



Woolwich Attack: An Act of Terrorism?

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2013/05/201352484123205176.html>

A British soldier found dead on Wednesday due to an allegation of a revenge attack against the government's foreign policy which cause Muslims killed every day. According to witnesses on the scene, the soldier, who was wearing a t-shirt with the army charity "Help for Heroes" logo on it, was run down by a car, and then attacked and stabbed to death in the middle of passers-by in the London suburb of Woolwich. The murder was conducted using weapons including a cleaver in a broad daylight, approximately 400 meters away from an army barracks.

Police suspected two men responsible for the murder and charged them after the Police shot them.

"We must fight them as they fight us. An eye-for-an-eye and a tooth-for-a-tooth. I apologize that women had to witness this today, but in our land, our women have to see the same. You people will never be safe. Remove your gov-

ernment - they don't care about you" justified one of the suspects.

The statement cause British's Prime Minister, David Cameron, along with London's Mayor of Boris Johnson gave his sudden response in an emergency meeting, saying Britain would not give into violent extremism and terror.

"This country will be absolutely resolute in its stand against violent extremism and terror. We will never give into terror, or terrorism, in any of its forms. Second, this view is shared by every community in our country. This was not just an attack on Britain and on the British way of life, it was also a betrayal of Islam and of the Muslim Communities who give so much to ur country," Cameron declared.

Two questions were rose in regards with the murder. First, is Britain's Prime Minister right to call he incident as an act of terrorism? And second, how will this play into concerns about the rise in Islamophobia in the UK?

In order to answer those question, Inside Story, a British television show tried to provide a discussion with Steve Park, a terrorism and security expert; Keith Vaz, British Labor MP and chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee; Shiraz Maher, head of outreach at the International Center for the Study of Radicalization at King's College London; and Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Britain's first ever minister for Faith and Communities.

In that discussion, Shiraz Maher gave his opinion regarding the attack. He believed that the attack was categorized as an ideological attack in purpose to deliver political message. The perpetrators wanted to target elements of the State, because it was addressed to a soldier, which is the symbol of the State. The attack didn't happen to any of the passes-bystanders.

(AD)

Nigeria Students Killed in College Attack

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/29/nigeria-students-killed-attack-college>

Dozens of students had been gunned down by suspected Islamic extremists in their dormitories on Yobe State College of Agriculture in Guiba, north-east Nigeria. According to the school's provost, Molima Idi Mato, the attack took place at night-time when the students were sleeping. Death toll in this attack reached 42 and 18 injured and has been transported to Damaturu specialist hospital while the other 1000 students fled the college.

The government gave the college no security forces, but only a mere assurance and promise there

were going to be soldiers and police protection for the school.

There had been similar attack in the past week causing 30 people died. According to the local council chairman, Modu-GanaBukarSheriiff, Twenty-seven people died in separate attacks on Wednesday and Thursday night in two villages of Borno state, located near the north-east border with Cameroon. On Thursday the same week, the suspected militants also killed a pastor, his son and a village head. They also used explosives to set fire to the church and five other homes.

Because of the threats and series of attacks in recent weeks, farmers and government officials are fleeing to a mountainous area with caves, Gwoza Hills. The area was used as a shelter by the people in order to avoid the militants. The official said the Gwoza local government has set up offices in Maiduguri, the state capital to the north. More than 30,000 people have successfully fled the terrorist attacks to neighboring Cameroon

and Chad.

North-east Nigeria is under a military state of emergency to battle the Islamist uprising by Boko Haram (“western education is forbidden”) militants who have killed more than 1,700 people since 2010. The purpose of the attacks was to create an Islamic state.

(AD)

The New Face of Terror

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21586832-west-thought-it-was-winning-battle-against-jihadist-terrorism-it-should-think-again?zid=312&ah=da4ed4425e74339883d473adf5773841>

When Osama Bin Laden was killed in 2011, the west thought that it was winning the battle against terrorist. But, the fact showed the opposite. al-Qaeda’s central leadership, holed up near the Afghan border in Pakistan’s North Waziristan, was on the ropes, hollowed out by drone attacks and able to communicate with the rest of the network only with difficulty and at great risk. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), its most capable franchise as far as mounting attacks on the West is concerned, was being hit hard by drone strikes and

harried by Yemeni troops. The Shabab was under similar pressure in Somalia, as Western-backed African Union forces chased them out of the main cities. Above all, the Arab spring had derailed al-Qaeda’s central claim that corrupt regimes supported by the West could be overthrown only through violence. Those happened even before the killing of Bin Laden.

The terrorism has come in a new form. The struggle to depose the Assad regime in Syria has acted as a magnet for thousands of would-be jihadists from all over the Muslim world and from Mus-

lim communities in Europe and North America. The once largely moderate and secular Syrian Free Army has been progressively displaced by better-organised and better-funded jihadist groups that have direct links with al-Qaeda.

The most dismaying aspect of al-Qaeda's revival is the extent to which its pernicious ideology, now aided by the failures of the Arab spring, continues to spread through madrassas and mosques

and jihadist websites and television channels. Money still flows from rich Gulf Arabs, supposedly the West's friends, to finance these activities and worse. More pressure should be brought to bear on their governments to stop this. For the entire West's supposedly huge soft power, it has been feeble in its efforts to win over moderate Muslims in the most important battle of all, that of ideas.

(DH)

Ex-Guantanamo Detainee Moazzam Begg Arrested by Terror Police

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-26335261>

Mr Begg, 45, who was held by the US authorities for almost three years, was arrested earlier with two other men and a woman in the West Midlands. He was detained on suspicion of attending a terrorist training camp and facilitating terrorism overseas

Mr Begg was arrested in Hall Green in Birmingham. The other people arrested - a 36-year-old man from Shirley, a 44-year-old woman and her son, 20, both from

Sparkhill - are being held on suspicion of facilitating terrorism overseas.

Mr Begg, a British citizen originally from Birmingham, moved to Afghanistan with his family in 2001, before moving to Pakistan in 2002 when the Afghanistan war started.

He was arrested in Islamabad in January 2002 and taken to Bagram internment centre in Afghan-

istan for about a year before being transferred to the Guantanamo Bay US detention camp in Cuba.

He was released in January 2005 with three other British citizens and returned to the UK. Mr Begg, who is now a director of campaign group Cage which helps

the families of people who have been detained, has never been charged with an offence.

He has always maintained that he was only involved in charity work and has never been involved in any kind of terrorist activity.

(DH)

Threat of Terrorism Still Present in The Region : Foreign Minister

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/03/09/threat-terrorism-still-present-region-foreign-minister/>

Egypt is set on activating the decision to consider the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation using the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, said Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy on Sunday.

During a speech before Arab foreign ministers in the Arab League Fahmy said activating the decision would necessitate signatories to avoid harbouring terrorists or advocates of terrorism, avoid funding terrorism and providing cooperation from “everyone” in the extradition of those wanted or convicted in terrorism cases.

Fahmy’s speech comes after the United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) foreign ministry announced full

support for the Saudi decision to consider the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation and described the Saudi decision as a “significant step”, Emirati state-agency WAM reported.

Saudi Arabia announced on Friday that the Brotherhood would be listed as a terror organisation along with two Syrian jihadi groups. The UAE said it will not spare an effort to cooperate with Saudi Arabia in tackling those terrorist groups by “liquidating all forms of material and moral support in all circumstances.”

Egypt’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday welcomed Saudi Arabia’s decision to list the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation. Foreign

Foreign Minister Fahmy said the decision also requires setting up a special, urgent meeting that includes Arabic justice and interior ministers within the framework of the convention and with the purpose of looking into the level of commitment to implementing the convention and its operational procedures.

Egypt's foreign ministry spokesman Badr Abdelatty stated on Saturday that the Egypt has sent letters around the world to explain the "legal tests" associated with the decision in order "to explain this matter to the different capitals of the world."

On 25 December, the Egyptian government deemed the Muslim

Brotherhood a terrorist organisation and that the organisation will be legally accountable under Article 86 of the Egyptian Penal Code.

Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE were quick to announce support for Egypt's interim government, which came to power on 3 July following the ouster of former president Mohamed Morsi. Within days of Morsi's ouster, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Kuwait pledged billions of dollars in aid to Egypt. The value of the Emirati aid was \$3bn, including a \$1bn grant to Egypt and a \$2bn loan. Saudi Arabia pledged \$5bn in aid in petroleum products, deposits and grants.

(AIS)

Are Terrorists Behind Malaysian Airline Crash? Fears Grow After It Emerges Two Passengers Were Using Stolen Passports

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/missing-malaysia-airlines-flight-fears-3221742>

Fears terrorists were behind the Malaysian Airline crash were growing tonight as it emerged two passengers were using stolen passports, the Sunday People reported. An Italian and an Austrian were feared to be among the 239

victims presumed dead after the Boeing 777 crashed into the South China Sea. But Luigi Maraldi contacted his family to say he was safe and well and Christian Kozel was found at home by Austrian police. The revelations raise the fear that

terrorism may have played a part in the sudden disappearance of the air liner that was flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

A 12-mile oil slick was spotted during an aerial search which was called off before nightfall, leaving naval ships and fishing vessels to look for survivors. The plane was last detected on radar at 5.30pm UK time on Friday around 100 miles north of the Malaysian coast. An airline tracking website suggested it plunged 650ft and changed direction before it vanished. Even before news of stolen passports emerged, experts had raised the spectre of a terrorist bomb. Pilot David Learmount, who is operations and safety editor of Flight Global magazine, said: "Something happened and the pilots did not tell anyone. Why? It's a good question. *"It's extraordinary the pilots failed to call because they had plenty of time to. Unless there was a bomb on board but there has been no evidence of that."*

Aviation expert Chris Yates told Sky News: *"We simply don't know the circumstances behind what caused that crash at the moment. "There will be two areas for the investigation: the maintenance of the aircraft and also pos-*

sible terrorism." Flight MH370 was carrying 227 passengers, including two children, and 12 crew members. Among them were 152 Chinese nationals, 38 Malaysians, 12 people from Indonesia and six from Australia. There were no reports of bad weather and no sign why the Rolls-Royce Trent engine-powered plane would have vanished from radar screens about an hour after it took off. Speculation about the involvement of terrorists took hold after Luigi Maraldi, 37, from Cesena, was named as one of the passengers on board the plane. But he spoke to his parents from Thailand to tell them he was not on board - and that his passport had been stolen last August. Then it emerged that the passport of Austrian MrKozel was onboard the flight.

A foreign ministry spokesman in Vienna said the Austrian national was safe at home. He said: *"Our embassy got the information that there was an Austrian on board. That was the passenger list from Malaysia Airlines. Our system came back with a note that this is a stolen passport."* Police found the man at his home. The passport was stolen two years ago while he was travelling in Thailand, the spokesman said. He added: *"It's interesting that there*

were two cases on the same plane but we just know that our Austrian was not on board. “Someone used a document to get on the plane. But whoever used that, we have nothing to say about that, we don’t know, that would be for the authorities to look into.” Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said: “*The search and rescue operations will continue as long as necessary.*” Fifteen Malaysian air force aircraft, six navy ships and three coast guard vessels were involved in the rescue effort. China and the Philippines have sent ships to a region near the South China Sea to help.

The United States, the Philippines and Singapore also dispatched military planes to help in the search. China also put other ships and aircraft on standby. “*We are doing everything in our power to locate the plane,*” Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said. “Our hope is that the people understand we are being as transparent as we can, we are giving information as quickly as we can, but we want to make sure information has been verified.”

Meanwhile, distraught relatives were trying to come to terms with the tragedy. The wife of Paul Weeks told how the 39-year-old

was on his way to do his first shift as part of a fly in-fly out job in Mongolia. It was meant to be the start of a dream job for the mechanical engineer. Last night his wife Danica said she was trying to come to grips with the tragic news. The couple have a three-year-old son named Lincoln and a 10-month-old called Jack. Mr Weeks is originally from New Zealand and moved to Australia in 2011 to work in the mining industry after six years in the army.

In Kuala Lumpur, Hamid Ramlan, a 56-year-old police officer, said his daughter and son-in-law had been on the flight for an intended holiday in Beijing. “*My wife is crying,*” he said. “*Everyone is sad. My house has become a place of mourning. This is Allah’s will. We have to accept it.*” Chinese relatives waiting in Beijing Airport are furious at the lack of information and told reporters they have been treated “*worse than dogs*” by Malaysia Airline. Family members were taken to a hotel, put in a room and told to wait for information from the airline, but none came. About 20 people stormed out of the room at one point, enraged they had been given no information. “There’s no one from the company here, we can’t find a single person. They’ve

just shut us in this room and told us to wait,” said one middle-aged man, who declined to give his name. *“We want someone to show their face. They haven’t even given us the passenger list,”* he said. Another relative, trying to evade a throng of reporters, muttered: *“They’re treating us worse than dogs.”*

Amid chaotic scenes, an un-

identified Malaysia Airlines official spoke to reporters for just a few minutes without taking questions before leaving. *“We are working with authorities who have activated the search and rescue teams,”* the official said. *“Our thoughts and prayers are deeply with the affected passengers and their family members.”*(AIS)