

PKK leader: British run Kurdish terrorism

by Joseph Brewda

Abdullah Ocalan, the founder of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) who is on trial for treason in Turkey, testified on June 1-3 that the terrorist insurgency which he has been leading since 1984, and which has killed more than 30,000 people, has been run by Britain, with the help of several other European states. Ocalan was arrested by Turkish authorities in Nairobi, Kenya in February, after his flight from his safe-haven in Italy in January.

“Britain has a deep Kurdish policy,” Ocalan said on June 2, in explaining why the British have been his sponsor. “This has been going on for 150 years. This country protects some, and spends some. I believe that they have strong manipulative tendencies, and are pursuing a deliberate Kurdish policy in this way. Britain wants the Kurds to remain a problem for Turkey.”

Ocalan further admitted to receiving political, military, and logistical support, as well as safe-haven, from Germany, the Netherlands, France, Yugoslavia, Greece, Cyprus, Syria, and Lebanon.

Ocalan attempted to justify his actions by claiming that Turkey is planning to seize the Kurdish regions of northern Iraq, which nation is breaking apart as a result of the 1991 Gulf War, the continuing embargo, and Anglo-American patronage of the Iraqi Kurds. But he also said that Britain is also behind this breakup plan, which he said he opposed. “Britain has given the ‘green light’ to the Iraq issue since 1993,” he said. “In the past, Britain possessed Mosul and Kirkuk [in northern Iraq] after a similar game. Now, the developments in northern Iraq and the interest shown in the Kurdish problem, are indications of a design to play the same game.”

Ocalan’s admissions corroborate *EIR*’s numerous reports (for example, see “Levy Sanctions on Britain for Harboring Terrorists!” April 4, 1997) showing that London is the real controller of terrorist gangs which the United States and Britain falsely blame on various “rogue states.” His statements also corroborate *EIR* charges that Britain has deployed the PKK to weaken or break apart Turkey, Iraq, and Iran, and to spread new wars in the region.

Humanitarians shut up

Commenting on these dramatic revelations, Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said on June 2 that they “clearly disclosed what kind of international conspiracy Turkey has been faced with for years.” He added, “It is also a source of

embarrassment for some certain countries, which are trying to teach us lessons pertaining to human rights, democracy, and becoming civilized.”

For its part, the British government chose to impose a blackout. “The British Embassy in Ankara announced that it was wrong to comment on a trial still in progress, and that they had no intention of intervening in Turkey’s domestic issues,” the Turkish daily *Akram* dryly noted on June 3, adding that “the British media did not cover the Ocalan trial very much yesterday, and Ocalan’s statements against Britain were censured.” Instead, *Akram* said, “the British media are highly critical of Ocalan’s cowardice.”

The British-loving U.S. press hasn’t covered Ocalan’s revelations either. But they have beaten the drum against Turkish suppression of human rights, with the *Washington Post* editorially demanding on June 7 that Turkey use the occasion of the trial to cut a deal with the PKK, if it wishes to show the West that it cherishes “humane democratic values.”

The European controllers

In describing the inner workings of his organization, Ocalan lashed out at the British and German governments, which, he charged, have been planning to dump him as the PKK’s leader, and replace him with his factional rival, Kani Yilmaz, the western European leader of the PKK. “After I left Syria [in October 1998], Germany’s policy toward me developed toward not wanting me,” he charged. “Indeed, Germany moved in the direction of finding another man to replace me.” He emphasized that “Kani Yilmaz was arrested in London for no reason in 1994. He was extradited to Germany after being held under arrest for four years.” But then, he added, “Germany released him, and granted him political asylum. This sequence of events is a sign that Germany and Britain are contemplating replacing me with Yilmaz.”

Under cross-examination, Ocalan confessed that his main contact in British intelligence has been Lord Avebury, chief of the House of Lords Human Rights Committee, who steers the PKK and other insurgencies in the Middle East and Asia. But, Ocalan denied prosecution charges that he paid Avebury £40,000 for his numerous diatribes against Turkey. “The Lord is very rich,” Ocalan corrected the prosecution on June 3. “He should have given it to us.”

Ocalan also reported that his primary go-between with the German government has been former Christian Democratic Union Sen. Heinrich Lummer, who struck a deal with him in 1995 to give the PKK safe-haven there.

Additionally, Ocalan reported that the PKK has had friendly ties with Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of French President François Mitterrand, who works closely with Lord Avebury on the Kurdish insurgency project, and who has been lobbying hard to gain support for the PKK in the U.S. Congress. “It is true she has relations” with us, Ocalan said, noting her longtime association with the PKK’s French leader, Kendal Nezan.