

# The Empire Deploys Wahhabi Terror Against Russia

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Jan. 6—British imperial forces, through their Saudi terrorist apparatus, launched a new phase of warfare against Russia at the end of 2013. Over Dec. 29 and 30, two suicide bombings ripped the southern Russian city of Volgograd, killing 17 and wounding 40 in an attack on the main train station, and then killing 14 and wounding 27 in an attack on a trolley-bus the next day.

While the Western media have focused their news coverage on the February 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, the reality is, as Lyndon LaRouche has been warning, that Russia is targeted for major destabilization and provocations that could escalate to global thermonuclear war. Following the second suicide bombing, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the National Anti-Terrorism Committee to intensify counterterrorism operations all over the country.

All told, there were at least 32 serious terrorist attacks inside Russia in 2013. Russian authorities are investigating Wahhabi recruitment and terror training facilities in Dagestan and Abkhazia. In June, Doku Umarov, known as the “Russian bin Laden,” posted a video calling for a campaign of terrorism on behalf of the “Caucasus Emirates” which he purports to run. Russian anti-terror police killed a top Umarov deputy, Islam Atiev, in Petrovskoye, Dagestan on Dec. 28.

The entire Caucasus region has been thoroughly penetrated by Saudi-funded jihadist terrorists who have been operating in the region since the fall of the Soviet

Union two decades ago. And there are more and more reports of Wahhabi clerics recruiting Russian nationals to the Saudi fundamentalist cause.

## The British Hand

While the Saudi role in the expanding campaign of asymmetric warfare against Russia is well-documented, there is an equally significant British hand behind the destabilization and war provocations. For more than a decade, the British have been promoting recruitment to the Chechen separatist cause through mosques in the U.K., facilitating the training of recruits in Afghanistan, and the flow of Chechen jihadist fighters into Syria, who are in turn migrating back to southern Russia after combat experience in the civil war against the Assad government.

In 2000, Moscow had filed a number of diplomatic protests to the British government, over open recruitment of Islamist terrorists at mosques throughout the U.K.

In July 2013, Saudi Arabia’s intelligence chief and 9/11 sponsor Prince Bandar bin Sultan reportedly threatened to unleash Wahhabi terrorism against Russia, in a meeting in Moscow with President Putin, unless Russia agreed to support the overthrow of Syria’s President Assad. It was the same Prince Bandar who brokered the original “Al Yamamah” oil-for-arms barter deal that created the largest slush fund for covert terrorist operations ever assembled.

## A Dossier of Saudi-Sponsored Jihad

A U.S.- and Japan-based publication, the *Modern Tokyo Times*, has published one of the most thorough publicly available dossiers on the Chechen and Caucasus terrorists involved in the Syrian conflict.

Entitled “Russia Hit by Terrorist Attacks: Gulf Petrodollars, Syria and Caucasus Islamists,” the Jan. 2 article by Ramazan Khalidov and Lee Jay Walker (the *MTT*’s chief reporter) is the latest of more than a dozen *MTT* articles that track the activities of the Chechen terrorist groups such as the Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar (Army of Emigrants and Helpers) brigade and the Riyad-us-Saliheen Brigade (Sabotage Battalion of Chechen Martyrs). These armies are comprised of Chechens, other North Caucasians, but also increasingly, large numbers of jihadis and neo-Salafi foreign veterans of the rebel war on Syria.

Using quotes from terrorist leader Doku Umarov, the article says that Russia is now targeted by the same Islamist battle-tested networks traveling through the “NATO Turkey ratline” and financed by Gulf Arab petrodollars.

“Vast numbers of jihadists from the Caucasus region are entering Syria via NATO Turkey. Therefore, the knock on effect for the Russian Federation is abundantly obvious,” the article says. Umarov is directly quoted warning that his “Riyad-us-Saliheen Brigade is now replenished with the best among the best of the Mujahideen, and if the Russians do not understand that the war will come to their streets, that the war will come to their homes, so it is worse for them.”

Umarov is also quoted from July 2013 saying about the Sochi Olympic games, that “We, as the Mujahideen, must not allow this to happen by any means possible.” The “best among the best” refers to the al-Qaeda networks in northern Syria that are the direct recipients of the Gulf petrodollars. In addition, the article names the Chechen and other Caucasian leaders who have become commanders in the al-Qaeda-held areas around Aleppo that are in the hands of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and al-Nusra terrorists.

The article cites published material from the James-town Foundation, a conservative think tank in the United States with extensive ties to U.S. military services, various Russian news agencies (including *rosbalt.ru* and *Itar-Tass*), and the *Times* of London, the latter of which reported that there were 10,000 foreign fighters in Syria as of August 2013.

Most importantly, the authors stress, “The collec-

tive intrigues of America, France, Georgia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom, towards Syria—and their respective policies in the North Caucasus region—should alarm the Russian Federation because the same intrigues are aimed at Moscow.” This is “just like Afghanistan in the 1980s,” they say, and the policy is unbroken from the time of the overthrow and murder of Libya’s Qaddafi in 2011, to the Volgograd attacks.

## Backlash Against Anti-Putin Campaign

U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm (R-N.Y.), co-chair of the House Russian Caucus, issued a strong statement on Dec. 30 condemning the two terrorist attacks in Russia in advance of the Winter Olympics in Sochi (see *Documentation*). He has been echoed by a few others who have called for U.S.-Russian collaboration against a common enemy.

One of the most effective ways to move forward on such a change in policy would be the forcing of President Obama to declassify the 28 suppressed pages of the Congressional Joint Inquiry on the 9/11 attacks, which, informed sources insist, would reveal the crucial Saudi role in those attacks, thus highlighting the fact that the United States and Russia face the same threat: the British-controlled Saudi kingdom.

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## Documentation

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# Volgograd: The Russian Response

**The Foreign Ministry of Russia, Dec. 30:** “This new strike, cynically planned for the eve of the New Year, is yet another attempt to open a domestic front, sow panic and chaos, incite ethnic strife and conflicts in Russian society.

“We shall not retreat, but continue our tough and consistent battle with a crafty enemy who knows no borders and can only be stopped by joint efforts. The criminal attacks in Volgograd, like the terrorist attacks in the USA, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and other countries are organized on the same model and inspired from the same quarters.”

The statement then criticizes politicians and ana-

lysts who try to divide terrorists into “good” and “wrong” ones, depending on which geopolitical goals they pursue, saying that this is a dangerous line, “in the context of the continuous, openly provocative calls from guerrilla leaders like Doku Umarov to unite forces under the flag of jihad and recruit new fighters for the terrorist war.”

This approach has boomeranged in the past, with tragic consequences. “Terrorism is always a crime, for which punishment must be mandatory. Today, as never before, unified condemnation of terrorism is needed, along with genuine international solidarity against it and the ideology of violence and extremism that fosters it.”

**Journalist Kirill Benediktov, Dec. 29:** Benediktov, a columnist for *Izvestia*, and editorial board member at Terra America, writing in *Izvestia*, presented the case for decisive moves to end Saudi Arabia’s nurturing of terrorism abroad, as well as for harsh measures within Russia.

Benediktov zeroed in on the two trips to Russia by Saudi intelligence chief Prince Bandar bin Sultan in recent months, in the wake of which came British and Arabic press leaks describing his purpose as extortion. Those reports claimed that Bandar had pressured the Russian leadership to compromise on Syria: in exchange for the Kremlin’s withdrawing support for Assad, the prince was allegedly offering guarantees for the protection of the Sochi Olympics against acts of terror. While those reports remain unconfirmed, said Benediktov, “there is no doubt that the Salafite regimes of the Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia, have supported Wahhabite terrorism.”

He suggested that Russia could work together with the United States and with Iran, to weaken the influence of the Salafites throughout Southwest Asia. “Hostile actions against Russia by countries like the Gulf monarchies,” he said, “even if veiled in cryptopolitical form, should receive an adequate response. Russia is now strong enough to be able to take unfriendly action vis-à-vis regimes that for many years have exploited a Wahhabite fifth column to destabilize our country.”

The new attacks indicate “the high probability that a powerful Wahhabite underground has come into existence in recent years. Therefore a number of extremely harsh measures should be taken in the immediate future, to identify this underground, and these measures must involve the legitimate leaders of the Muslim community.”

Benediktov is an expert on space exploration, and spoke at the April 2013 Frankfurt conference of the Schiller Institute (see *EIR*, April 26, 2013).

• **Journalist Maxim Shevchenko, Dec. 30:** In a column for *Zavtra*, Shevchenko wrote that the worst short-term outcome for Russia would be a surge in calls from radical nationalists and liberals alike, to let the Caucasus go. The government should counter this tendency, Shevchenko wrote, with a clear and firm position of consolidating all anti-terror civic forces, both secular and religious, and excluding from the media any outbursts of Islamophobia or Caucasusophobia which only breed extremism.

On the geopolitical level, Shevchenko wrote that Russia’s ties with key Eurasian nations are targeted by the attacks: The Volga River is Russia’s main transport artery with Iran, and for the Moscow-Beijing-Tehran triangle. He warned against the creation of a hotbed of terrorism on the Volga transport artery and an active Wahhabite (therefore anti-Shi’a/anti-Iranian) underground there.

Shevchenko also pointed out that in Syria the Wahhabite anti-Shi’a factor was deliberately pumped up by Saudi Arabia, along with Israeli and certain U.S. circles.

## U.S. Voices: Cooperate With Russia

**U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm, Dec. 30:** Congressman Grimm (R-N.Y.), co-chair of the House Russian Caucus, a statement posted on his website (<http://grimm.house.gov/>), warned that the Sochi Olympics could become a Benghazi nightmare, and urged the U.S. to cooperate with Russia:

“I strongly condemn the terrorist attacks in Russia. As we approach the opening of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, we must not let the terrorists incite fear. The Olympics are a time for member nations to put aside their differences in the name of peaceful competition. That is why we must remain vigilant and take every threat seriously.

“We cannot sweep these threats under the rug, like we did with Benghazi or the warnings from Russia on the Tsarnaev brother behind the Boston Marathon bombing. Each time we fail to recognize these threats,

we not only risk the lives of innocent Americans, but appear weaker and vulnerable in the eyes of the enemy. In doing so, we allow the terrorists to become emboldened and continue their reign of terror throughout the world attacking us and our allies.

“The only winners in Sochi should be our athletes, which is why we must work closely with Russia and our allies to combat the threat of terrorism. That begins with taking every threat seriously and acting accordingly, so that the Winter Olympics remain a dream for athletes around the globe, instead of becoming a nightmare like Benghazi.”

**U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, Jan. 3:** Rohrabacher (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, in a statement Jan. 2, called for closer security cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in the runup to the Winter Olympics in Sochi, and said he is planning a hearing on the topic in the near future. “Whenever unarmed citizens are victims of terrorist attacks, we should stand in solidarity with their countries—especially with Russia. Unfortunately, our own recent relations with Moscow have called into question what should be Washington’s automatic response. . . .

“Our security cooperation should be at a much higher level and much more extensive,” Rohrabacher said. “Whether it is 9/11 or the murders of Russian schoolchildren or attacks in Egypt, radical Islamic terrorists should know that the good people are standing together and will not cower when confronted with monstrous crimes against unarmed and innocent civilians.”

**Columnist Patrick Buchanan, Jan. 3:** Writing on his website (<http://buchanan.org/blog/obama-go-sochi-6154>), the former Presidential advisor stated: “President Obama, in a gesture of solidarity with the Russian people, who have suffered more than any European people from Islamic terror since 9/11, should announce he has changed his mind and will be going to Sochi. The impact would be dramatic. The Western boycott of the winter Olympics would collapse. The attention of the world’s TV cameras, along with the rest of mankind, would turn to Sochi. Success of the games would be assured.”

Rejecting those calling for a boycott and “snubbing” of President Putin, Buchanan says that U.S. relations with Russia are too serious to be blocked by petty quarrels. “Putin,” he noted, “approved NATO strikes on Libya. He has gone along with U.N. sanctions on Iran. He has held off sending Russia’s most advanced

air defense system to Iran. He has assisted the United States in the war in Afghanistan. He pulled Obama’s bacon out of the fire in Syria when the American people and Congress told Obama that, red line or no red line, he had no authority to bomb Syria. We are now working with Russia on Syria’s chemical weapons. And her cooperation is crucial in handling North Korea and negotiating a deal to keep Iran away from a nuclear bomb.”

**Commentator Rachel Marsden, Dec. 31:** published a column entitled “U.S., Russia Can Go for Olympic Gold in War on Terror,” *The Tennessean*, noting that in early September, she had written that Russia and the West could team up against the forces of radical Islam, but that now, “It looks set to happen sooner than expected” because of the current wave of Islamic terrorist attacks. Putin should “go for the gold in the anti-terrorism pentathlon,” Marsden writes, noting that “This confluence of events—the Syrian conflict, the Sochi Olympics and ongoing Islamic terrorism—puts Russia in position to take charge.” She concludes: “It seems as if humanity could only benefit from some Russian-American cooperation—in the spirit of the Games and international sportsmanship, of course.”

**Former Pentagon official Dov Zakheim, Jan. 3:** In a column “Washington and Moscow: Brothers in Arms?” published in *The National Interest*, Zakheim writes, “Washington’s announcement that it stands ready to assist Russia with security for the Sochi Olympics offers both countries an opportunity to expand beyond their cooperation in combating terrorism, despite the awkward reality of Edward Snowden’s self-imposed exile in Russia.” After describing the threats emanating from Chechnya and Dagestan, and the leading Chechen role within the Syrian opposition, Zakheim acknowledges that “the Russians have proved to have been correct when they asserted over two years ago that the Syrian opposition would be dominated by extremists.” So now, he continues, with Obama’s hesitancy to exert power in the Middle East, there is “much to recommend in increasing counterterrorism coordination with Moscow not only with regard to the Winter Olympics, but also in seeking to diminish even further the threat of Sunni radicalism throughout the Middle East, including, and indeed especially, in Syria.” And furthermore, “there is much to be said for the administration’s cooperating with Russia on matters that go beyond counterterrorism.”