

# Who Is Prince Bandar?

Special to EIR

Oct. 7—More than 30 years ago, in the early 1980s, Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Sultan put billions of dollars into networks of Islamic fundamentalist warriors of the mujaheddin in Afghanistan, allegedly to fight the Soviet Union. According to William Simpson’s 2006 biography of Bandar, *The Prince*, for which Bandar gave extensive interviews, he funnelled \$3 billion to the mujaheddin, from whom al-Qaeda sprang. In reality, Bandar was building a Islamic fundamentalist army, based on the doctrines of Wahhabism, the radical Sunni Muslim strain that put, and has kept, the House of Saud in power in Saudi Arabia. That al-Qaeda/jihadi army, of which Osama Bin Laden was the most famous leader, is the greatest terrorist threat in the world today, according to top U.S. intelligence officials, including former Deputy Director of the CIA Mike Morrell.

Bandar’s jihadis carried out the 9/11 attacks in the United States in 2001 that killed nearly 3,000 people in a single morning; they have killed tens of thousands of people in the Syrian civil war over the last year. This is the network that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens in Benghazi, Libya, and three other Americans in the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2012; and that murdered civilians in the Nairobi, Kenya, shopping mall in September 2013.

In *The Prince*, Bandar is quoted bragging about his covert operations in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union in the 1980s, and how he used Saudi Wahhabism to build a jihadi army: “We used religion. We said, ‘The Communists are atheists; they don’t believe in religion and we are fighting them for religious reasons.’ We galvanized the Muslim world behind us ... there was a

common interest in opposing godless Communism. That was seen by the Saudis as the principal threat to the kingdom and to Islam and to the region.”

Today the religious banner of Bandar’s jihadis is not opposition to “godless Communism,” but to “infidels” or *kafiri*, especially members of Shi’ite or other strains of Islam. For these jihadis, also known as “neo-Salafis,” any “disbeliever,” even a woman who simply does not observe the covered dress code, is a target for elimination.

The details about Prince Bandar’s direct hand in financing the 9/11/2001 attacks are contained in a 28-page chapter of the final report of the Joint Congressional Inquiry probing the 9/11 atrocities. When the Congressional report reached the desk of President George W. Bush, he ordered the 28 pages classified and blacked out of the publicly released report. President Obama, first as a candidate and later as President, promised to declassify the 28 pages, but then reneged on his promise and deepened the coverup of the Bandar-9/11 covert operation. (See *EIR*, Aug. 16, 2013, for full background.)

Today, there is mounting pressure for Obama to make those pages public, as a growing number of members of Congress begin to support the campaign by former Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) to declassify those pages and launch a full investigation into the role of Saudi Arabia in 9/11 and international terrorism.

On Sept. 11, 2013, Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) issued a press release on the 28 pages, saying, “As we commemorate the 12th anniversary of 9/11 it saddens me that vital evidence of this heinous attack is still being withheld from the American people. As a member of Congress, I had the opportunity to read the 28 pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into the attacks that have not yet been made public. . . . Former Senator Bob Graham deserves a great deal of credit for working towards the declassification of the 28 pages. I join him in calling on the leaders of the administration, House, and Senate to make this information public. This disclosure



Russian Presidential Press and Information Office  
*Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan, terrorist controller; currently Chief of Saudi General Intelligence, former ambassador to the United States.*

will allow the American people to access information that they deserve to know the full story of the tragedy on September 11, 2001.”

## **Bandar Exposed**

Despite the cover-up by the Bush and Obama administrations to protect the Saudi supporters of terrorism, some details of the Saudi role have come out due to lawsuits by the families of those who died in the 9/11 attacks and other concerned plaintiffs against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its apparatus.

The following details from the Joint Congressional Inquiry report and from documents filed in 9/11 lawsuits show the role of Bandar and Saudi Arabian intelligence in 9/11:

Between April 1998 and May 2002, some \$51-73,000 in checks

and cashiers’ checks were provided by the Saudi Ambassador to the United States and his wife to two families in southern California, who in turn bankrolled at least two of the 9/11 hijackers. The story was investigated by the 9/11 Commission, but never fully resolved, and remains, to this day, one of the key unanswered questions concerning the backing for the worst terrorist attack ever to occur on U.S. soil.

According to numerous news accounts and the records of the 9/11 Commission, in April 1998, a Saudi national named Osama Basnan wrote to the Saudi Embassy in Washington, D.C., seeking help for his wife, Majeda Dweikat, who needed surgery for a thyroid condition. Prince Bandar, the Saudi Ambassador, wrote a check for \$15,000 to Basnan. Beginning in December 1999, Princess Haifa, the wife of Prince Bandar, began sending regular monthly cashier checks to Majeda Dweikat, in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,500. Many of these were signed over to Manal Bajadr, the wife of Omar al-Bayoumi, another Saudi living in the San Diego area.

Around New Year’s Day 2000, two other Saudi nationals, Nawaf Alhazmi and Khalid Almihdhar, arrived at Los Angeles International Airport, where they were greeted by al-Bayoumi, provided with cash and other financial assistance, and outfitted with an apartment

and Social Security cards. Al-Bayoumi helped the two Saudi men to enroll in flight schools in Florida. Two months before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, al-Bayoumi moved to England, and shortly after that, he disappeared altogether.

But before his disappearance, and within days of the 9/11 attacks, agents of New Scotland Yard, working in conjunction with the FBI, raided his apartment in England and found papers hidden beneath the floorboards, according to *Newsweek* magazine, which had the phone numbers of several officials at the Saudi Embassy in Washington. Al-Bayoumi was suspected by the Arab community in the San Diego area of being an agent of Saudi intelligence, which keeps tabs on Saudi residents in the area, particularly Saudi students attending college there.

Sources have told *EIR* that Basnan was also long suspected of being an agent for Saudi Arabia's foreign intelligence service. According to the sources, Basnan was arrested for drug possession in southern California, and the Saudi government intervened to get the charges dropped; Basnan also befriended Alhazmi and Almihdhar prior to their deaths on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon on 9/11/2001. At one point, the Basnans, the al-Bayoumis, and the two 9/11 hijackers all lived at the Parkwood Apartments in San Diego.

Prince Bandar and Princess Haifa denied having played any role in financing the 9/11 hijackers, and claimed that they were merely providing charitable assistance to the Saudi community in the United States. The two co-chairs of the Senate Intelligence Committee at the time, Robert Graham (D-Fla.) and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), accused the FBI of failing to fully pursue this "9/11 money trail." Sources told *EIR* that the FBI refused to allow the committee to interview the FBI investigators who had probed the Basnan and al-Bayoumi links.

### The British Connection

The above information is just a small piece of the Bandar dossier. Bandar's billions for covert operations come from a dirty British-Saudi defense deal that dates back to the early 1980s, the notorious "al-Yamamah" defense contract.

On June 6, 2007, the British Broadcasting Corporation aired a sensational story, revealing that the British arms manufacturer BAE Systems had paid more than \$2 billion in bribes to Bandar, over a 22-year period. The BBC revelations were further detailed on June 11, in a Panorama TV documentary, provocatively titled

"Princes, Planes and Pay-offs," which detailed a more than decade-long probe by the *Guardian*, BBC, and the British Serious Fraud Office (SFO), into the al-Yamamah arms contract, a nearly \$80 billion deal between BAE Systems and the Saudi government, in which British-made fighter jets and support services were provided to the Saudi Kingdom, beginning in 1985.

While the revelations eventually led to the closing of Riggs Bank in Washington, D.C., which had handled the Bandar slush funds along with other dirty money, the British investigation was ended by order of then-Prime Minister Tony Blair, who closed down the criminal probe by the Serious Fraud Office in the name of national security.

It is time to end Bandar's and the Saudis' impunity.

In October 2012, in the aftermath of the Benghazi, Libya, attack on the U.S. consulate, *EIR* published a Special Report, "Obama's War on America: 9/11 Two," which includes the *EIR*'s full investigation of al-Yamamah and Bandar's role.

But until the 28 pages on the Saudi role are released and the U.S. government is forced to carry out a full investigation, the real story continues to be denied to the American people.

*EIR* Special Report

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