

# Kenyan Mall Attack Designed To Launch Permanent War on Terror in East Africa

by Douglas DeGroot

Oct. 7—The four-day attack against the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, begun Aug. 21, initiated a new phase of the British Empire’s permanent war plan, intended to destroy the sovereignty of all nations. In East Africa, where this attack occurred, the assault had the added intention of stopping the emerging fight for sovereignty against the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the East African nations’ economic collaboration with China.

The attack resulted in the deaths of 67 people, according to official reports, with 39 still listed as missing, according to the Red Cross. The deadly assault on civilians received even greater attention because an unknown number of Westerners were killed. The operation had no military value, but has served to advance the assessment of Noman Benotman, who asserted that the terrorist attack moved the attackers, the nominally Somalia-based terrorist al-Shabaab group “to the top of the premier league” of global jihadists. Benotman is a former commander of the British-backed Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, and is now ensconced in London, where he is closely involved with the so-called “Islamic” extremists—who are an important part of the imperial arsenal—for the London-directed global financial empire.

Despite many claims to the contrary, the well-planned attack was not orchestrated by al-Shabaab as revenge against Kenya for sending troops to aid the transitional government in Somalia. Mogadishu is attempting to fight off the radical jihadists in order to establish a functioning government in Somalia, for the first time since 1991.

The political purpose for the murderous attack—permanent war—was unintentionally revealed by the response of Washington officialdom and others, who have said since the attack that the global terrorists springboarding from the Middle East and Pakistan, using Somalia as a gateway, are now in a position to sweep across Africa, from Somalia all the way to the

Atlantic. The two examples that have been cited are the Saharan jihadist attacks against the new government in Mali made possible by the failed-state status imposed on Libya, and a further escalation of the Boko Haram assaults against Nigeria.

The subsequent Oct. 5 failed attempt by Navy SEALs to snatch Ikrima, the leader of Shabaab’s foreign fighters, from the Somali coastal town of Barawe, about halfway to the Kenyan border from Mogadishu, will at least provide the intelligence agencies which control global terrorism, a pretext for further “revenge” attacks by their terrorists in the region, against Kenya in particular.

## How To Stop Jihadists

By attempting to militarily stop the foreign special-ists and the local groups who collaborate with them, and take the blame in these guerrilla wars, the U.S.A. could be far more effective by exposing the Saudi peninsula entities who finance them.

In an unusual move, at an Oct. 3 House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the dangers al-Shabaab represents to the United States, Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Tex.), who is also chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, brought up precisely this issue. He said the funding for these jihadist terrorists always traces back to the Saudi peninsula. “This is the inconvenient truth no one talks about,” he said. “And no one wants to deal with it, either,” because the Saudis are U.S. allies. He said the problem needs to be addressed (see box).

The East African nations are especially being targeted by this escalation of permanent war because they had been leading a vigorous fight against the imperialist International Criminal Court (ICC) to defend their sovereignty, and are implementing economic cooperation and development programs with China, the only country willing to participate. The financial empire’s brutal attack in Kenya sent a message to the East Africans that

they shouldn't be so naive as to think they could treat the empire with such disdain by thinking they could act as sovereign nations to develop economically, against the will of the financial empire, and its enforcer, the IMF.

### **The Jihadi Networks**

The al-Shabaab attack in Kenya was run by foreigners, including Europeans, Americans (some of them of Somali origin), and jihadists from the Middle East and Africa. Witnesses of the attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi reported that the attackers spoke to each other in English. The participation of the outsiders from other regions was made possible by a recent shift of leadership in al-Shabaab, which saw the Somali-oriented leaders either killed or driven out. As one retired U.S. military officer put it, this kind of shift to global jihadist takeover can easily be engineered if the policy is limited to the present policy of "Kill the bad guys."

The Somali-oriented leadership was weakened by

the 2011 Kenyan military intervention, Operation Linda Nchi ("Operation Defend the Nation," in Kiswahili) into southern Somalia because it denied al-Shabaab its traditional sources of income, such as that from exports and imports at the port of Kismayo. That left the Gulf states as the only source of income, which was reportedly used to install leadership that was open to the Saudi peninsula-based groups, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) or al-Qaeda Central (AQC). Experts think there is little difference between these two groups now.

The modus operandi of the terrorists was revealed by a leaked 2011 Kenyan intelligence report. The operatives came into Kenya from various places, obtained safehouses in the Nairobi and Mombasa, and then assembled their weapons and explosives which were smuggled in from Somalia.

### **Mobilization Against the ICC**

Ethnic conflicts either deliberately imposed or exacerbated in African countries during the period of colo-

## **Saudi Funding of Jihadis Raised at Hill Hearing**

Oct. 7—In the wake of the terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee was held Oct. 3, chaired by Ed Royce entitled: "Al-Shabaab: How Great a Threat?" Testimony included the subject of how al-Shabaab could attack the U.S.A. directly, or by attacking U.S. interests.

After the completion of the testimony presented to the hearing, Republican Committee member Michael McCaul (R-Tex.), who is also chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, directed his first question to two former longtime FBI agents who had provided testimony, and who are still active in the security field. He asked directly about funding for al-Shabaab coming from the "Saudi Peninsula." Neither of the two ex-FBI agents answered the question, nor did a British Africa expert

at a Washington think tank, who also testified.

McCaul began his question by noting that he had been briefed the previous day on the threats facing the U.S.A. He said:

"The majority of these threats—when you look at these organizations, and you look at the funding streams—the majority of them are tied back to the Saudi Peninsula, in terms of funding. This is the inconvenient truth no one talks about. And no one wants to deal with it either."

McCaul cited a report he had received of \$100,000 sent to al-Shabaab's intelligence unit to carry out a wave of assassinations in Mogadishu, Somalia. He continued:

"This is something we're going to have to deal with at some point in time. And I know it's something—with the Saudis being our ally—that presents a problem. It's a challenge, but I think it is something we need to address, and see it for what it really is."

The officials had no comment.

—Douglas DeGroot

nial rule were played by the colonial powers as mechanisms to control their colonies. These problems are further aggravated by the lack of economic growth and vast unemployment resulting from the restrictive credit conditions imposed by the IMF. The only alternative is expensive bank loans. The private ICC, set up with George Soros money in 2002, has almost uniquely targeted African leaders for prosecution for human rights violations resulting from the problems mentioned above. (See “Africans in Revolt vs. International Court,” *EIR*, Oct. 4, 2013.)

The ICC prosecution of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto is threatening to disrupt the close collaboration between the East African countries of Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda for purposes of development. The two leaders will both appear for trial, since they believe they are not guilty. The two come from different ethnic groups, which engaged in conflict after the previous Presidential election in 2007. They are being charged with complicity in that violence, which led to a large number of deaths.

Ironically, the two joined the same ticket for the elections this March, and were supported by both ethnic groups. Some Kenyan observers are of the view that Kenyans saw the ICC prosecutions as interference in Kenya’s internal affairs, which led to more support for the ticket, which won a majority in the first round. The elections were held after the ICC had issued warrants for their arrest if they did not appear voluntarily.

Kenya is strategically located as the outlet to the sea for the landlocked countries of Uganda, the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda, and also poses an easier access to the sea for South Sudan and Ethiopia, if plans for a rail and transport corridor from Kenya to those two countries come to fruition. Construction on such a corridor has begun in collaboration with the Chinese. Development in this region, which includes the two sources for the Nile, has important implications for Egypt as well, as Egypt emerges from the chaos introduced by the anti-nationalist Muslim Brotherhood government of Mohamed Morsi.

At the May summit of the African Union (AU) this year, Ethiopian Prime Minister and Head of State Hailemariam Desalegn strongly attacked the ICC for singling out African leaders. At the AU summit, Rwan-

dan President Paul Kagame also attacked the ICC for arbitrarily condemning certain African leaders and not others, for political purposes. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has also been increasingly attacking the ICC for its political interference. Kenyatta mounted a campaign to get African countries which had signed the Rome Convention which made them members of the ICC, to revoke their membership. Now that process is underway, starting with the Kenyan Parliament’s Sept. 3 decision to pull out.

The ICC prosecutions didn’t prevent the East African nations from continuing to collaborate with China for trade and development. Now, the permanent anti-jihadist war that is looming as a result of the harsh message to the East African nations and China from the Westgate Mall attack, again puts the ability to continue economic collaboration with China at risk. The planned increased trade and ambitious economic development plans, augmented by recent discoveries of massive oil and gas deposits off the coast of East Africa, from Madagascar to Somalia, could be destroyed if peace cannot be brought to Somalia.

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*Among the African projects which China is involved in, is the Lamu Port and South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSSET) Corridor, shown here under construction. The huge project involves building a modern port at Lamu on the Kenyan coast, not far from Somalia, along with an oil refinery.*

## China and East Africa

The East African heads of state have all endorsed economic cooperation with China, while criticizing the lack of economic development initiatives from the Western powers. Rwandan President Kagame stated on Oct. 12, 2009 that growth of the private sector in Africa has resulted from Chinese investment, while Western countries are primarily interested in acquiring raw materials.

China is involved in economic development activity in each of the countries; Museveni has pointed out that China is not a threat to Africa.

Among the projects presently underway are:

- A new rail trunk line upgraded to standard gauge to extend to Uganda, is under construction from the Kenyan port of Mombasa to Nairobi. Rwanda is working to arrange financing for the line to be extended to Rwanda, which has never had a railroad.

- The Lamu Port and South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSSET) Corridor is a huge project that involves building a modern port at Lamu on the Kenyan coast, not far from Somalia, along with an oil refinery. A road, and standard gauge railroad, and an oil pipeline will be built to the Kenyan town of Isiolo. Two branches

will continue from there, one to South Sudan, the other to Ethiopia. The project also calls for airports to be built at Lamu and Isiolo.

Construction of Port Lamu and the oil refinery began March 2, 2012.

The project won't be able to be completed if there is conflict in Somalia. This explains why there are Kenyan and Ethiopian troops in Somalia, and also why the financial empire, opposed to development, is upgrading the terrorist capability to be funneled into Somalia, for deployment beyond Somalia.

If the huge project is not stalled by conflict, it is slated to be finished in four years.

At the inauguration ceremony in March 2012, then-Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said: "I have no doubt that this day will go down in

history as one of the defining moments—when we made a major stride to connect our people to the many socio-economic opportunities that lie ahead.

The 32-berth port at Lamu, when finished will be as much as five times bigger than Kenya's port at Mombasa.

## Kenya's Trade with China

After the 2007 Kenya elections, Kenya's leaders began looking to China to expand their economy. This led to the 2010 trip by President Kibaki to China.

China is now Kenya's major trading partner.

By 2012, Kenyan imports, by rank, were:

- China: over \$1.9 billion
- U.S.A.: approximately \$775 million
- The U.K. had slipped to less than \$600 million.

Through 2008, the U.K. had been Kenya's biggest trading partner.

President Kenyatta has seen the hope for Kenya's future in relations with China and Russia. On Aug. 18, Kenyatta visited China. He also visited Russia before coming to the United States. His decision to visit China and Russia before visiting the U.S.A. was seen in Kenya as a snub of President Obama.