a Muslim Brotherhood front group in the 1991 memo and was labeled as a U.S. Muslim Brotherhood entity by federal prosecutors. It was also designated an unindicted co-conspirator in the terrorism-financing trial of the Holy Land Foundation. Syeed is now the director of ISNA's Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances.

In 2002, federal agents raided the Herndon, Virginia offices of IIIT as part of a terrorism-financing investigation. The organization was the top donor to another group run by Sami al-Arian, a Muslim Brotherhood member that was later convicted of being a Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader. In a 1992 letter, Sami al-Arian said that his organization and IIIT were essentially one.

However, IIIT lives on, with offices and affiliates in the U.K., Belgium, Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, Bosnia, Bangladesh, Morocco, Nigeria, Indonesia, India and Brunei.

Its website proudly hosts a picture of two IIIT leaders, Dr. Abubaker



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Al-Shingieti and Dr. Hisham Altalib, meeting with Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi in New York on September 24, 2012 as part of an "interfaith meeting." Tellingly, the website says Morsi "welcomed the participation of IIIT in the reform [sic] of higher education in Egypt."

IIIT has "agreements" with:

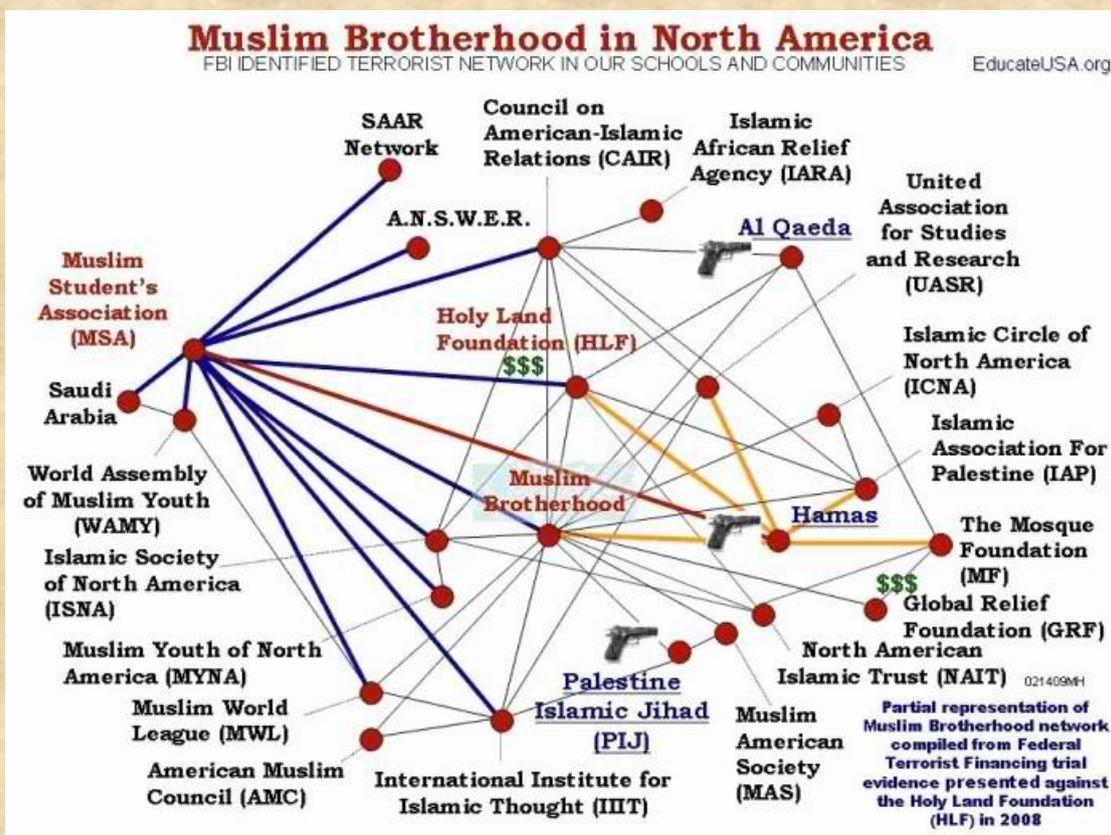
George Mason University, who signed an agreement at IIIT headquarters on September 18, 2008. The IIIT representative was its Vice President, Jamal Barzinji. A 1988 FBI file states that Barzinji was

November 13, the president of the University held a dinner for the IIIT leadership.

George Mason University professor Dr. Andrea Bartelo spoke at a IIIT fundraiser on August 26, 2011. IIIT sponsored a lecture at George Mason University by the IIIT Chair on February 20, 2013.

The University's 2008 press release boasts that it has been named as the #1 university in the nation to watch by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Nazareth College: Located in Rochester, NY, Nazareth College's Center for Interfaith Studies



"characterized as" a Muslim Brotherhood leader. In 2003, his home was raided because, in the words of U.S. Customs Service Special Agent David Kane, Barzinji "is not only closely associated with PIJ [Palestinian Islamic Jihad] ... but also with Hamas." In 2011, it was reported that the Justice Department stopped a planned indictment of Barzinji.

On November 5, 2008, George Mason University, a public university just outside Fairfax, Virginia, announced that IIIT had donated \$1.5 million to establish an endowed Chair in Islamic Studies at its College of Humanities and Social Sciences. On

and Dialogue signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with IIIT in January 2006. On December 7, 2011, IIIT endowed an academic Chair in Interfaith Studies and Dialogue.

Shenandoah University: The Dean of its College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Calvin Allen Jr., signed a "Memorandum of Agreement" with IIIT, who was represented by Barzinji. The website states, "IIIT's instructional division, The Fairfax Institute, will designate an instructor to co-teach with Dr. Allen a course on Islamic civilization." Dr. Calvin Allen spoke at a IIIT fundraiser on

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August 26, 2011. Shenandoah university is located in Winchester, Virginia.

Hartford Seminary: On March 17, 2013, the Connecticut theological college announced that it had received the necessary funding for an endowed chair in Islamic Chaplaincy. The largest donor was IIIT who had given the college \$1 million.

The press release about the endowed chair says the Islamic Chaplaincy program began in 2003 “to prepare Muslims for chaplaincy positions in hospitals, prisons, universities and the military. It remains the only accredited such program in the United States, and graduates have been named to positions in many such institutions across the United States, most notably at Yale University, Williams College, and Princeton University.”

The President of Hartford Seminary, Professor Heidi Hadsell, said it has “established a productive, creative and effective relationship” with IIIT.

On July 25, 2012, Hadsell spoke at a IIIT fundraiser. She talked about “the continued support that the seminary receives from IIIT, particularly in the area of imam training and education, and the study of Christian-Muslim relations in general.”

Huron University College (Canada): In December 2010, the London, Ontario college began a “cooperative venture” with IIIT to add an Islamic Studies program to its college. It states, “IIIT has agreed to match funds raised by the Muslim Association of Canada and the London Muslim Mosque, both based in London, Ontario, Canada.”

Ingrid Mattson, former ISNA President and a member of IIIT’s Advisory Council, became the London and Windsor Community Chair in Islamic Studies on July 1, 2012.

According to the press release, Huron University College is affiliated with the University of Western Ontario and is an affiliate member of the Toronto School of Theology.

IIIT also has links to:

United States Naval Academy: Dr. Ermin Sinanovic, Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department, lectured at IIIT headquarters on December 7, 2012. The *Global Muslim Brotherhood Watch* discovered that he is also teaching for IIIT’s 2013 Summer Students Program.

Binghamton University: On November 31, 2012, IIIT “partnered” with the school to host two lectures by Professor Ali Mazrui on “The Study of Islam in African Universities: Is It a Priority?”

In 2002, Mazrui said: “There is also suspicion that some members of the Bush administration in collusion with Israel are more than ready to plunge the Middle East into turmoil in the hope that the final outcome would be to the territorial advantage of Israel and the strategic advantage of the United States. All this is part of the emerging external sadism of the United States, a readiness to hurt others abroad.”

On May 6, 2011, IIIT hosted a book launching event for Ricardo Rene Laremont, Professor of

Political Science and Sociology at Binghamton University.

Eastern Mennonite University: On April 20, 2012, two of the school’s professors attended a seminar on Muslim-Jewish relations at IIIT headquarters. Dr. Ed Martin, director of the university’s Center for Interfaith Engagement, attended a IIIT fundraiser on August 26, 2011.

University of Delaware: On January 5, 2012, Dr. Muqtedar Khan, Professor of International Relations and Islamic Studies, took part in a panel about Islamist political victories at IIIT headquarters.

American University: On January 5, 2012, Dr. Mohammad Nimer, Professor of International Relations, took part in a panel about Islamist political victories at IIIT headquarters. He suggested that the U.S. engage the Muslim Brotherhood, but criticized their “us vs. them” politics.



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University of Maryland: On December 16, 2011, Dr. Ahmad Kazemi Moussavi, Professor of Political Science and International Relations and a former Iranian diplomat, spoke for IIIT about Iran.

On August 24, 2011, Dr. Charles Butterworth, Professor Emeritus of Government and Politics, spoke at a IIIT fundraiser. Former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu, who was also Chief of Staff in the first Bush Administration, also spoke at the event.

Manhattanville College: On June 10, 2011, James Jones, Professor of Religion and African Studies, lectured at IIIT about victimhood and U.S. foreign policy.

Georgetown University: On May 27, 2011, IIIT hosted Louay Safi, Common Word Fellow at the Saudi-funded Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at

Georgetown University. Safi has strong Muslim Brotherhood ties. He spoke about Muslim-Christian relations.

University of Virginia: On April 29, 2011, Dr. Abdulaziz Sachedina, Professor of Islamic Studies, spoke at IIIT. He talked about human rights and democratic pluralism in Islam. On October 22, 2010, Adjunct Professor Rachel Mann spoke at IIIT about non-violent activism.

Middle Tennessee State University: On March 18, 2011, Dr. Ron Messier, Professor Emeritus of History, spoke at IIIT about Muslim-Christian relations.

The Muslim Brotherhood President of Egypt values IIIT—and so does American universities. The FBI source in 1988 warned that IIIT sought to advance the Brotherhood agenda by doing exactly what it is doing now.

Ryan Mauro is the ClarionProject.org's National Security Analyst, a fellow with the Clarion Project and is frequently interviewed on Fox News.



Iowa authorities practice decontamination drill in case of bioterrorism, contamination event

Source: <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/94e5c67066ac4baa8a018bfe41191f98/IA--Decontamination-Exercise>

Authorities in central Iowa are practicing decontamination procedures in case of a **bioterrorism** threat or industrial contamination event.

The Polk County Health Department and other local agencies, including a county emergency management team, will participate in the preparedness drill Thursday morning at a post office in Des Moines. Des Moines Police and the fire department also will participate, and streets will be closed as a potential crime scene will be sectioned off.

Various local, state and federal agencies will role play their plans, which include medication components. Officials say the drills are held periodically as part of an effort to keep the public safe. They say it helps emergency responders practice and perfect their skills in case a contamination event ever occurs.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Decontamination for bioterrorism? If the authorities provided wrong information to mass media, then for sure, the drill was a failure... **On the other hand**, see the difference in this drill's announcement: http://northcoastcitizen.com/ncc_news/article_1a5fad50-bf03-11e2-902a-001a4bcf887a.html



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Minds traumatized by disaster heal themselves without therapy

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2013/may/12/natural-disasters-healing-psychology-worse>



An Indian woman mourns the death of a relative killed in the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami. Photograph: Arko Datta/REUTERS

One of the largest earthquakes ever recorded hit on Boxing Day 2004. The resulting tsunami devastated huge swaths of the Indian Ocean coastline and left an estimated quarter of a million people dead across Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. Aid agencies quickly arrived to help battered and traumatised survivors.

Mental health was a massive part of the emergency response but the World Health Organisation promptly did something it has never done before or since. It specifically denounced a type of psychological therapy and recommended that it shouldn't be used. The therapy was a single session treatment called "psychological debriefing", which involved working with disaster victims to encourage people to supposedly "process" the intense emotions by talking through them in stages. It was intended to prevent later mental health problems by helping people resolve difficult emotions early on. The only trouble was that it made things worse. Studies had shown that people given post-disaster psychological debriefing were subsequently more likely to suffer mental health problems than people who had had no treatment at all.

Guidance from the world's most influential health authority had little effect, and the therapy was extensively used. The reluctance to do things differently was tied up with some of the least-appreciated facts about our reactions to disaster. In our trauma-focused society, it is often forgotten that the majority of people who experience the ravages of natural disaster, become the victims of violence or lose loved ones in tragedy will need no assistance from mental health professionals.

Most people will be shaken up, distressed and bereaved, but these are natural reactions, not in themselves disorders. Only a minority of people – rarely more than 30% in well-conducted studies and often considerably less – will develop psychological difficulties as a result of their experiences, and the single most common outcome is recovery without the need of professional help. But regardless of the eventual outcome, you are likely to be at your most stressed during the disaster and your stress levels will reduce afterwards even if they don't return to normal. Your body simply cannot maintain peak levels of anxiety.

These are important facts to bear in mind because, from the point of view of the disaster therapist,



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psychological debriefing seems to work – stress levels genuinely drop. But what the individual therapist can't see is that this would happen more effectively, leaving less people traumatised, if they did nothing. To put icing on the rather grim cake, researchers also asked patients whether they found the technique helpful as they walked out of the door. The patients reported that it seemed useful even though follow-up assessments showed that it impaired their recovery. Even faulty life-jackets give you hope, of course. The one-off nature of the treatment just compounded the problem as it was easy for the therapists to assume that instant feedback was a guide to effectiveness.

In the light of these dangers, health agencies developed a technique called "psychological first aid" that is perhaps most remarkable for the fact that it contains so little psychology. It is really just a communication guide for dealing with traumatised people and explicitly advises against encouraging people to "process" what happened – which in itself has probably prevented a great deal of harm.

But the practice of instant psychological interventions for just-traumatised people is hard to resist. On the emotional level, professionals are drawn to "do something" to help people who are suffering. This is an admirable human motivation, though being aware of what works is a professional responsibility. We would find it less commendable if a trauma surgeon tried leeches and brandy, regardless of their good intentions. There is a slightly darker

undercurrent to this, of course. The idea that rescuers can arrive in disaster areas and prevent mental illness in a single meeting is an attractive fantasy but often serves the needs of relief workers and their image more than disaster-affected communities.

It would be great if single-session treatments worked, but considering the dangers of past attempts, we would want to be sure that they were safe and helpful before we used them.

In the meantime, psychological debriefing is still widely used and new, untested single-session disaster treatments seem to be making a comeback. An article just published in the war-zone mental health journal *Intervention* admitted there was little evidence for the efficacy of single-session post-disaster treatments but still gave guidelines on how to do them.

With the recent tragedies of Boston, Dhaka, Syria and Mali, these issues have become newly relevant. After the chaotic response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, where truck loads of poorly informed and disorganised counsellors arrived to "treat" locals, international protocols have now been drawn up. But it's not clear how well they are being used and little is said about poor practice.

While the romantic notion of disaster rescue is attractive, the goal is to promote high-quality mental health services, based on solid research, in partnership with the community. Simply "being there" is not enough. Ironically, lots of counselors are still not listening.

Poll: Americans Neither Worried Nor Prepared In Case of a Disaster

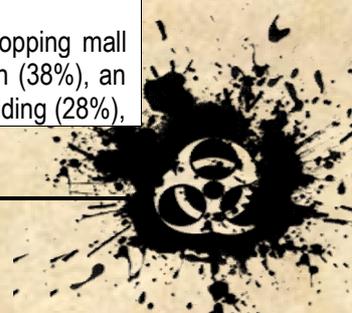
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnzogby/2013/05/16/americans-neither-worried-nor-prepared-in-case-of-a-disaster-sunyit-zogby-analytics-poll/>

Only one in four Americans or less are concerned that an emergency situation like a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or health pandemic will affect their community, according to a new SUNYIT/Zogby Analytics Poll.

The poll of 1,000 adults nationwide was conducted online by Zogby Analytics on May 8-9 and has a margin of sampling error of +/-3.2 percentage points. A wide range of national security topics was covered.

When asked of the likelihood if a series of emergency situations were to occur in their community, the following percentages said the emergency was "likely" or "very likely": 26% a general emergency, 24% an industrial accident, 23% a natural disaster, 20% a mass shooting, 19% a terrorist attack, and 15% a health pandemic.

If such an emergency situation were to occur, the most likely locations cited were a shopping mall (46%), an airport or train station (43%), a stadium or arena (42%), on a bus/plane or train (38%), an outdoor sporting or community event (35%), a school (30%), a roadway (28%) or office building (28%),



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a bridge (27%), a hospital (25%), or at home (22%).

While 55% of respondents said that they were “confident in (their) knowledge of proper safety procedures”, only 36% said that they presently “have an emergency plan in place” in case of a major emergency.

In case of a neighborhood emergency, Americans expressed more confidence in their family's preparedness (53%) over local government (44%), their airport (41%), local school (39%), or employer (31%). In case of a national emergency, Americans are most trusting in local law enforcement in case of a shooting (58%), the FBI in case of a terrorist attack (53%), the Centers for Disease Control in case of a pandemic (49%), and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in case of a natural disaster (45%).

What are Americans prepared to give up in terms of privacy and convenience to combat terrorism? In several situations tested, Americans gave little support to retinal scans and searches of personal items – but there were some differences depending on the specific situations. A majority (58%) supported bag searches at airports and train stations. Armed security was more acceptable at airports and train stations (49%) but not at office buildings (23%), hospitals (32%), schools (34%), and shopping malls (38%). And metal detectors are fine at airports and train stations (63%), but not anywhere else – only 43% approved them at schools.

The poll tested a number of techniques to determine whether Americans would support them as a routine in everyday life:

- Background checks for purchases of all firearms and large amounts of ammunition – 64%
- Mandatory national fingerprinting – 47%
- Registration and permits for products used in making bombs – 47%
- Security cameras at all intersections on public roads – 46%
- National identification cards for all adults – 42%
- Microchips for all felons who have served prison time for violent crimes – 34%
- National identification cards for all Americans – 27%

Americans feel they are knowledgeable about preparation for emergency/disaster situations but only one in three have actual preparedness plans. When it comes to such situations, all emergency relief is local – i.e. Americans trust family and local law enforcement more than government or larger institutions. We seek and trust the familiar more than the agencies we support by taxes. This country was founded on personal liberty and more than a decade after the events of 9-11 and only weeks after the Boston Marathon Bombings, Americans are not too willing to give up many of those liberties.

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Why a man eats another man's heart

By James Dawes

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/15/opinion/dawes-syria-video/index.html>

A Syrian rebel carves the heart out of a dead man and bites it. His comrades nearby cheer: "God is great."

This is from a video that is circulating on the Internet. The appalling footage has all the world asking: What kind of people could do this?

We tell ourselves these men must be monsters, people utterly unlike us, people we could never understand. But we don't say this

because it is true. We say this because it is comforting to think so. The far more frightening possibility we must face is that such evil is not diabolically inhuman or beyond understanding. It is human -- very human.

How can ordinary men commit such horrific acts? The war criminals I have met did not start out by desecrating corpses, torturing villagers or murdering children.



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They got there slowly. There are some men who are natural monsters, but most monsters are made.

This is how you make them.

First, take a man (and yes, it is most often a man) and isolate him. Separate him from his



family and friends and put him in an information bubble, an echo chamber cut off from the outside world. Make him conform to the values of his new group by exploiting his insecurity and need for approval. This is the first step in any war.

Second, train him to think that the world is painted in black and white, not shades of gray. Train him in either-or, binary thinking. Either you are my friend or my enemy. Either you are pure or impure. Either the people you love are safe or they are in immediate peril. Either you are all right or you are all wrong.

Third, physically exhaust him. Break down his body and spirit -- through brutal training or prolonged combat -- until he can't think straight. Subject him to a system of harsh and arbitrary punishment and equally arbitrary rewards. Condition him to feel helpless. A man who feels like he has lost control over his life is a dangerous man, because hurting others feels like control.

Fourth -- and this is the most important part -- start small. Work up to atrocity step by step. Put him into a strange and frightening environment with minimal regulation. Let the aggression escalate. Each violent act he commits while trying to survive will make the next act feel easier, more natural.

The first time he kills a villager, it is terrifying. The second time, it is hard. The third or fourth time, it starts to feel almost easy. Eventually, he finds himself competing with his fellow soldiers to see who can do it fastest, most often, most creatively.

Watching videos like this, and thinking thoughts like this, it is easy to lose hope. In war, are we doomed always to descend into barbarism? The answer is no. The nightmare video from Syria is not inevitable. The very same steps used for creating monsters can also be used to stop monstrosity -- you just need to reverse the steps.

Some people are born moral heroes, but most are made. And this is how you make them.

First, take a young man and start small. Work



up to altruism and moral courage step by step. Each small thing he does to attend to the suffering of another or stand up against injustice will make the next act feel easier, more natural. Second, give him a clear system of rules with predictable consequences. Teach him he has the ability to make choices about his life, and that these choices matter. Third, teach him that the world's problems aren't as simple as us-versus-them, good-versus-evil. Teach him that there aren't easy solutions to complex problems. Teach him to tolerate, without fear and anxiety, life's difficult ambiguity and uncertainty. And finally -- to those of you, like me, who are parents of young boys -- teach him to seek out "the



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other": Other clubs and groups, other sources of information, other places to see, other kinds of people, other cultural values. Spoil him with diversity, so that if there ever comes a time when he is called to war, he will always

remember to see the world through the other's eyes. He will fight, but he will fight against an enemy that he sees as a person, like him. He will see their humanity, and in so doing, he will preserve his own.

James Dawes, is director of the Program in Human Rights at Macalester College, is the author of "Evil Men" (Harvard University Press, 2013).



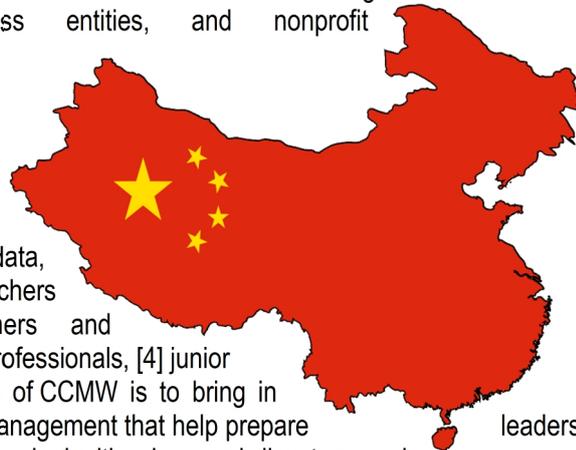
CHINA CRISIS MANAGEMENT WEBSITE

Founding Coordinator: Xiaoli Lu (lxhit@gmail.com)

Country: China

URL: www.crisis119.org

China Crisis Management Website (CCMW) aims to enhance the practice and research of crisis and disaster management throughout organizations and communities in China. Serving education sections and institutes, public sectors, business entities, and nonprofit



organizations, CCMW provides information, data, news and training in order to bridge [1] researchers across different disciplines, [2] researchers and practitioners in China, [3] domestic and abroad professionals, [4] junior and senior researchers. One of the core tasks of CCMW is to bring in international experiences in crisis and disaster management that help prepare leaders, public managers, and private executives in China deal with crises and disasters, and researchers to improve their research quality. If you would like to share recent development or experience of your organization or your research findings with the Chinese audience, please do not hesitate to contact us.

'Star Trek Into Darkness' and other superhero films tackle terrorism

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2013/05/17/star-trek-into-darkness-and-other-superhero-films-tackle-terrorism/#ixzz2Tfmz0ByM>

It seems truth is stranger --and more entertaining-- than fiction, at least that's the case in the world of science fiction.

Accordingly, J.J. Abrams's highly-anticipated "Star Trek Into Darkness," tackles a real-life issue becoming increasingly popular in the world of superheroes on the big screen: terrorism.

"Captain Kirk" actor Chris Pines recently told the L.A. Times the movie deals with "Earth bound terrorism. Issues we, in 2013, deal with

everyday," although the film is set in the year 2259. "[It's] about the exploitation of fear to take advantage of a population, about physical violence and destruction but also psychological manipulation. [The villain] John Harrison is a terrorist in the mold of those we've become accustomed to in this day and age." But there's a long list of other movie heroes fighting terror now too.



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The newly released “Iron Man 3,” the latest offering in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, was built around the violent acts of terrorism committed by enemy The Mandarin, and last year’s hugely successful movie multi-super hero movie “The Avengers” was perceived by some critics as “a love letter to the war on

terror.” “It’s the things we wish we had superheroes to save us from. Today, terrorism is the prevailing boogeyman lurking around the consciousness of the mass movie audience, and the filmmakers are finding ways to tap those fears by pitting superheroes against them,” he continued.



terror.”
eanwhile, “The Dark Knight” centers on how Gotham City’s Batman deals with anarchistic terrorist, the Joker, and the latest James Bond installment “Skyfall” kicks off with the world’s most iconic secret agent going after the corrupt Patrice, who has stolen a computer hard drive containing details of undercover agents placed in terrorist organizations by NATO states.

“With terrorism rampant around the globe, it is no surprise that the Zeitgeist gets reflected in (these) films,” Hollywood producer Gary Michael Walters told FOX411’s Pop Tarts column. “And science fiction has always been a realm where controversial real world issues were more easily discussed by setting them in the future, or outer space.”

In particular, many of these movies from the forthcoming “Star Trek,” to “Iron Man 3” and “Skyfall” confront terrorism of a domestic agenda. And according to Fandango.com columnist and pop culture expert Scott Huver, the genre is naturally maturing, and starting to look at the real-life threats facing society.

But the concept of our crafted comic heroes tackling terrorism is hardly new. The source material of comics over the years as dealt with superheroes dealing with terror in one form or another; whether is it an 80’s Superman foiling a terrorism plot, Dr. Doom threatening New York, Nazi terrorist spies, or random terrorists with an agenda to grind. And while extra terrestrial enemies have fallen more to the background, they aren’t totally out-of-fashion.

“People are tired of seeing these alien films as well as the ‘end of the world’ type film like ‘Oblivion,’” explained Rob Weiner, Popular Culture and Film Studies librarian at Texas Tech University. “Alien forces will always have a place in superhero narrative, but right now people want heroes who fight villains that could be anyone.”

And according to Gwyneth Paltrow, who plays “Pepper Potts” in Iron Man 3, the movie could provide a platform for further explaining terrorism to young minds.



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“We do live in an unsafe world. That’s a true thing,” she said during a press conference. “I’m dealing with this now with my seven-year-old. He’s learning that the world is unsafe and there are people who do harmful things. I don’t think

there is anything wrong with presenting that idea. We can’t lie to our children and pretend the world is perfect... it’s part of a bigger conversation.”

Mortgages in the Era of Mass Terror

By Laura Gottesdiener

Source:<http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/05/03/mortgages-in-the-era-of-mass-terror/#.UYP6QOZulm0.twitter>

Terrorism is a tricky act to define, particularly when household appliances have become weapons of mass destruction. Earlier in April, as the National Guard and Boston Police scoured the city’s suburbs in search of two men believed to have planted the fatal marathon bombs, another story of violence and

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mass insecurity surfaced.

As the *New York Times* reported, “The banks that created risky amalgams of mortgages and loans during the boom — the kind that went so wrong during the bust — are busily reviving the same types of investments that many thought were gone for good.”

In other words, the well-heeled boys are back in town, peddling predatory mortgages to be bundled and sold on Wall Street. Even the *Times*, generally bullish on business, struck a cautionary tone. “The revival also underscores how these investments, known as structured financial products, have largely escaped new regulations that were supposed to prevent a repeat of the last financial crisis.”

Warnings of a repeat of the last financial crisis — printed on the front page of the *New York Times*?

Yet, unlike the 24-7 coverage of Boston, the national response to the threat of economic mass destruction has been muted. That’s because almost no one openly discusses the ongoing foreclosure crisis in terms of domestic terrorism. But that’s exactly what it is, and we must recognize this if we want to prevent banks from causing more damage.

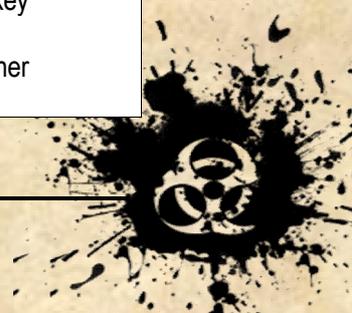
The Department of Homeland Security has the most comprehensive definition of terrorism, which explains that these acts must fulfill the following criteria.

The term “terrorism” means any activity that—

(A) involves an act that—

(i) is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; and

(ii) is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States; and



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(B) appears to be intended—

(i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

(ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

(iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.

If you ask Helen James, a Chicago woman who has lived both on the streets and in shelters, being without a house in the U.S. is clearly dangerous to human life. When we spoke last summer she talked of untreated hemorrhoids and sleeping on benches during freezing Chicago winters. “I just don’t want to die,” she said.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 700 people without addresses die each year from hypothermia alone.

More Americans have frozen to death since the economic crisis began than have died in all terrorism attacks on U.S. soil in the last two decades—September 11th, included.

As for the question of legality, Griggs Wimbley, a resident of small town North Carolina, is an expert on how the wave of recent foreclosures were in violation of U.S. criminal laws. He spent the better part of a decade investigating and fighting his own fraudulent foreclosure. “I’ve seen nothing but cheating,” he said. He called Wall Street’s reign throughout 2000s “a ten-year crime spree.”

The hundreds of investigations and lawsuits over lending fraud, forgery (remember that robo-signing scandal?) and servicing own experiences. And that’s not widespread violation of the Fair intended to prevent race-based was rampant in the lead-up to the Lastly, Marcella Robinson and the grassroots homeowner group, that the entire point of evictions is among civilians. Robinson, when we spoke, told me that she bedside for the sense of security. evicted from her home, said she fear.”

Why would Wall Street intend to The rationale is that if people out of their homes, they won’t astronomical debts that are keeping our economy afloat.

This argument has indeed government. Ed DeMarco, the head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency has been one of the most vehement opponents of homeowner relief, warning that the government must wield the specter of eviction or everyone will decide to default on their mortgages. As for the issue of “affect[ing] the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping,” bankers don’t need to resort to kidnappings; they’ve already taken the global economy hostage.

Since 2007, Wall Street has evicted four million families — approximately ten million people — from their homes. Millions more are ensnared in ongoing foreclosures. Over the last year, I’ve listened to the stories of hundreds of these families, and the most common experience I’ve heard is the feeling of insecurity and psychological terror.

Loss of security. State of fear. These are the same words, the same phrases that we are hearing people in Boston express. If mass insecurity and terror of default were what the banks wanted: it’s mission accomplished. Yet, the banks aren’t accused of terrorism. Nor are their financial products classified as WMDs.

Perhaps you’re thinking that Wall Street isn’t accused because terrorists must use bombs rather than bonds, because there’s no such thing as economic terrorism, is there? The Pentagon certainly believed so, when in 2011 it issued a report positing that some unknown parties may have helped pushed the United States into the 2008 economic crisis through “financial terrorism.” It’s no surprise that the report’s



regulations back up Wimbley’s to even mention the industry’s Housing Act and other laws housing discrimination, which financial crisis.

Nicole Shelton, co-founders of Mortgage Fraud NC, can attest to produce widespread fear whose home was in foreclosure slept with a baseball bat at her Shelton, who had already been was living in “a constant state of

intimidate millions of civilians? aren’t terrified of being thrown continue to repay the apparently the only thing

influenced the policy of the U.S.

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suspects included Islamic jihadists, the Chinese and Venezuela rather than AIG or Goldman Sachs. That same year, American union organizer Steven Lerner himself became brand an economic terrorist when he suggested that homeowners band together for a mortgage strike. Conservative media called it an “ECONOMIC TERRORISM PLAYBOOK” (yes, in all caps), while a Utah congressman urged Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate these threats because they “clearly constitute domestic terrorism.”

In other words, advocating for homeowner security amounts to acts of terrorism, while ensuring Wall Street’s stability — even if that means kicking people out of their homes and blaming Venezuela for the mortgage meltdown — is simply U.S. policy.

The place that most clearly demonstrates this double standard is Detroit, where Michigan’s governor recently imposed a state of martial economics — a suspension of democracy to ensure financial security. With an emergency financial manager single-handedly running a city of more than 700,000 people, Michigan shows that today’s underlying security question isn’t physical. It’s financial.

As local pastor Reverend David Bullock explained, “It’s no longer ‘68 and ‘69 — the hot riot summers. [The rich] are no longer worried about physical security. They are worried about their money.”

That fact that the nation is experiencing widespread financial terrorism does not in any way make the attacks in Boston any less tragic. But it should make us angrier that Wall Street bankers are busy reviving the same weapons it unleashed on the nation only a few years earlier — and that our government is doing nothing to stop them.

Laura Gottesdiener is a freelance journalist in New York City. She has written for Ms. The Huffington Post, the Arizona Republic, the New Haven Advocate, AlterNet, and Waging Nonviolence (wagingnonviolence.org), where she is an associate editor. She won the John Hersey Prize at Yale University for a body of journalistic work and was a national finalist for the Norman Mailer Nonfiction Award for her 2009 investigation of girls’ wrestling. She was actively involved in the Occupy movement and lived in Zuccotti Park from early October 2011 until the police raid in mid-November 2011. A Dream Foreclosed is her first book.



Terrible sorry for offending you...



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EMT Students Dodge Paintballs During Rescue Training

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/EMT-Students-Rescue-Training.html>



Emergency medical technology (EMT) students at San Jacinto College in Houston were plenty busy recently learning proper procedures for a rescue demonstration all the while dodging flying paintballs.

It was part of a training exercise that points to the importance of communication and teamwork, even during the heat of a scenario like a shooting or bombing. San Jacinto College North (there are two programs, North and Central) instructor and Army veteran, Ali Shah said the paintball exercise is a “watered down” version of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care course that soldiers experience in the military.

“We thought it was a good idea to get them in a stressful environment, where it’s not just us telling them how stressful it is, but out in the field where there is a realistic possibility they might get smacked in the head with a paintball,” Shah said.

The “care under fire” exercise is part of the curriculum for students interested in certifications and degrees in EMT and paramedic programs. The care under fire training prepares students interested in tactical EMT work, such as the medics who help SWAT teams during dangerous standoffs. Although those situations aren’t the norm for

EMTs, recent events have shown that there is an element of danger in the work EMTs do.

“Care under fire is part of that course where you’re learning how to get your patients out of immediate danger to where you can work on them a little more,” Shah said. “We set up different scenarios for the students where they have to go and pull out an injured person from inside what we call the danger one.”

Shah explained that students are sent to get patients out of the “danger zone,” which could be an active shooter scenario or a situation where an explosive device or hazardous material may be present. That involves first removing the patient from danger to an area where he or she can be more safely “packaged” onto a backboard or stretcher and then transporting the patient to safety.

Although the situation at the paintball range simulated an active shooting scenario, nearly every situation involving EMTs is stressful, said Cindy Barbee, director of the San Jacinto College North EMT program. “Working in our field, many times it is very stressful and whether you’re in a danger situation or not is really not the point,” she said.

“When someone is significantly injured or very ill, it’s stressful when the responsibility rests on



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your shoulders to either save their lives or get them to a hospital where they can get the care they need.”

Barbee reiterated that the most important part is effective teamwork and communication. “As an EMT or paramedic, we have to be able to work together as a team and we have to be able to communicate,” she said. “When those two things fall apart, the whole thing will begin to fall apart.”

The San Jacinto College North program is one of 28 accredited college programs in Texas. It's a five-semester program divided into three parts: EMT basic, advanced EMT and the paramedic program. Any of the three can be exit points toward eligibility for the National Registry Exam, given by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Sweden's capital hit by worst riots in years

Source: <http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/sweden-s-capital-hit-by-worst-riots-in-years-370050>

Hundreds of youths have set fire to cars and attacked police and rescue services in poor

The riots appear to have been sparked by the police killing of a 69-year-old man wielding a



machete in the suburb of Husby this month, which prompted accusations of police brutality.

“Everyone must pitch in to restore calm - parents, adults,” Reinfeldt told reporters on Tuesday.

After decades of practising the “Swedish model” of generous welfare benefits, Sweden has been reducing the role of the state since the 1990s, spurring the fastest growth in inequality of any advanced OECD economy.

While average living standards are still among the highest in Europe,

immigrant suburbs in three nights of rioting in Stockholm, Sweden's worst disorder in years.

On Tuesday night, a police station in the Jakobsberg area in the northwest of the city was attacked, two schools were damaged and an arts and crafts centre was set ablaze, despite a call for calm from Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt.

The riots in one of Europe's richest capitals have shocked a country that prides itself on a reputation for social justice, and fuelled a debate about how Sweden is coping with both youth unemployment and an influx of immigrants.

“We've had around 30 cars set on fire last night, fires that we connect to youth gangs and criminals,” Kjell Lindgren, spokesman for Stockholm police, said on Wednesday.

He said eight people had been arrested on Tuesday night, but there were no reports of injuries.



governments have failed to substantially reduce long-term youth unemployment and poverty, which have affected immigrant communities worst.

The left-leaning tabloid Aftonbladet said the riots represented a “gigantic failure” of government policies, which had



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underpinned the rise of ghettos in the suburbs. "We have failed to give many of the people in the suburbs a hope for the future," Anna-Margrethe Livh of the opposition Left Party wrote in the daily Svenska Dagbladet. An anti-immigrant party, the Sweden Democrats, has risen to third in polls ahead of

region. Unemployment among those born outside Sweden stands at 16 per cent, compared with 6 per cent for native Swedes, according to OECD data.

Among 44 industrialised countries, Sweden ranked fourth in the absolute number of asylum seekers, and second relative to its population,



a general election due next year, reflecting

according to U.N. figures.



unease about immigrants among many voters. Some 15 per cent of the population is foreign-born, the highest proportion in the Nordic



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British soldier beheaded on busy London street in terror attack

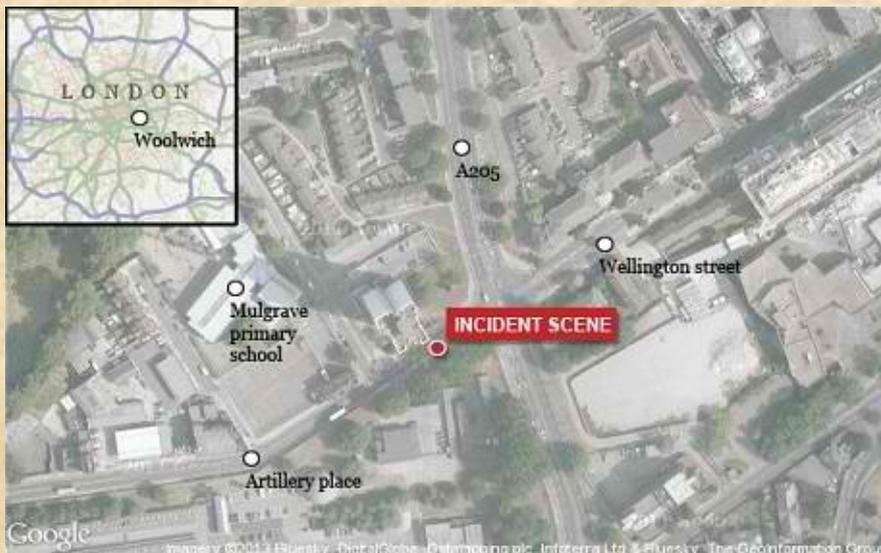
Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/10073910/British-soldier-beheaded-on-busy-London-street-in-terror-attack.html>

In the first terrorist murder on the British mainland since the 7/7 suicide bombings of 2005, the men attempted to behead the soldier, hacking at him like a “piece of meat” in front of

think David Cameron is going to get caught in the street when we start busting our guns? Do you think your politicians are going to die?

“No, it’s going to be the average guy like you, and your children. So get rid of them. Tell them to bring our troops back so we, so you can all live in peace.”

Witnesses said that the men used a car to run over the soldier just yards from the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, south-east London, before setting about him with knives and a meat



dozens of witnesses, before both were shot by police who took around 20 minutes to arrive. After the killing, one of the men, believed to be a British-born Muslim convert, spoke calmly into a witness’s video phone.

Speaking with a London accent, holding a knife and a meat cleaver and with his hands dripping with blood, he said: “We swear by almighty Allah we will never stop fighting you until you leave us alone. Your people will never be safe. The only reason we have done this is because Muslims are dying by British soldiers every day.

“We must fight them as they fight us. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. I apologise that women had to witness this today but in our lands our women have to see the same. You people will never be safe. Remove your government, they don’t care about you. Do you

cleaver as if they were “trying to remove organs”. One unconfirmed report suggested that he had been beheaded.

Passers-by said they thought at first that the



attackers were trying to help the man, who was wearing a Help for Heroes T-shirt, and only realised they were killing him when they got closer.



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As they attacked the soldier, one of the men shouted “Allahu akbar”, or God is Great, according to the BBC, while another witness said they appeared to pray next to the body as if the soldier was a “sacrifice”.

Their victim, thought to be aged around 20, had reportedly been on duty at an Army recruitment office in central London and was on his way back to the barracks when he was murdered at 2.20pm.

It emerged that passers-by went to the soldier’s aid. One of the killers ordered that only women could tend to the body, not men.



There were also questions over why it took around 20 minutes for armed police to arrive on the scene, during which time the killers calmly



walked up and down the road, carrying their bloodied knives and a pistol, while members of the public confronted them.

When police did arrive, both gunmen tried to rush at the police and were shot, reportedly by a female officer.

On Wednesday night they were under armed guard in separate hospitals. Their British accents suggested that they were “home-grown” terrorists and security sources said they did not believe anyone else was involved in the incident.

David Cameron described the attack, which had chilling echoes of a plot to behead a soldier foiled in Birmingham in 2007, as “absolutely sickening”, but said that Britain will “never buckle” in the face of terrorism. This morning he will chair a meeting of the

Government’s Cobra emergency briefing committee to be updated on developments.

Speaking in Paris, where he had been meeting François Hollande, the French president, he said: “We have suffered these attacks before. We have always beaten them back. We have done that through a combination of vigilance, of security, of security information, good policing.

“But above all, the way we have beaten them back is showing an absolutely indomitable British spirit

that we will not be cowed, we will never buckle under these attacks. The terrorists will never win because they can never beat the values we

hold dear, the belief in freedom, in democracy, in free speech, in our British values, Western values. They are never going to defeat those. That is how we will stand up to these people, whoever they are,



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however many there are of them, and that is how we will win.”

He added that “every aspect” of security would be reviewed. After a Cobra meeting last night, chaired by Theresa May, the Home Secretary, security was tightened at all London barracks.

Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London who attended the meeting, said: “I know that Londoners have been through terrorism before and this city has huge resilience.

“What we also have is the best, the most professional security services and the best police in the world to protect us and they are now going to get to the bottom of exactly what’s happened.”

The Queen announced that she would go ahead with a planned visit to the King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery at Woolwich Barracks next week.

The murder appeared to have been planned to ensure maximum publicity, with the killers urging witnesses to take their picture “as if they wanted to be on TV”. One witness, identified only as James, said he and his partner watched in horror as they realised what they were seeing. He shouted at the men to stop, only for one of them to pull out a gun and threaten to shoot him.

After driving his car further up the road, he stopped and called the police, telling them to bring armed units.

He said: “These two guys are chopping this guy to pieces, literally hacking at something like it’s a bit of meat. These two guys were crazed, they were just animals. They then dragged the poor guy from the pavement and dumped his body in the middle of the road.



“They were standing there with the knives in their hand, waving the gun about. There were police at the end of the road but there were no police in the vicinity of the attackers. I think they were proud of what they were doing.”

Footage of the incident obtained by ITV News showed one woman crouched over the body of the dead soldier in an attempt to shield it from further attack. Three other women stood between the body and the killers.

The soldier killed in London’s Woolwich area yesterday was Lee Rigby, 25, a father of a 2-year-old boy. Rigby, described as “always smiling,” served as a machine gunner in Afghanistan, played in the military’s Corps of Drums and was a recruiter in London at the time of his death, the military says.

Joe Tallant, a van loader who lives near the scene, said: “My friend and her mum were walking up the hill and the mum came straight to the victim.

“She asked the black guys, ‘Can I help him?’ And one of them said he was already dead but she could have a go. Then one of them said, ‘No man is coming near this body, only women.’

“She was so brave, she didn’t care what happened to her; she knelt down by his side and comforted him. She held his hand and put her other hand on his chest.”

Mulgrave Primary School, just yards from the scene of the killing, went into “lockdown”. However, parents said some of the children had witnessed the attack.

The Muslim Council of Britain condemned the killing as a “truly barbaric” act with “no basis in Islam”.

A spokesman said: “We call on all our communities, Muslim and non-Muslim, to come together in solidarity to ensure the forces of hatred do not prevail.”

EDITOR’S COMMENT: British model, French model, Swedish model, Greek model – ALL multicultural models are falling apart, one after the other. Europe should reconsider its near future...

On the other hand a small **medical** observation: no blood on and around the victim, no blood splatter on the clothes of the murderer, not to mention the apathy of the people present during the incident. Add some strange markings on the asphalt of the incident site... We surely live in a dubious world!



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We must not overreact to Woolwich terror act, warns Clegg

Source: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/uk/we-must-not-overreact-to-woolwich-terror-act-warns-clegg-1.1405807>

Mr Clegg yesterday said knee-jerk security action is exactly the response wanted by Islamic terrorists, who want to “sow that corrosive seed of fear and division”.

“What they want is for governments and the authorities to overreact in their immediate reaction. What they want is for communities to turn inwards and away from each other. What they want, in short, is to spread fear,” he said.

Speaking at a hurriedly convened community gathering in Islington to condemn the Woolwich atrocity, Mr Clegg went on: “Fear is an extraordinarily powerful emotion and when fear takes root, all of us as individuals, we will avert our gaze from someone who we might be fearful of, who we weren’t before. We might cross the street away from an individual who we’re not so sure about.”

EDITOR’S COMMENT: How to comment on spineless governance? In Greece we know this quite well! Fear of losing the ministerial chair is so powerful...

COPYCAT?



French Soldier Stabbed In The Throat In Paris.. Police Seeking Man Of North African Origin.. Unclear If Connected To London Attack

May 25 – A French soldier was stabbed in the throat in a busy commercial district outside Paris on Saturday, and the government said it was trying to determine if there were any links to the brutal killing of a British soldier by suspected Islamic extremists. Last year, three French paratroopers were killed by a man police described as a French-born Islamic extremist who then went on to strike a Jewish school in the south of France, killing four more people.

Why terrorism is scaling down from big spectaculars to one-off horrors

By Trevor Royle

Source: <http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/home-news/why-terrorism-is-scaling-down-from-big-spectaculars-to-one-off-horrors.21181094>

Some security sources believe that last week's brutal murder was a sign of a growing frustration on the part of terrorists which itself is an indication of the growing success of the

tactics being used by the world's security agencies.

"Yes, it was a terrible thing to have happened and, yes, it grabbed the headlines, but it also told us



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an awful lot about the dynamics of those who are affiliated to fundamentalist groups," says a British security source.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult for them to mount the kind of spectacular operation that causes huge damage."

The same source claims that, while there will always be incidents such as the Woolwich attack or the recent Boston Marathon bombing, there has been a higher incidence of unreported detections, simply because access to realistic training has been cut off and opportunities for making attacks have become more limited.

Although it is recognised throughout the security and intelligence communities that total security is impossible, there is a belief that attacks such as those on 9/11 are now unlikely due to enhanced airport security and greater awareness of the dangers.

Intelligence has also improved. Western agencies have begun the long and extremely dangerous task of getting inside Islamic fundamentalist groups. This has been particularly true in Yemen where CIA operatives have enjoyed considerable success in infiltrating al-Qaeda affiliate groups, albeit with casualties on both sides.

Clearly, in the wake of violent incidents such as Woolwich and Boston, officialdom has a vested interest in playing up the positives but there is some truth in their claims that they are making gains in the global war against terrorists.

But there is also growing alarm about the high incidence of apparent one-offs. More than anything else, this begs the question about the motivation: Were those involved in the Woolwich murder and the Boston bombing self-starters, or had they been influenced by a larger grouping?

It is now clear that one of the men, Michael Adebolajo, was known to the security services and had a track record with links to al-Muhajiroun, a banned Islamic group, but so too

do many other young men in the UK. Not only is it almost impossible to keep watch on all such home-grown suspects but arresting them would achieve nothing – apart from breaking the current laws.

In any case, as security commanders have claimed down the years: those who try to guard everything end up guarding nothing.

A more fruitful line of inquiry will be the internet and how it is used to radicalise people in the safety of their own homes where they can surf the net on their computers apparently without fear of discovery. Islamic fundamentalist groups have been quick to exploit this medium – as have other potential or real terrorists – and it is a threat which is taken extremely seriously by the security services.

According to Lady Neville-Jones, a former Government security minister and chair of the British Joint Security Committee, the threat posed by the worldwide web will be the next battleground as the security forces attempt to keep one step ahead of potential terrorists.

"What we shouldn't forget is that even if there is nobody else behind it, one of the things which runs through the scene at the moment is the inspiration that comes from internet hate preaching and jihadist rhetoric and this is a very serious problem now," she said.

One measure would have been the Government's proposed Communications Data Bill, the so-called "snoopers' charter" which was abandoned last month following objections by the LibDem leader and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. Many people in the intelligence community believe the outline legislation is the only solution as it will provide a data base of people's mobile and internet usage.

As the security source quoted earlier said: "I think it's a huge mistake as this could provide us with serious intelligence. If people have nothing to hide, they have nothing to hide. End of story."

Trevor Royle is a Diplomatic Editor at The Herald (Scotland)

EDITOR'S COMMENT: This new approach sounds like "intelligence marketing"! But citizens-customers are not buying! And expect from those in high places to learn the "connecting-the-dots" game, better! There is no doubt that intelligence has improved. But what about sharing and trust. What about sharing between strong nations and no so strong? What about using intelligence in future planning that shape the world we know? Improve the product and make citizens happy through security. Fear will not sell for ever!



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The Leatherman Raptor: a multi-tool built to save lives

Source: <http://www.gizmag.com/leatherman-raptor-shears/25184/>

Having the right tool can make all the difference in a life-or-death situation, as multi-tool manufacturer,



Leatherman, knows full well. That's why the Oregon-based company's latest product is a pair of medical shears designed specifically for military and civilian emergency medics. The Raptor is equipped with a range of features and tools aimed at helping field medics get people out of dangerous situations and into proper medical care as quickly as possible.

Designers at Leatherman spent 18 months gathering feedback from EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) with a variety of backgrounds to develop and test the Raptor. The team was careful to only include tools specifically requested by the professionals they worked with, since having too many

tools could create potentially life-threatening confusion.

The shears themselves are composed of 420HC stainless steel and can have their tension adjusted to suit a user's needs. Additionally, the Raptor contains a strap cutter, oxygen tank wrench, 5 cm ruler, ring cutter, and carbide-tip glass breaker – almost anything a emergency responder



might need to free someone so they can be taken to safety. The handles are made of a glass-filled nylon, which can stand up to hot and cold conditions and provide a firm grip when wet with water or blood.

Since every second counts in a crisis, Leatherman also took portability and quick access into account. As such, the Raptor can fold almost in half into a more compact position with all the tools other than the medical shears themselves still easily accessible. It also comes with a molded sheath that holds the multi-tool whether it's open or folded and can be rotated and locked in place at a user's side, depending on their needs. The shears also have an optional pocket clip and lanyard for those who prefer to not use the sheath.

Looking at all the tools contained in this one small package, it's not hard to imagine plenty of scenarios where the Raptor could potentially save a life. Just the glass breaker and strap cutter alone could help an EMT free an injured person from a wrecked car. Hopefully that proves to be the case when the shears become available next year.

Leatherman plans to begin shipping the Raptor worldwide in spring of 2013 with a suggested retail price of US\$70.00.



CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – June 2013**The first Greek aircraft “Archon SF-1” in flight**

Sources:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rsveoo935Qo#!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ZVMSgwa46S8



Single-seated, ultra light (weights 200kg) with an engine of 46hp.



Police officers salute Kaiser before dog's laid to rest

Source: <http://www.metro.us/newyork/news/national/2013/06/02/police-officers-salute-kaiser-before-dogs-laid-to-rest/>



Kaiser, a 2-year-old German Shepherd who had severe kidney disease said his final goodbye to the Plymouth Police Department on Friday.

Kaiser was euthanized at the Court Street Animal Hospital in Plymouth, Mass. Officers of the police department lined up to salute Kaiser as he made his final journey.

According to an announcement on the Plymouth Police Working Dog Foundation's Facebook page by Kaiser's main handler, Officer Jamie LeBretton, Kaiser was diagnosed with severe kidney disease/failure "leaving his health to decline rapidly."

"Kaiser battled this disease with vigor and toughness like I have never seen before," Officer LeBretton wrote. "Kaiser taught me more about myself and my profession than I could have ever taught him. I feel privileged to have had a front row seat to witness his bravery and heroic actions while serving the people of Plymouth and my brothers and sisters in blue."

He was later buried at the Angel View Pet Cemetery in Middleboro, Mass., according to CBS Boston. "RIP my boy. I could not have asked for a better partner or friend. May you rest easy and wait for me at the sacred bridge," Officer LeBretton, Kaiser's main handler wrote in the Facebook post.

Kaiser was donated to the police department in March of 2011. He was just 5 months old at the time. Kaiser started training with Officer LeBretton in September 2011. The two graduated from K9 Patrol Academy together, according to the local Plymouth Patch.

According to reports, Kaiser was for criminal pursuit and apprehension, crowd control and disbursement, open area/Building searches and search for evident/article recovery. Members of the Plymouth community paid their respects to Kaiser on social media.

"Warm thoughts to Kaiser and his handler. Losing a furbaby is so hard, even more so when that furbaby is extra smart and willing to give his life for his partner," wrote Susan Yajko Morton on Facebook.

Another comment read, "So sorry Jamie, toughest decision in the world. Take comfort in the time you

Another comment read, "So sorry Jamie, toughest decision in the world. Take comfort in the time you

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had together and knowing you did all you could for Kaiser, as well as making his transition to a better place comfortable. "til you two are together again ... "

Muslim extremists hold Yorkshire prison officer hostage in Woolwich copycat attack

Source: <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/at-a-glance/general-news/muslim-extremists-hold-yorkshire-prison-officer-hostage-in-woolwich-copycat-attack-1-5714949>

Muslim extremist prisoners carried out an attack on a warder in a Yorkshire jail at the weekend, it was revealed this morning.

Three inmates held the warden hostage before

been sent to all staff in the prison service, said **the officer had been chosen by the three Muslim inmates because of his links to the Armed Forces.**

The email reads: "Three Muslim prisoners took an officer hostage in an office. Their demands indicated they supported radical Islamist extremism. "The officer taken was an ex-serviceman and, throughout the incident, threats were made to kill him."

The incident is now being investigated by counter-terrorism officers.

A Ministry of Justice spokesman said: "An incident involving three prisoners took place at HMP Full Sutton on 26 May from 4.25pm and was successfully resolved at 8.40pm after staff intervened. A police investigation is ongoing."

Newspaper reports initially claimed the attack was masterminded by the Muslim fanatic Parviz Khan, who is serving life a sentence for plotting to behead a British soldier, but a source said he was not being held at Full Sutton. Khan, from Birmingham, was jailed in 2008.



stabbing him during a four-hour stand-off with guards on Sunday afternoon.

Reports said the attack at Full Sutton prison in Yorkshire was inspired by last week's murder of Drummer Lee Rigby.

This morning it emerged that the victim was a former soldier. A leaked email, said to have

How Foreign Names Trip Up Terrorism Databases

Source: http://www.informationweek.com/big-data/news/software-platforms/how-foreign-names-trip-up-terrorism-data/240154159?goback=.gde_3675067_member_240512287

Law enforcement and intelligence agencies have many tools at their disposal to fight terrorism. But the most basic of mistakes, often the result of human error, can have deadly consequences. A suspected terrorist's name, for instance, may be spelled differently on various watch lists, an error that can make it difficult to identify and track a potentially dangerous individual.

Carl Hoffman, founder and CEO of Basis Technology, an 18-year-old text analytics software company based in Cambridge, Mass., sees this as a serious problem that needs to be addressed right away.

"Watch lists play a very important role in national security. We have an obligation to implement them as accurately as we can, and to build information systems that minimize the chance of human error," Hoffman said in a phone interview with *InformationWeek*.

He singled out two major watch lists as being particularly problematic. One is issued by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC); the other is the National Counter Terrorism Center's Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, also known as TIDE.



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"Both of those watch lists have serious architectural problems -- problems with the way the lists are implemented," said Hoffman, who stressed that he was speaking strictly from a linguistic and technological perspective.

As an example, Hoffman used the case of Nigerian citizen Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, popularly known as the "underwear bomber." Abdulmutallab was convicted of trying to detonate plastic explosives hidden in his underwear on a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day 2009.

"His name was placed on the TIDE watch list, and his name was present on other lists as well," said Hoffman. "But later when he became a subject of scrutiny, people who were looking for him were unable to find his name."

Why? "He had a very complex name, and an Arabic name," Hoffman recalled. "And when you translate a name from Arabic, as in the case of Abdulmutallab, into our writing system, that's a great opportunity for errors to be introduced."

When investigators and analysts translate names from a foreign language, there may be multiple translations. "And attempting to keep track of all the different spellings of a foreign name can lead to failed queries, and to look-ups being missed ... as definitely happened in the Abdulmutallab case," said Hoffman.

A similar situation may have occurred in last month's Boston Marathon bombing, where the key suspect's name, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, had multiple spellings on U.S. intelligence watch lists.

In January 2012, Tsarnaev's flight reservation for a six-month trip to Dagestan and Chechnya triggered a security alert to U.S. customs authorities, according to an April 24 article in *The New York Times*.

But his trip didn't set off a similar alert on the TIDE watch list "because the spelling variants of his name and the birth dates entered into the system -- exactly how the Russian government had provided the data months earlier -- were different enough from the correct information to prevent an alert," the *Times* reported.

Hoffman declined to speculate on the Tsarnaev case, saying it's too early to take a position on an ongoing investigation. He did say, however, that there are smarter methods of placing foreign names on watch lists, such as entering them in their original language, as well as in English.

"If you look at the Treasury Department's OFAC list, the only way a name goes on that list is after it has been translated into our writing system, namely the letters A through Z," said Hoffman.

"You have an opportunity to precisely select the name that you're looking for, even if that name is in Chinese, Arabic, Persian or whatever language. And then your database entry can capture that name, both in its original spelling, and (in) ... English."

The solution, Hoffman believes, is better implementation of software technology that exists today.

"You can't go blaming the analysts, investigators and cops," he said. "The burden lies with the information architects. And they need to know that it's possible to build watch lists and systems that index and catalog names, and to do it in a way that is multilingual."

He added: "Is the terrorist supposed to spell his name correctly when he's purchasing his plane ticket? Are investigators who've never heard the name of the guy, or who are hearing a tip over a telephone, supposed to know to spell a name like Abdulmutallab or Tsarnaev?"

Flames change the sound of a firefighters' personal safety alarm

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130602-flames-change-the-sound-of-a-firefighters-personal-safety-alarm>

The PASS, short for Personal Alert Safety System, has been used by firefighters for thirty years to help track members of their team who might be injured and need assistance to escape a fire. Though the alarm has saved many lives, there are cases in which the device is working correctly but is not heard or not

recognized. In one recent incident report from 2010, firefighters inside a burning building either did not hear or heard and then stopped hearing an alarm that was easily audible from outside the building.



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An Institute of Physics release reports that a team of mechanical engineers from the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), working with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), has been assessing whether flames might be partially responsible for these occurrences. The researchers will present their findings on how flames affect the sound of the PASS alarm at the 21st International Congress on Acoustics (ICA 2013) in Montreal, to be held 2-7 June 2013. “This study is the first time that the acoustics of

change,” Abbasi says. “We believe the effect will be magnified by larger fires,” he adds.

A potential reason for the merging of the calls is that flames can change the direction of a sound.

The release notes that fire is a very strong scatterer: a noise can bounce off of flames similar to the way it might ricochet off a wall, making it difficult for firefighters to determine from where the noise originated. Fire also creates a temperature gradient in a room, with hotter air at the top and cooler air at the bottom. Since sound travels faster through hot air, the merged sound of the PASS whistles might come from this speed discrepancy — an overlap between two or more paths of sound.

Though it is too soon to make specific recommendations for changes to the device, the team believes that increasing the overall volume beyond its current setting of 95 decibels (dB) will be helpful. (95 dB is about as loud as a jack hammer from 50 feet



the PASS device have been studied in this comprehensive a manner,” says Mustafa Abbasi, a UT Austin graduate student who will present the team’s work.

One aspect of the UT study involved making recordings of the PASS device in the presence of small, trash can-sized fires in a controlled laboratory setting. The team found that the development of the fire did indeed change the qualities of the alarm: just ten seconds after the fire was lit, the sound became muffled and quieter. And while the normal call of the device sounded like two distinct whistles one after the other, the fiery environment seemed to merge those two sounds into one. “It did not change beyond recognition but it was an audible

away.) The UT Austin team also plans to test other types of signals that might be less difficult to distinguish in a noisy fire environment that includes the noise from fire alarms, generators, chainsaws, fans, fire hoses, the fire itself, radio chatter, and fire truck engines.

In addition to experimenting with the PASS device, the UT Austin researchers are examining the impact of protective gear (such as helmets) on a firefighter’s ability to determine the source of sounds like a personal alarm or a rescue subject’s calls for assistance. A second presentation on this subject will be made by UT Austin graduate student Joelle Suits.

— Read more in Mustafa Z. Abbasi, “Measuring the acoustic response of a compartment fire” (a paper to be presented at the International Congress on Acoustics, Montreal, Canada, 6 June 2013)



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Turkish premier brands protesters extremists

By Birsan Altayli and Ayla Jean Yackley

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/03/uk-turkey-protests-idUKBRE94U0JA20130603>

Mon Jun 3, 2013

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan accused anti-government protesters on Monday of walking "arm-in-arm with terrorism", remarks that could further inflame public anger after three days of some of the most violent riots in decades.

Taksim Square. Barricades of rubble hindered traffic alongside the Bosphorus waterway and blocked entry into the area. Leftist groups hung out red and black flags and banners calling on Erdogan to resign and declaring: "Whatever happens, there is no going back."

In Ankara, protesters threw up a barricade in the Kizilay government quarter and lit a fire in



Hundreds of police and protesters have been injured since Friday, when a demonstration to halt construction in a park in an Istanbul square grew into mass protests against a heavy-handed crackdown and what opponents call Erdogan's authoritarianism. Protests have been held in dozens of cities.

The demonstrations showed no sign of abating on Monday with protesters gathering again in

the road as a helicopter circled overhead. Police charged demonstrators, mostly teenagers, and scattered them using tear gas and water cannon.

Erdogan has dismissed the protests as the work of secularist enemies never reconciled to the mandate of his AK party, which has roots in Islamist parties banned in the



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past but which also embraces centre-right and nationalist elements. The party has won three straight elections and overseen an economic boom, increasing Turkey's influence in the region.

"This is a protest organised by extremist elements," Erdogan said at a news conference



before departing on a trip to North Africa. "We will not give away anything to those who live arm-in-arm with terrorism."

"Many things have happened in this country, they've hanged, they've poisoned, but we will walk towards the future with determination and through holding onto our values," he added, an allusion to Turkey's murky past of military coups.

Turkey's leftist Public Workers Unions Confederation (KESK), which represents 240,000 members, said it would hold a "warning strike" on June 4-5 to protest over the crackdown on what had begun as peaceful protests.

The unrest delivered a blow to Turkish financial markets that have thrived under Erdogan. Shares fell more than 10 percent and the lira dropped to 16-month lows.

Since taking office in 2002, Erdogan has dramatically cut back the power of the army, which ousted four governments in the second half of the 20th century and which hanged and jailed many, including a prime minister. In 1997 Turkey's first Islamist government was eased from office by the military.

Hundreds of officers, including top generals, as well as journalists and intellectuals have been jailed over an alleged coup plot against Erdogan. The wind of change has swept also through the judiciary. Where Erdogan was jailed in the late 1990s for promoting Islamism by reciting a poem, a musician was recently

jailed for blasphemy after mocking religion in a tweet.

Erdogan said the protesters had no support in the population as a whole and dismissed any comparison with the 'Arab Spring' that swept nearby Arab states, toppling rulers long ensconced in power with the help of repressive security services.

His own tenure in office, with its economic and political reforms, was itself the "Turkish Spring", he suggested.

"Those in foreign media who talk about a Turkish Spring, we are already going through Turkish Spring, we have been living in it, and those who want to turn it into winter will not succeed."

He gave no indication he was preparing any concessions to protesters who accuse him of fostering a hidden Islamist agenda in a country with a secularist constitution.

Some object to new restrictions on alcohol sales and other steps seen as religiously motivated. Others complain of the costs of Erdogan's support of rebels in neighbouring Syria's civil war. Still



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others bear economic grievances, viewing the disputed development project in Taksim Square as emblematic of wild greed among those who have benefited from Turkey's boom. Walls around Taksim were plastered with cartoon posters of an image borrowed from a photograph, broadly disseminated on twitter, of a policeman spraying tear gas at a young woman in a red summer dress, her long hair

driven on by the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP).

"Rather than try to calm the situation ... some of Mr Erdogan's public statements about the protesters have added fuel to the fire," Robert O'Daly, Turkey Analyst at The Economist Intelligence Unit, said. "Mr Erdogan appears to have underestimated the mood in the country." There were signs some in the AK party did not



swept upwards by the draught of the spraygun. "The more they spray, the bigger we get," read the caption.

Western governments have promoted Erdogan's administration as a democratic Islamist model that could be copied elsewhere in the Middle East after the fall of authoritarian leaders. They have expressed concerns about human rights standards discreetly, but last weekend's events prompted the United States and the European Union to openly criticise police action.

Erdogan appeared to reject accusations of heavy handedness.

"We ... are behaving in a very restrained way," he said.

"Be calm, relax," he advised the public. "All this will be overcome."

"FUEL TO THE FIRE"

The protests had appeared to ease off on Saturday night, but were re-ignited by defiant comments by Erdogan on Sunday afternoon describing the protesters as "a few looters"

back Erdogan's view that the troubles were promoted by the hardline secularist CHP.

"The people on the street across Turkey are not exclusively from the CHP, but from all ideologies and all parties," senior CHP member Mehmet Akif Hamzacebi told Reuters. "What Erdogan has to do is not to blame CHP but draw the necessary lessons from what happened."

With strong support, especially in the conservative religious heartland of Anatolia, Erdogan seems safe for now.

He said plans would go ahead to re-make Taksim Square, long a rallying point for demonstrations, including construction of a new mosque and the rebuilding of a replica Ottoman-era barracks.

Protests have involved a broad spectrum in dozens of cities, from students to professionals, trade unionists, Kurdish activists and hardline secularists who see Erdogan seeking to overthrow the



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secularist state set up by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in 1923 in the ruins of the Ottoman Empire.

Erdogan remains the most popular politician, and pointed to his electoral mandate, won since 2002 on the virtual ruin of traditional

parties mired in corruption and mismanagement.

"The fact the AK Party has increased its votes at three elections in a row and has successfully won two referendums, shows how the people of this nation have embraced the AK Party," he said.

(Writing by Ralph Boulton; Editing by Nick Tattersall, Peter Graff and Giles Elgood)

Police Dog Figo Pays Lasts Respects To His Fallen Partner

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/31/figo-jason-ellis_n_3367374.html



A heartbreaking photo from the funeral of Kentucky K9 officer Jason Ellis is proof of the incredible bond between police dogs and their partners.

The 33-year-old officer was killed in a suspected ambush on Saturday and laid to rest soon after, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader. Ellis' canine partner, Figo, who worked with him to find drugs and illegal substances, kept a vigil beside his casket.

Respect



Jonathan Palmer / Lexington-Herald Leader

Police Chief Rick McCubbin told the Associated Press that Figo and Ellis were "true partners." The police dog has been retired and will live with Ellis' family.



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Craig Fugate Discusses How FEMA Has Changed (And What's Next)

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Craig-Fugate-FEMA-QA-2013.html>



Craig Fugate, administrator, FEMA. Photo by Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA

Craig Fugate took over as FEMA's administrator in May 2009, and has instituted many approaches to emergency management that have taken hold and helped push the U.S. to become better able to respond to and mitigate hazards. We talked with Fugate about those efforts and where improvements need to be made to develop more resilient communities.

Question: What are some of the biggest leaps that FEMA has made since you have been the administrator?

Answer: If anything, when I arrived at FEMA, we were still very much reactive to issues and not being proactive. My approach is that it doesn't get better with time. I would rather get the bad news out first and let people know where they are and move forward. It was almost as if our culture was that we didn't want to give people bad news so we oftentimes would delay answers. I would say, "Look, we owe people honest answers, and if the answer is yes, tell them yes. If the answer is no, tell them no, [and] if the answer is maybe, let's get to the right answer quickly — speed not haste." I want to speed up the response, and look at every step that we are introducing as to why it was taking us longer and longer to get things done and why it took us the time that it took to

make decisions and shorten it. The example is, when Sandy was making landfall and coming ashore, the president had already issued emergency declarations up and down the coast through the areas likely to be impacted. Some were not significantly impacted and others were devastated.

Not by any means am I saying that it was a perfect response, but we were able to speed up decision-making and response because we had started out clearly articulating that these were our authorities, these are our responsibilities and these are the actions that we can take within those to speed up that response.

When you look at what we were able to do [during and after Hurricane Sandy] and took all the tools from post-Katrina and we took the



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authority the president had in his declarations to issue them.

We were able to work with the federal partners to speed it up, and probably our biggest accomplishment was that we've sped up the response process. There is a lot of work still to be done, but I put a premium on getting the right answer fast. I want to speed this up, and I don't want haste. I want it right the first time, and it may take us a bit more to get that right answer, but what I don't want to do is get behind responses because we are waiting for information, we aren't certain of our authorities, we aren't sure of our ability to execute.

When a disaster happens, someone has to pay. How do we better equate FEMA responsibilities to what state and local governments are responsible for?

This comes back to the debate that we have had about the thresholds for disaster declarations. And the first thing is, there are a lot of disasters that are not declared and that are not covered by insured losses that local taxpayers and states pay for already; they already absorb this cost whether it is a direct or indirect cost.

The question is: Is the outcome here to reduce the federal taxpayer costs and is it just shifting them to the local and state taxpayer? What is the appropriate level of that, and are we building capacity so that states have a reasonable expectation of what the budgeting gets from their recurring disaster threats? But if you do get a disaster declaration, those funds go back to your first dollars at cost-share rates. So we want to look at how we adjust the shared responsibility at the state and local level with the federal government in such a way that it gives states more predictability. You can't predict the frequency of a disaster, but you should at least have a good expectation of what level you would expect federal assistance and what state and local governments need to be prepared for in the absence of a declaration.

What advice would you give to state and local government emergency managers to streamline the process and get the most bang for their buck?

When you are in budget-cutting mode, it is very seductive to cut incrementally hoping that that's the last cut you are going to make and that next year won't be as bad. That next year, if your budget requires further cutting, you are

having to do more cuts and not really being strategic. Let's define the outcome the organization is responsible for.

Many of us have organizations that have been built over time and with the increased pressure of budget reductions, we don't necessarily get to change the outcomes. Doing more with less sometimes translates into doing less with less. So I think that what we are trying to do at FEMA is really focus on what is the outcome, what are the legal obligations that we have and what are the requirements that Congress addressed that we shall perform and not start with the current organization but know where we are going and the resources we have.

If we were to start from scratch, how would we achieve that outcome? I think that in some cases when you are doing budget reductions you oftentimes hit tipping points where you make incremental cuts, where if you knew this was going to be your trend over the next four to five years, you would have done it differently. And we want to start out with a question and how would you do it differently? The cuts may not be as severe and the cuts may stop, but a better question is: Are we optimized to do this the most efficient way possible? Free up resources for other needs versus just saying, "I need to come up with another 5 percent cut this year, so I am going to cut your travel." Maybe the outcome that I am trying to achieve could be done differently than just looking at incremental cuts, maybe it is structurally.

As technology overtakes past practices, that allows me to optimize this and free up resources for other programs, or absorb impacts and budget cuts without necessarily changing the outcome by changing how I do it. I think too often we start with a question about how we do stuff and never talk about the outcome. So you can end up over time, making cuts that are not sustainable and erode your capability, and you find yourself doing less with less.

I think that as local and state officials go through cuts, you need to look at this as a multi-year process and not just each year you make a cut and hope that it isn't as bad next year. You really need to answer the question, given where we are and where we're going: Are we optimized to do our mission, and if we are going to sustain further cuts, would it still look like it does today? Would we still do it the way we are doing it



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and are we willing to make the changes necessary to continue to achieve the outcome, but not necessarily doing it the way we have always done it?

Have you seen any positive changes in terms of citizen preparedness?

I think the general assumptions for most people is we are not really moving the dime there. But there was a recent survey done about mitigation and it was about should people be required to build back and elevate their homes in flood zones and 70 percent of [about 700] survey respondents said yes. Now I don't think that 70 percent of people were impacted by the disaster facing those costs, but I think there is a growing awareness that disasters are not just something governments are supposed to respond to — they are a shared responsibility. It is getting out the perception that the public is going to have ownership of getting prepared, and the next step that I still think in our challenge is, how do we get people to understand that it is a shared responsibility? And it isn't just about government, it is about all of us doing what we are supposed to be doing to get our families and ourselves ready.

What are areas you think FEMA can improve in?

Looking at how we are putting together our workforce. One recurring issue that we have yet to successfully resolve is how to get the right staff into the disaster areas quickly without having to depend upon a lot of people deploying and then rotating them out to bring in other people. And what we find is, in certain things such as public assistance, the quicker we get a stable workforce for the duration that

can take ownership of the complex work that needs to be done, the more consistency that we get in the answers. We think that this has two parts. One is getting our program guidance cleared so that we have repeated results from multiple people looking at the same program, but also making sure that the people deployed early are deploying for the long term and have the core competencies to execute. Public assistance can be very complicated and challenging in some aspects, and a constant issue is the inconsistency in the application of the program or when staff rotate out oftentimes having to start over on projects. So we are again looking at with Sandy, how do we structure ourselves with our resources to get people in early enough who will be there for the duration of these key projects without having to rotate people after a couple of weeks to a couple of months. They build rapport and working relationships with local officials to work on very complex problems, but when new staff come in, they almost have to start over from scratch.

What's the four-year goal for FEMA?

It has really been the area that we have been focusing on and that's the catastrophic disaster response and focusing on those best practices, such as the storms that we can see coming, but also earthquakes and terrorist attacks. How do we build national capacity — and not just FEMA's capacity — incorporate that into an effective response, leverage the investments that were made in homeland security grants, leverage what state and local governments do every day, and leverage our National Guard and other resources.

TSA can't justify costs of screening behavior

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/flights/2013/06/05/tsa-behavior-screening/2392255/>

The Transportation Security Administration can't ensure that its behavior-detection program is objective or cost-effective, according to a watchdog report released Wednesday.

TSA's program, Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT), which now has 2,800 workers, began in 2007 and has so far cost \$878 million. The program's goal is to spot potential terrorists through behavioral clues, but it has been criticized for possible racial profiling.

The Department of Homeland Security's inspector general said in a 41-page report released Wednesday that the TSA doesn't effectively assess the program or have a comprehensive training program.

"As a result, TSA cannot ensure that passengers at United States airports are screened objectively, show that the program is cost-effective or reasonably justify the program's expansion," according to the report from Anne



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Richards, assistant inspector general for audits.

In a written reply to the inspector general's



report, TSA Administrator John Pistole said the agency was working to deal with the concerns before the audit began and that no significant concerns remain.

TSA finalized a mission statement, goals and objectives for the program in December 2012 after auditors visited, he said. The agency also finalized performance measurements in November 2012, he said.

"TSA believes the passengers at U.S. airports are screened by (behavior-detection officers) in an objective manner," Pistole said. The program "is effective and has been validated and determined to identify substantially more high-risk travelers than a random screening protocol."

But Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the top Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee, who requested the audit, said the report deals another blow to the TSA's efforts to detect suspicious behavior. He said he would offer an amendment this week to the department's spending bill to prevent more funding for the "failed and misguided effort."

"After five years, approximately \$1 billion spent, a history of racial profiling allegations and a lack of measurable results – this report makes it clear that the SPOT program has not improved aviation security and has wasted taxpayer dollars that could have been spent on proven safety measures," Thompson said.

The TSA program grew out of techniques developed at Boston's Logan Airport with

Massachusetts state police. The program now primarily has behavior-detection officers chat with passengers waiting in security lines, and

then referring any exhibiting suspicious behavior for secondary screening or to law enforcement officers.

TSA doesn't reveal what suspicious behavior will trigger additional screening. But security experts say shifty eyes and sweating are among the traits that raise suspicions.

From October 2011 through September 2012, the program resulted in 199 arrests, typically for outstanding

warrants, suspected drugs and immigration status.

But the inspector general reviewed 110,000 referral records from 2009 through 2012 and found 7,019 that didn't identify the officer involved, 1,194 that didn't meet the criteria for a referral and 143 that didn't contain an airport code for where the referral was made.

"As a result, TSA cannot ensure that training contributes to the uniform screening of passengers," the inspector general report said. TSA began in May a year-long process to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the referral reports. That followed a January move to provide refresher training for all behavior-detection officers by the end of the year.

TSA said in a statement that studies involving outside researchers found that these officers were nine times more likely to identify a high-risk traveler than random selections for more screening.

"TSA's behavior detection program is a critical part of our approach to securing travel," the agency said in a statement Wednesday. "Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques allows officers to identify specific behavior clues that have been proven through research, science and decades of law enforcement experience to be reliable indicators and predictors of anomalous or suspicious behavior."



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The 25 experts will during three days crosscheck existing and planned military capabilities against the threats and challenges described in the four scenarios. This will allow them to gain experiences in order to identify decisive points and possible measures to take. Most importantly in the framework of the CDP, they will be able to identify EU's long-term capability trends in order to timely make the necessary decisions on capability development. The final results of the war game will be presented to Member States in autumn 2013.

After a stupid question of mine...

By the Editor



Support
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Few days ago I was connected with a nurse on LinkedIn. I asked her about the status of CBRNE preparedness/training in their organization. She e-mailed me the link of their hospital and services provided. I felt so stupid asking about exotic threats the moment all these people so close to civilization but so far away from our humanity, thrive to survive on daily basis... **Please support them if you can!**

Would you like to Volunteer? Email them at volunteer@haiticlinic.org or leave a message at 772-497-6780.

If you are interested in **donating supplies, planning a fundraiser** or all other inquiries please contact our Executive Director, Jennifer Tossie at jennifer@haiticlinic.org or call 754-235-6584.





So much for man's best friend

Iran bans dog-walking in public and warn animals could be 'arrested' if caught outside

- Dog walking in public and driving them in cars set to be prohibited in Iran
- Also banned in 2011 as Iranians with dogs were 'blindly imitating the West'
- In Iran, dogs are considered unclean and only working dogs are tolerated

Red Cross Mobile Apps

Source: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps>

Tornado App



Get your family and home ready for a tornado with the official Tornado App from the American Red Cross. The Tornado app puts everything you need to know prepare for a tornado – and all that comes with it – in the palm of your hand. Download it directly from the iTunes or Google Play app stores.

Hurricane App



Monitor conditions in your area or throughout the storm track, prepare your family and home, find help and let others know you are safe even if the power is out – a must have for anyone who lives in an area where a hurricane may strike or has loved ones who do.

Shelter Finder App



The Red Cross Shelter Finder is available in the iTunes store and works on iOS devices. The Shelter Finder displays open Red Cross shelters and their current population on an easy to use map interface.

First Aid App



The official American Red Cross First Aid app puts expert advice for everyday emergencies in your hand. Available for iPhone and Android devices, the official American Red Cross First Aid app offers videos, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step advice it's never been easier to know first aid.



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Earthquake App



Be ready for an earthquake with Earthquake by American Red Cross. Get notified when an earthquake occurs, prepare your family and home, find help and let others know you are safe even if the power is out – a must have for anyone who lives in an earthquake-prone area or has loved ones who do.

Wildfire App



Be ready for wildfires with the official Red Cross wildfire app. "Blaze Warnings" lets you see where NOAA has issued wildfire warnings, "Blaze Alerts" notify you when a new wildfire occurs and the "Blaze Path Tracker" gives you a current view of the wildfire's track and perimeter. You can also let loved ones know that you are safe even if the power is out and learn what steps you should take to prepare your family, home and pets – all from the palm of your hand.

FloodSax Sandless Sandbags

Source: <http://www.floodsax.us.com/>

FloodSax before soaking



FloodSax 3 mins after soaking



Home Pack

Starts at 200 grams

When energized can hold up to 13 litres of water

Commercial Pack

Starts at 200 grams

When energized can hold up to 22 litres of water

FloodSax is a unique sandless sandbag that can save you time, money, even lives versus traditional sandbags. Plus, because it absorbs water, it can do things sandbags could never do.

FloodSax uses a biodegradable polymer to absorb water, then block it. Delivered as a flat one-pound sack, they absorb up to 45 pounds of fresh water in five minutes, forming a dense gel that blocks and redirects water, while forming to each other or adjacent structures for a tighter fit than traditional sandbags. Because they are stored dry, they are cleaner, lighter, more effective and easier to use in the places and times when sandbags are most needed.

FloodSax save you money and time through all stages of sandbag usage: storage, deployment, usage and cleanup

What would happen if all satellites stopped working?

By Richard Hollingham

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20130609-the-day-without-satellites/all>

We don't always realise how much we depend on satellites orbiting our planet. Our space correspondent imagines the impact on the planet if we completely lost transmission.

Unless space debris is actively tackled, some satellite orbits will become extremely

hazardous over the next 200 years, a new study suggests.

We may not always realise it, but we depend on space technology orbiting the Earth. So what would happen if it all stopped working?



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At a recent international conference on “space hazards”, I listened to a series of speakers outline doomsday scenarios. These included a massive solar storm disrupting satellite communications, a cyber attack partially disabling the GPS system, and debris knocking out Earth-monitoring satellites.

Threats to this space infrastructure are real, and governments around the world are beginning to think seriously about improving the resilience of the systems we rely on. To focus their thoughts, and with a nod to that pioneer of threats from space, Orson Welles, here is what might happen if we suddenly encountered a day without satellites...

08:00

There was nothing sudden. Planes did not fall



out of the sky, the lights didn't go out or the water supplies fail. At least, not at first.

Some things did stop working straightaway but, for most people, they were more an inconvenience than anything else. The loss of television satellites meant that many families missed the cheery rehearsed smiles of breakfast TV presenters, and were forced to talk to each other over their cereal instead. There were no foreign correspondents on the radio, no results of the latest international sports fixtures.

But outside, the loss of global satellite communications was putting the world in danger. At a bunker somewhere in the United States, a pilot squadron lost contact with the armed drones they were flying over the Middle

East. The failure of secure satellite communications systems left soldiers, ships and aircraft cut off from their commanders and vulnerable to attack. Without satellites, world leaders struggled to talk to each other to diffuse mounting global tensions.

Meanwhile, over the Atlantic, thousands of passengers watched movies, oblivious to the difficulties on the flight deck as pilots struggled to talk to air traffic control. Without satellite phones, container ships in the Arctic, fishermen in the China Sea and aid workers in the Sahara found themselves isolated from the rest of the world.

As people started work in their offices in Tokyo, Shanghai, Moscow, London and New York, they found it difficult to talk to colleagues in other countries. Email worked and the internet

seemed okay, but many international phone calls failed. The rapid communications systems that tied the world together were unravelling. Rather than shrinking, it seemed as if the Earth was getting larger.

11:00

As presidents and prime ministers gathered their crisis teams, a new threat to global stability began to emerge: the loss of the Global Positioning System (GPS). As far as most of us were concerned, GPS helped us travel from A to B without getting hopelessly lost along the way. It had transformed the lives of delivery companies, helped emergency services reach



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incidents much quicker, allowed planes to land on isolated runways and enabled trucks, trains, ships and cars to be tracked and traced. But GPS turned out to be much more pervasive in our lives than many of us could possibly have realised.

GPS satellites are little more than highly accurate atomic clocks in space, transmitting a time signal back to Earth. Receivers on the ground – in your car or smartphone for instance – pick up these time signals from three or more satellites. By comparing the time signal from space with the time in the receiver – the receiver can calculate how far away the satellite is.

But there are plenty of other uses for these accurate time signals from space. Uses that, it emerged, our society had become increasingly reliant on. Our infrastructure is held together by time – from time stamps on complex financial transactions to the protocols that hold the internet together. When the packets of data passing between computers get out of sync, the system starts to break down. Without accurate time, every network controlled by computers is at risk. Which means almost everything.

When the GPS signals stopped, back-up systems (employing accurate clocks on the ground) kicked in. But, within a few hours, time had started to slip. A fraction of a second in Europe, compared to the US; a tiny difference between India and Australia. The cloud began to fail, web searches became slower, the internet started to grind to a halt. The first power cuts came later in the evening, as transmission networks struggled to balance demand. At computerised water treatment works, engineers switched to manual back-up systems. In major cities, traffic lights and railway signals defaulted to red, bringing transport to a standstill. Mobile phone services, already patchy, finally failed in the late afternoon.

16:00

By this time, aviation authorities reluctantly decided to ground commercial aircraft. The loss of satellite communications and GPS had already seen a majority of flights cancelled, but it was a more mundane failure that proved to be the final straw: the weather.

Although meteorological balloons, ground and ship observations were still important, forecasting had become increasingly reliable

and reliant on satellites. Retailers used weather data to order the right foods – no point in stocking up on meats for the barbeque if the outlook was gloomy. Farmers relied on forecasts for planting, spraying and harvesting. The aviation industry needed forecasts to make decisions that would affect the lives of passengers.

Aircraft are fitted with radar to detect bad weather or other sources of turbulence, but they take note of constant updates from the ground. These “nowcasts” allow them to keep track of weather patterns developing and act accordingly. These are particularly important over the oceans, where observations from ships are sparse.

If passengers on trans-Atlantic flights had known this, then they would have thought twice before boarding. Without weather satellite data, a storm system developing rapidly over the ocean was missed and the aircraft flew straight into it. The severe turbulence experienced by passengers left several injured and the remainder badly traumatised by the experience. But at least they got to complete their journey. Around the world, other travellers were stranded thousands of miles from home.

22:00

By now, the full impact of what would become known as “the day without satellites” had become apparent. Communications, transport, power and computer systems had been severely disrupted. Global business had ground to a halt and governments were struggling to cope. Politicians were warned that food supply chains would soon break down. With fears of a breakdown in public order, governments introduced emergency measures. If the disruption continued then each day would bring new challenges. There would be no more satellite data showing the health of crops, illegal logging in the Amazon or Arctic ice cover. Satellites used to produce images and maps for rescue workers responding to disasters would be missed, as would the satellites producing long-term records of climate. It was a tribute to the space industry that we could take all this for granted, but it was only when the satellites were lost that anyone noticed...

So, could all this happen? Only if everything failed at once, and that is unlikely. What is certain is that the infrastructure we all rely on



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has become increasingly dependent on space technology. And that without satellites, the

world would be a very different place.

Richard Hollingham is a science journalist and presenter of the Space Boffins podcast. He edits Space:UK magazine for the UK Space Agency, commentates on launches for the European Space Agency and is a science presenter for BBC radio.

Russia faces security challenges at Sochi Olympics

By Vladimir Isachenkov and Sergei Venyavsky (Associated Press)

Source: <http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/story/22555536/russia-faces-security-challenges-at-sochi-olympics>

Drones hovering overhead, robotic vehicles roaming Olympic venues to search for explosives, high-speed patrol boats sweeping the Black Sea coast - Russian officials say they will be using cutting-edge technology to make sure the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi will be

The Sochi games are the first Olympics in history that are almost on the doorstep of an active insurgency whose members could potentially try to "upstage the games with some kind of attack, which would provide a kind of bad PR for the Russian government," said

Matthew Henman, a senior analyst at Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center in London.

Potential assailants could disrupt the games even with scarce resources, he said, pointing at the recent Boston Marathon explosions, where two shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs killed three people and injured more than 260 in April.

"You don't need an awful lot of expertise to create primitive but largely effective explosive devices," Henman said.

The elder of the two ethnic Chechen brothers from Russia who are accused of staging the Boston bombings spent six months last year in the restive Russian province of Dagestan, which lies about 500 kilometers (300 miles) east of Sochi, about



"the safest Olympics in history."

But intelligence analysts and regional experts say an Islamic insurgency raging across the North Caucasus mountains that tower over the seaside resort of Sochi presents daunting threats. Despite the deployment of tens of thousands of Russian troops, police officers and private guards equipped with high-tech gadgetry, the simmering unrest in the Caucasus could put President Vladimir Putin's pet project at risk.

the distance between Boston and Philadelphia. Russian investigators have been trying to determine whether he had contact with local Islamic militants.

Dagestan has become the center of the insurgency that spread across Russia's North Caucasus region after two separatist wars in the 1990s in neighboring Chechnya. Rebels seeking to carve out a caliphate, or Islamic state, in the region have targeted



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police and other officials in near-daily shootings and bombings.

"The Caucasus poses a threat because the situation there isn't fully controlled," said Alexei Malashenko, a Caucasus expert with the Carnegie Endowment's Moscow office. "It's unclear who could deal a blow, and how and where."

Police, security and medical personnel in Sochi have conducted dozens of drills to train for potential threats. In the most recent exercise at the end of May hundreds of police officers, rescue workers and ambulance crews responded to various emergency scenarios.

"We conduct training to respond to a broad range of terror threats, like explosives at Olympic facilities or an attack by a group of criminals," said Sarkis Pogosian of the Russian Emergencies Ministry's branch in southern Russia. More than 50 such exercises have been conducted in the past 18 months, according to the Interior Ministry.

The drills have highlighted several logistical problems that could make it hard for rescue workers to respond quickly.

Nikolai Vasilyev of Sochi's search and rescue service, who took part in the latest maneuvers, said the exercises have been relatively small-scale and a bigger real-life challenge could prove daunting. He said it would be hard for rescue crews to arrive quickly by road because of Sochi's chronic traffic jams. The few rescue helicopters the service has would be of little help if there were a large number of casualties.

"It would be practically impossible for ambulances and our vehicles to get to an Olympic facility," Vasilyev said. "We can only hope that everything goes forward smoothly."

Vasilyev said authorities need to reserve designated lanes for ambulances and other emergency services, create a network of mobile hospitals near Olympic facilities and remove parking lots cluttering the access to sports venues.

Security always has been tight in Sochi, where Putin has a presidential residence that he uses often and where he frequently hosts visiting foreign leaders.

The government has further beefed up security before the games, which officially begin Feb. 7.

It has deployed 25,000 police officers and thousands of other military and security personnel to protect the city, patrol Olympic facilities, screen incoming vehicles and X-ray construction materials for explosives.

The Defense Ministry has sent a special forces brigade of battle-hardened veterans of the Chechen wars and other conflicts to patrol the forested mountains forming Sochi's scenic background.

The government also has spent big on security equipment, providing security forces with drones, robotic vehicles to search for and defuse mines and new high-speed patrol boats.

But Russia's recent history shows that security cordons aren't always effective.

Insurgents in the Caucasus have mounted a number of large-scale terror attacks in Russia. They include a 2002 hostage-taking raid on a Moscow theater in which 129 hostages died - most from the effects of the narcotic gas that Russian special forces pumped in to incapacitate the attackers.

In 2004, militants from Chechnya took more than 1,000 people hostage at a school in the southern city of Beslan. More than 330 people died in that attack, more than half of them children.

There also have been numerous bombings in Moscow and other cities, including attacks at a Moscow airport and on a high-speed rail line to St. Petersburg. In those attacks, the assailants drove long distances across Russia with weapons and explosives, using ruses or bribes to pass through numerous police checkpoints.

Corruption is deeply ingrained in many aspects of Russian society. But Elena Panfilova, the head of Transparency International Russia, a corruption watchdog, said federal authorities will likely make every possible effort to squelch it within the Sochi security force.

"People in charge of security there are aware of the practice, and they will make sure that the personnel there are disciplined in such a way that they wouldn't even think about it," she said.

Endemic poverty and unemployment in the North Caucasus and brutal tactics used by Russian security forces to quash the rebellion have helped



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swell the ranks of militants. In Dagestan in particular, the rebellion has turned into a lucrative industry, with many of the gangs associated with ethnic and business clans dividing generous federal subsidies and waging turf battles.

After seeing Dagestan slide into violence for years, Putin in January replaced the provincial leader with a Kremlin stalwart. Earlier this month, SWAT teams from Moscow backed by armored vehicles arrested the mayor of the provincial capital on murder charges and flew him out in a military helicopter to dodge his private army of several hundred bodyguards.



The mayor, Said Amirov, had been seen as the most influential figure in Dagestan and the second-most powerful man in the entire Caucasus behind the Moscow-backed strongman in neighboring Chechnya. In a wheelchair for the past 20 years after one of the 15 assassination attempts against him, Amirov had amassed extensive power and wealth, and had been accused by some of links with the rebels.

Some analysts said Putin took a gamble with Amirov's arrest, which could open the door for even greater instability.

"It's risky, and it may have the opposite effect because thousands stood behind Amirov," said Carnegie's Malashenko.

Denis Sokolov, the head of the Caucasus Center of Project Solutions, an independent Moscow-based think tank, said while Amirov's arrest created risks by sharply upsetting the

regional balance of power, he and his supporters might try to hunker down.

"The main tactics of Amirov and his clan would be to try to minimize their losses, not to engage in an open confrontation," Sokolov said. "The regional elites who risked such a confrontation would be doomed to destruction."

Malashenko said while the Kremlin has moved to bring Dagestan's local government back under control, security agencies could also try to make informal deals with rebel leaders to make sure they pose no threat to the Olympics. Doku Umarov, a widely-known Chechen rebel leader, has claimed responsibility for a number

of other recent attacks, including a January 2011 suicide bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo airport that killed 37 people and injured more than 180. Since then, Russia has seen no major terror attacks outside the Caucasus. Umarov said last year that he told his men to avoid hitting civilian targets because Russians in Moscow have risen up against Putin in a series of mass protests.

Many militant cells in the Caucasus have become increasingly integrated into local politics and business and could have a vested interest in seeing the Sochi Games go off without disruption.

Still, they are not the only terror networks around.

Henman, the Jane's analyst, said other terror groups - like the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, who have trained along the



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Pakistan-Afghan border- could also plot a strike on Sochi.

Just last week in Moscow's suburbs, Russian security services arrested several suspects with roots in Russia who they said had come from Afghanistan to conduct terror attacks in the capital.

Malashenko said Islamic militants from the Caucasus who have fought alongside Syrian rebels could also come back and try to strike Russia for its support of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"They are gaining combat experience and getting angry at Russia down there," he said.

The chief of Russia's top KGB successor agency said last week that 200 militants from Russia are fighting alongside Syrian rebels and acknowledged they could be a threat when they return.

Malashenko also warned that organized rebel cells may pose less of a threat than potential "lone wolf" assailants like the ethnic Chechen brothers suspected in the Boston attack.

"Lone attackers like those in Boston are the most dangerous ones," he said.

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