

End the Double Standard! Shut Down Britain's Stable of Imperial Terrorists

by Michele Steinberg

Dec. 5—The British government has been sitting on a demand from the Indian government to track down terrorists of the Lashkar e-Toiba (LeT) and related Islamic fundamentalist networks since at least 2003. Now, with the latest atrocity in Mumbai being attributed to the same terrorist group, it is urgent to shut down Britain's terrorist safe haven once and for all.

The British major media and their neo-imperial allies are trying to blame the mass killings in Mumbai on Pakistan. But it is not "Pakistan" that organized the attack, but the same City of London, running a destabilization against India. Over the last week, British Empire media such as *The Australian* have had screaming articles saying that India must "bomb the training centers" inside Pakistan and the Pakistan-controlled part of divided Kashmir. This India vs. Pakistan trap is designed to do what the British Empire wants most of all: to stop India from playing a sovereign role in reorganizing the already-dead world financial system. Lyndon LaRouche built his proposal for a New Bretton Woods financial system around the cooperation of "four powers"—United States, Russia, China, and India. The London authors of the separatist and religious warfare against nation-states *want* a new war between India and Pakistan, in a campaign of perpetual war that LaRouche first identified as the British Empire's imperial design in his 1999 video, "Storm over Asia."

The Challenge to London

In July 2006, while attending the Group of 8 heads of state and government meeting in Moscow, Indian



EIR has been tracking the British harboring of—and deployment of—terrorists for more than a decade. Here, our April 4, 1997 blast against the Empire.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh confronted British Prime Minister Tony Blair, just after the bloody train attacks in Mumbai, where 207 people were killed and 600 injured, about Britain's harboring terrorists. The exchange between the two is detailed by *EIR's* 2006

article, “Behind the Mumbai Bombings: Tracking the British Role” (reprinted below, p. 8). As *EIR* demanded in January 2000, London must be shut down as the world’s biggest protector of terrorism.

In September 2001, right after the 9/11 attacks, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak blasted the British “safe haven” for terrorists. Mubarak was asked by the French newspaper *Le Figaro*, why he had said that London is “the greatest base of terrorism in Europe.” His reply, published in the Sept. 22, 2001 issue, revealed that warnings that he personally, and his government’s intelligence services, had delivered to Britain and the United States, about harboring of known terrorist groups and individuals, had gone unheeded. Mubarak said, “I had warned [then-Prime Minister] John Major, who didn’t listen to me. I repeated it this week to the BBC, when they asked me questions about people to whom Great Britain granted asylum. I sent a message to [Prime Minister] Tony Blair, recommending he be cautious.”

Six days later, Mubarak rebuked then-British Foreign Minister Jack Straw for “harboring terrorists,” during the latter’s visit to Cairo on Sept. 28, 2001. “Egypt has called on Britain to adopt certain policies to stop terrorist activities on its territories,” said Usama al-Baz, Mubarak’s political advisor, in a press conference afterward. In October 2001, Mubarak again noted the hypocrisy of the British government in an interview with the Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram*: “Some Western capitals continued to grant asylum to terrorists under the pretext of upholding human rights.”

But the voices identifying Britain as *the* major safe-haven for terrorist protection and financing were largely silenced by the pre-emptive war threats of British-asset Dick Cheney’s White House.

The latest Mumbai attacks, in which some 175 people were killed, when terrorists landed by boat and swarmed into the city center, make it ever more urgent to stop the British game plan.

For our readers, statements such as those by Mubarak are not new. On Jan. 11, 2000, *EIR*’s editors prepared a memorandum for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called “Put Britain on the List of States Sponsoring Terrorism” (see excerpts, p. 11), using the information provided by Egypt and nine other nations—Israel, France, Algeria, Peru, Turkey, Germany, Libya, Nigeria, Yemen, Russia, and India. The memo documented their protests to Britain over London’s giving asylum, funding, and free rein to terrorist

recruitment, fundraising, and training. The memorandum was delivered to top officials of the U.S. Defense Department, Justice Department, the FBI, the CIA, and both Houses of Congress. Had the lengthy dossier been taken seriously, and had the warnings of *EIR* and its founder, Lyndon LaRouche, been heeded then, the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001 might have been averted.

India Nails Britain’s Dope, Inc.

On Nov. 29, 2008, the *Indian Express* published an article, “Dawood Gave Logistical Support to Mumbai Attackers,” identifying a leading figure in South Asian Dope, Inc. smuggling operations, Dawood Ibrahim, as a key logistical figure behind the asymmetric warfare attack on Mumbai.

Although currently based in Karachi, Pakistan and Dubai, Ibrahim for years was the central mafia figure in Mumbai, and in the Indian Bihar region, bordering with Nepal, smuggling gold in and out of India, and establishing links with South Asia’s major opium-smuggling networks. In 1999, and again in 2001, Ibrahim was linked to major terrorist incidents, including the hijacking of an Air India commercial flight, rerouted to Taliban-controlled Kandahar, Afghanistan (1999), and the assault on the Indian parliament in New Delhi (2001). Since 2003, Ibrahim has been on the U.S. State Department’s list of international terrorists, for his links to al-Qaeda and to the Indian- and Pakistan-based LeT. He has been identified as an asset of British MI6-linked elements of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Dawood Ibrahim’s gold-smuggling operations in Dubai are part of Britain’s offshore money-laundering apparatus, which has existed since the time of the British East India Company’s 19th-Century opium war against India and China. U.S. intelligence sources have recently emphasized that the British offshore operations in the Caribbean and on the British Isle of Man, have been extended to Dubai, to facilitate the destabilization of Southwest and South Asia.

Indian intelligence officers, after interrogating several of the Mumbai attackers, concluded that the attacks could not have been carried out without significant “inside” help. The still-powerful elements of the Dawood Ibrahim apparatus, which maintains a dominant position in the Mumbai underworld, and launder massive amount of illegal gold through India’s “Bollywood” motion picture industry, are confirmed to have been key to the attacks.

The role of Ibrahim's Dope, Inc. apparatus, and his links to another British-sponsored key terrorist figure, Ahmed Omar Sheikh, have been highlighted by *EIR* for nearly a decade. In fact, it was the case of LeT leader Ahmed Omar Sheikh, that occasioned the January 2000 memo to the U.S. Administration and Congress demanding a crackdown on Britain's protection of terrorism.

The British role was highlighted "as the result of the December 1999 Indian Airlines hijacking, and the response of the British government to the request of one of the freed Kashmiri terrorists, Ahmed Omar Sheikh, to be given safe passage to England. Mr. Sheikh, a British national, was tried and convicted in India, for his role in the kidnapping of four British na-

tionals and an American in 1995."

The British initially promised to give Mr. Sheikh safe passage to Britain, and would not prosecute him or make any effort to extradite him back to India, but reversed that stance under international pressure.

Ahmed Omar Sheikh was hatched by British intelligence. This student at the Forest School and the London School of Economics (LSE) was, according to Indian and U.S. intelligence sources, recruited by MI6, and deployed to Bosnia before he surfaced in South Asia. After returning to Britain from the Balkans, Sheikh dropped out of LSE and flew to training camps in Afghanistan, whence he deployed into India, and carried out the 1995 kidnapping. He remained in Afghanistan after being freed in the Air India hijack-

French Attacked London's 'City' Money Laundry

The following is based on a longer study in EIR, Oct. 26, 2001.

On Oct. 10, 2001, as Britain's Tony Blair was parading as the leader of the fight against "Islamic terror," in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, French authorities launched a flanking operation against Britain in the form of a parliamentary report denouncing the City of London—as well as other Crown dependencies—as a "fiscal, banking, and financial paradise for criminals."

Attached to that report is a full study on the "economic environment of bin Laden." The French are still waiting for the extradition of Rashid Ramda, the "Islamic" terrorist arrested in Britain in 1996 for having orchestrated the 1995 wave of terror in France.

Entitled "The City Of London, Gibraltar and the Crown Dependencies: Offshore Centers and Havens for Dirty Money," the report denounces the City's great vulnerability to money laundering, but also the British authorities' total lack of political will to engage in the fight against financial crime. "The government of Her Gracious Majesty claims to be lead-

ing the fight against terrorism, but it should first clean its own house," stated Arnaud Montebourg, special rapporteur of the parliamentary commission which issued the report. To the question of why the British government is not willing to have transparency in its financial transactions, Montebourg replied unambiguously that the City of London is the very heart of world finances, and that Britain's own power derives from that financial power. In the year 2000, the "gross domestic product" of the City was close to \$37.7 billion—13% of Greater London's, and 3% of the United Kingdom's.

The French report was issued by the parliamentary commission against money laundering, created in 1999. The commission previously published reports on Liechtenstein, Monaco, and Switzerland.

The report sparked a number of major articles around the world, detailing how French counterterrorism experts refer to the British empire's capital as "Londonistan." And on Oct. 29, 2001, France's *Le Monde* wrote, "London has become, for several years, the political capital of the shape of the international Islamist." "Between the end of 1980 and the beginning of the 1990s, a certain number of intellectual and militant Islamists will unload in London. . . . All the most influential preachers of 'Londonistan,' Abu Hamza al-Masri, Abu Qatada, or Omar Bakri, supported the Islamist causes in turn in Algeria, in Bosnia, in Chechnya, or in Kashmir."

—Christine Bierre

ing deal, and is now in Pakistani custody for the kidnapping and torture/beheading murder of the American journalist Daniel Pearl. Sheikh is also still a prime suspect in the organizing of 9/11.

World Leaders Know, ‘It’s London’

At the end of 2001, world leaders were riveted on London as the place where terrorists could find a home as “oppressed peoples.” Mubarak was not alone in sounding the alarm. But the Bush-Cheney Administration silenced the outcry. Here is a tiny sampling of the in-depth reports of 2001 that identified the British terror center, and dubbed it “Londonistan”:

- On Oct. 10, 2001, the French National Assembly commission in charge of investigating dirty-money laundering, presented a report denouncing Britain as the center for laundering the “dollars of terror.” “The government of Her Gracious Majesty claims to be leading the fight against terrorism, but it should first clean its own house,” said the special rapporteur of the commission (see box. p. 7). The French daily *Le Monde* wrote on Oct. 29, 2001, “All the most influential preachers of ‘Londonistan,’ Abu Hamza al-Masri, Abu Qatada or Omar Bakri, supported the Islamist causes in turn in Algeria, in Bosnia, in Chechnya, or in Kashmir.”

- In Russia, on Oct. 2, 2001, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, one of President Putin’s top aides on Chechen affairs, praised U.S.-Russian cooperation, while singling out Britain for harboring terrorists, in a press briefing in Moscow. “We estimate that as of the end of last year, Chechen militants received assistance from about 100 . . . foreign public organizations, funds, societies. . . . We drew attention to the existence of a network of such organizations, for example, in London. . . . One of them is al-Muhajiroon, and the leader of the movement is Omar Bakri, who continuously figures among the moral and political sponsors of at least the Chechen militants.”

- In the United States, on Nov. 2, 2001, *USA Today*, the largest-circulation daily in the nation, reported, “No other nation in the West has been found to harbor or have played home to so many terrorists.” Radical clerics such as Abu Hamza al-Masri, an al-Qaeda member whom the Yemeni government has repeatedly asked Britain to extradite, have a field day “recruiting new terrorists” in Britain, “the most critical Western hub for Islamic extremists bent on waging war against ‘infidels’ like the United States.”

Documentation

Tracking the British Role in 2006 Mumbai Bombings

This article, by Ramtanu Maitra, is reprinted from EIR, Aug. 4, 2006.

The seven synchronized serial bombs that tore through suburban trains in Mumbai, India on July 11, taking at least 207 lives, and injuring more than 600 others, indicate that the international Islamic jihadis have found a soft target in the country. So far, New Delhi’s investigation has little to show, beyond indicating a Pakistani involvement in this dastardly act. No group has claimed responsibility, and the initial arrests carried out by the Mumbai police have revealed virtually nothing.

As of now, the Indian authorities have named the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and India’s banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) as being behind the bombings. Reports indicate that several teams from LeT and SIMI were arrested, and that huge amounts of explosive materials, including RDX, were recovered during raids at various places in Aurangabad, Nasik, and Nagpur in the last two months. It is evident that if the Indian authorities do not succeed in widening the investigation to get a glimpse of the broader picture, the cut-outs arrested so far will not be able to reveal anything, and the country will continue to be vulnerable to such massive attacks.

In the aftermath of the incident, India postponed foreign secretary-level talks with Pakistan scheduled for July 20-21. The negotiations were a part of the third annual round of dialogue between the two countries, in their attempt to build confidence, while working towards agreement on a variety of disputes.

While there is no question of far-reaching Pakistani involvement in the attack, the investigation must seek to find out how exactly the network functions. Behind the cut-outs that have been put behind bars, there remains, hidden from public sight, a vast and sophisticated killing machine. In this context, the Indian authorities have pointed out that Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has strengthened its base in Nepal and northern Bihar. Investigators have also reportedly ques-