

quility of their minds!”

The “lion’s mouth” refers to the box, shaped as a lion’s head with his mouth open into which Venetian tattletales could drop anonymous accusations about their neighbors. The target of the gossip might later be found floating in the canal, and the oligarchy ran the state through the corrupt self-policing of the population.

The TV viewer now sees good old Ed McMahon soothingly call a political spy apparatus, “protecting freedom.”

Abraham Lincoln might have been responding to this fraud, when he asked, “How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg?” He answered, “Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn’t make it a leg.”

Lincoln warned against the loss of American freedom under the public delusion of a falsified foreign threat:

“No foreign power or combination of foreign powers could by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us it must spring from among us, it cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen we must live through all time or die of suicide.”

Ashcroft’s DOJ Wages Jihad Against Muslim Americans

by Edward Spannaus

Federal agents, acting at the behest of Attorney General John Ashcroft and a multi-agency Federal task force, raided at least 15 offices and homes in northern Virginia on March 20-21, belonging to Islamic institutions and leaders which are universally described as moderates within the Islamic community in the United States.

The raids are part of a pattern, of targetting and disruption of the Islamic community, which is Ashcroft’s own personal contribution to the “war of civilizations” which the actual, domestic, authors of the Sept. 11 attacks hoped to detonate. Despite President Bush’s early efforts to reach out to the Muslim community after Sept. 11, the Justice Department has launched a campaign of dragnets, mass detentions, raids, and interrogations, which Ashcroft openly acknowledges are aimed at disruption of what he calls “potential terrorist networks,” rather than any legitimate law-enforcement purpose.

The raids came on the same day that Ashcroft announced that the Justice Department was going after another 3,000 men, mostly Muslims, for “interviews” about terrorism.

These are mostly young men who had entered the United States on visitors’ visas, and who had lived in countries where al-Qaeda is said to have a presence. “The individuals to be interviewed are not suspected of any criminal activity,” Ashcroft cavalierly admitted.

This is a follow-up to the first round of interrogations of 4,800 Middle Eastern men; the Justice Department has admitted that those interviews did not result in any arrests linked to Sept. 11. And this is in addition to the hundreds of Arab and Muslim men detained, and often held incommunicado, in the aftermath of Sept. 11; it is generally acknowledged that these detentions and interrogations also produced no evidence directly related to the Sept. 11 attacks.

Northern Virginia Raids

The March 20-21 northern Virginia raids, carried out at gunpoint in both offices and private homes, resulted in no arrests, and no criminal charges; but large quantities of records were seized, and occupants of the facilities and homes were intimidated and interrogated by Federal agents as their premises were being ransacked.

The officially stated purpose of the raids was to gather evidence pertaining to the funding of terrorism. The evidence described in the search warrant as being sought, focussed heavily on the World Islamic Studies Enterprise (WISE), a think-tank based in Tampa, Florida, and loosely affiliated with the University of South Florida (USF).

One of the names listed in the search warrant was that of the first director of WISE, Khalil Shikaki, a highly respected Palestinian-based pollster who works with Hebrew University in Israel, and who recently had an article published in the New York Council on Foreign Relations’ journal *Foreign Affairs*.

The founder of WISE was a USF professor of computer engineering, Sami Al-Arian, who was first singled out by “investigative journalist” Steve Emerson, the Mellon Scaife and Olin Foundation-backed Mossad leaker, whose 1994 PBS documentary film, “Jihad in America,” was an early propaganda piece for the Clash of Civilizations and the war on Islam. The footage for this film was, according to several sources, provided by the Israeli Mossad, and even the translations of speeches of Arabic speakers at political rallies were doctored, to make them appear as militant firebrands.

Sami Al-Arian was viciously attacked by Emerson in that video, and more recently in his book, *American Jihad*, which has an entire chapter (post-Sept. 11) on the Tampa campus-based networks. Based on Emerson’s fraudulent allegations, which were picked up by Mossad-friendly factions in the Justice Department and FBI, WISE was raided in 1995 and records seized. No evidence of terrorist ties was found, and no charges were brought against either WISE or Al-Arian.

As the further result of Emerson’s scribbles, Al-Arian was suspended from his university job, and another professor was actually jailed for three years for immigration violations.



American Muslim leaders whose homes and offices in Virginia were raided by armed Federal agents on March 20-22, hold a press conference to protest the raids, here addressed by Shaker el Sayed of the Committee for American Islamic Relations. Immediately behind him are Abdul Wahab Alkehbis of the Islamic Institute, and Louay Safi of the International Institute of Islamic Thought.

Al-Arian is being defended by the faculty union of USF.

In October 2000, Federal immigration Judge R. Kevin McHugh acknowledged that there was no evidence to show that WISE was a front for Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, as had been alleged; Judge McHugh described WISE as “a reputable and scholarly research center,” and Al-Arian’s Islamic Committee for Palestine (ICP) as “highly regarded.”

In fact, with Tampa being the location of the headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, some WISE members, and other associated USF faculty, are actively involved in doing educational work at McDill Air Force Base, the Centcom headquarters.

If At First You Don’t Succeed . . .

But, in the wake of Sept. 11, that didn’t stop Ashcroft and the Treasury Department’s terrorism task force from giving it another try. The search warrants for the March 20-21 raids were issued out of the Eastern District of Virginia, where Paul McNulty, a key figure in Squeaker of the House Newt Gingrich’s “Conservative Revolution” legal “reforms” of the mid-1990s, and a top aide to Ashcroft during Ashcroft’s bruising confirmation battle, is now the United States Attorney.

In addition to the discredited Steve Emerson, former Justice Department Nazi-hunter John Loftus, who now runs something called the St. Petersburg (Florida) Holocaust Museum, was also central to the planning of the March 20-21 raids. Loftus, who boasts of his access to “highly classified” information from governments on terrorism, and on alleged Saudi financial ties to terrorism, filed a civil lawsuit against Al-Arian on March 20, obviously using much of the same

information that had gone into the drafting of the search warrant. According to the March 24 *Washington Post*, the Justice and Treasury Departments moved up the timetable for the raids, so that they would occur that same day that the Loftus suit was filed.

That *Washington Post* story—the lead story in its Sunday edition—was exactly the type of article, full of leaks from the Justice Department, innuendo, and dark hints of criminality, which the *Washington Post* specialized in running against Lyndon LaRouche during the mid-1980s. Not surprisingly, the lead author of the March 24 story was John Mintz, who also penned most of the *Post*’s 1980s attacks, which built the climate for the Justice Department’s frameup and judicial railroad of LaRouche and his associates.

The *Post* story was headlined, “Finances Prompted Raids on Muslims: U.S. Suspected Terror Ties to N. Va. for Years.” It claimed that the Federal agents who conducted the raids in northern Virginia “were focussing on a tightly interconnected, complicated and very private financial empire with worldwide ties, which has drawn the suspicions of investigators for at least seven years.” The article dwelt on the Saudi financial ties of the schools and other institutions that were raided—the Saudi Arabian government, and its U.S. ties, being an obsessive target of the *Post* since Sept. 11.

But, after all this, and after providing intricate details of alleged financial flows, author Mintz gave the game away, and admitted: “U.S. officials suspect that the ultimate recipients of the funds were linked to terrorists, but they are not sure. . . . Government officials said that even if no crimes are proven, it might serve the counterterrorist cause to simply disrupt the flow of money.”

‘Trying To Destroy a Moderate Voice’

Many observers and Islamic leaders were astounded by the raids’ focus on a number of highly respected institutions in northern Virginia—the Graduate School of Islamic Social Sciences (GSISS) in Leesburg, the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) in Herndon, and the Fiqh Council of North America. The latter is an organization of Islamic clerics which issues religious interpretations for mosques and Islamic centers in the United States.

The GSISS, among other things, trains Islamic chaplains for the U.S. military; nine of the 13 Muslim U.S. military chaplains were trained there. The IIIT is a research group that publishes books and holds seminars; the U.S. State Department had scheduled a visit of Muslims from the Philippines to IIIT at the time of the raids. An official of IIIT described the raids as “trying to destroy a moderate voice in this country.”

Also publicly implicated in the network of organizations hit by the raids, was a Republican Party-linked organization formed to conduct outreach to Arab-Americans, called the Islamic Institute.

An insightful article published March 26 in the Lebanese *Daily Star*, was entitled “Moderate Muslims: The New Target?” It pointed out that the raids of the IIIT and the GSISS “are an attack on the most moderate of American Muslims,” and that the raids “have sent a shiver down the spine of the American Muslim community. . . . This is indeed a war against Muslims and not terrorists.” The article also noted that President Bush had made several appearances with U.S. Muslim leaders in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, but that since then, “Bush and his administration have systematically disengaged from the American Muslim community,” and that since the first of the year, “the White House has become completely inaccessible to Muslims.”

What the article does not cite, is that the White House disengagement occurred under heavy pressure from neo-conservative and right-wing Israeli-linked organizations in the United States, which attacked President Bush for his outreach to the Muslim community.

But it is still more insidious than that. The systematic attack on moderate Muslims is reminiscent of the policy of targeting—even assassinating—moderate Palestinian leaders carried out by the Israeli Mossad for years, and more recently by the Sharon government. It is not irrelevant to this, that Sharon was instrumental in creating Hamas in the 1980s as a radical counterweight to the Palestine Liberation Organization. For those such as Sharon who want a pretext for all-out war between Israel and the Palestinians, or the Brzezinski-Huntington gang in the United States and their co-thinkers in the Administration such as Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Defense Policy Board Chairman Richard Perle, Muslim moderates are an obstacle to their plans for a war of civilizations between Islam and the West. That seems to be the key to the strange pattern of the northern Virginia raids.

Military’s CINCs Warn Congress on Iraq War

by Carl Osgood

During the 1990-91 Desert Shield-Desert Storm operation, the U.S. Air Force moved approximately 90,000 tons of cargo by air into Turkey and the Persian Gulf region, about 10% of the total moved by the all military forces. Though a huge operation, the job was simplified for the logisticians by the modern airports and seaports of Saudi Arabia and other countries, and the network of oil refineries and pipelines that provided a ready fuel supply for ground and air forces deployed in the region.

The current campaign in Afghanistan, however, is a completely different story, as recent testimony in front of Congressional committees, as well as other accounts, tends to show. The logistics system supporting operations in Afghanistan is probably as stressed as it was in 1990-91, even though there are only about 5,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, plus some tens of thousands in neighboring countries and in ships in the Arabian Sea, as opposed to the 500,000 that were deployed for the war against Iraq. Afghanistan is a landlocked country, with poor roads and no railroads, destroyed by 23 years of war. Everything that American and other foreign forces need has to be flown in by air, even aviation and motor vehicle fuel. Add the draw-down of the U.S. military during the 1990s, and the collapse of the U.S. industrial economy, and the impossibility of launching other major operations beyond the war in Afghanistan becomes clear.

‘Very Troubling’ Testimony

These realities, though ignored by factions pushing a prompt war to eliminate Saddam Hussein, have been reported to Congressional committees by senior military officers. Most recently, Adm. Dennis Blair, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Command, told the House Armed Services Committee on March 20, “We do not have adequate forces to carry out our missions for the Pacific, if the operations in [Afghanistan] continue at their recent past and current pace.” He, and Gen. Joseph Ralston—head of European Command and NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander, Europe—were asked by the committee’s ranking Democrat, Ike Skelton of Missouri, whether they had the forces they needed to carry out all of their current missions as well as a war against Iraq. Skelton found their answers “very troubling.”

General Ralston told the committee, “The answer to your question as you posed it is: I do not have the forces in EUCOM