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## Entente Bestiale

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# Egypt charges: London's support of terrorism is new face of colonialism

by Omar Abdul-Aziz

More and more, the world is recognizing the role played by Britain in harboring terrorist groups, not only to provide for them a safe haven to plan and raise money for their murderous plans, but also to use these terrorist groups to force its imperial policies on the nations of the world. In an unprecedented manner, matched only by the publications of this news agency, the Egyptian official media have been exposing this dirty role played by London.

Ibrahim Nafi, editor-in-chief of the official Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram*, signed an editorial on Aug. 31, exposing the real purpose of the British establishment's insistence on holding a conference of terrorists, known as the Revival Conference, in London on Sept. 8 (see last week's *Entente Bestiale*). "I don't think that there is any political hypocrisy, or scandalous paradox, in what is being said, and what is being done, concerning what happens in Britain these days, on whose land a terrorist conference will be held. The conference will gather the *crème de la crème* of the most murderous criminals, whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent people of the Arab and Islamic world," he wrote. "Britain sees no trouble in holding a conference for terrorists on its own land, terrorists who committed crimes much bloodier than the Lockerbie bombing, since the blood of the victims of those terrorists is not as sacred as the British blue blood."

Nafi then asked: "How is it possible, then, to explain this strange British stance?" He answered that the excuses about "democracy and freedom of expression can not fool anyone." He said that even the argument that Britain "wants to get guarantees from these terrorists, assurances that only the interests of their respective nations will be destroyed while sparing Britain and the West the trouble of bombs," is not correct, because those terrorists take aim at British and Western interests as well.

"Could this not be a new form of colonialism, according to which the nations of the Arab and Islamic world are weakened, through indirect support for terrorism, to the effect that these nations will submit, in a flexible manner, to the dictates of the West led by Britain? Thus, the sun of the Empire, which set in the Suez Canal four decades ago, would rise again," wrote Nafi. Is it not the case, as well, "that this is a new crusade against Islam, achieved through polishing the image of those terrorists as the real representatives of Islam, the religion of hatred and anti-development and progress in the eyes of the West, to justify the process of squeezing and crushing the Muslim nations?"

"This is the real reason behind holding the terrorist conference in London," wrote Nafi. But perhaps there is more, he continued. "This conference will become a means of breeding agents and spies who, in case they come to power in their countries, would be useful tools in the hands of their masters who bestowed them with conferences and rallies."

Nafi concluded by saying that Egypt has become used to this Western, and specifically British policy, "but what has happened in London surpasses all, in its violation of all norms and limits. As from our side, we have won the battle against terrorism, and we are able to deal with the remaining groups of agents who are funded

from London and other European countries."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who was addressing academicians at the University of Alexandria, Egypt, a few days earlier, said that he was "shocked over the fact that such a conference, which includes many 'elements' who promote terrorism, will be held." He added that "this does not serve the cause of combatting international terrorism." He emphasized



that "there are many questions around this conference, for which we hope answers will be given soon." The statement by Mubarak came one day after British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind had said that Britain will not stop the Revival Conference, as long as it does not violate the laws of the United Kingdom. (Rifkind, who was visiting Pakistan late last month, told reporters there that his government will not extradite the leader of the Sindhi separatist, terrorist group Mohajir Qaum Movement, Altaf Husain.)

Meanwhile, Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Nihad Abdul Latif summoned the British Chargé d' Affaires Richard Macbeth, to express to him Egypt's deep concern, and demanded information and precise details about the nature of the planned conference. Abdul Latif handed Macbeth a letter from Foreign Minister Amre Mousa, addressed to Rifkind. An Arabic daily, *Al-Hayat*, quoted Egyptian officials, who excoriated Britain's allowing the Revival Conference to be organized as a "double standard policy" and "support for international terrorism." One official stressed, "There should be a clear distinction between terrorists and real political refugees," adding, "the asylum law in Britain has provided a safe haven for terrorists."

### International outcry

While the attacks by Egyptian political figures against Britain's role have become more and more precise, they were joined on Aug. 31 by the Italian daily *Avvenire*, which is connected to Italy's Catholic Bishops Conference. *Avvenire* is the first Western news medium, outside of *EIR*, to expose the London terrorist gathering in these terms. The article, headlined "London Protects Terrorists," reported statements from the Egyptian and Algerian governments, whose countries "have since long engaged a hard confrontation with integralists. So much so, because less than two years ago, from the same meeting in London, fundamentalist leaders called for overthrowing moderate Islamic regimes, accused of being corrupt and enslaved to the West—a call which was not left unanswered. 'The leaders of the terrorist movement will participate in the meeting,' was the angry statement from a spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry."

British authorities, *Avvenire* reported, "do not seem intent upon forbidding the demonstration. This behavior reinforces the feeling shared by many observers, according to whom the British capital is becoming—thanks to its traditional hospitality and liberality—a refuge for dangerous Islamic terrorists."

Other international protests came from Algeria's main opposition party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS); the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt; the moderate faction of the Palestinian group Hamas; and Tunisia's Nahdha Islamic Party, all of which have distanced themselves from the Revival Conference. Spokesmen for these moderate Islamic movements said that they have nothing at all to do with the conference being organized by Al-Muhajirun, a fanatical group led by the Syrian Omar Bakri.

Abdullah Anas, FIS spokesman in Europe, made clear that "there will be no message from the FIS leader Ali Belhaj, who is in prison in Algeria, to be delivered to the participants in the conference." Al-Muhajirun had listed Belhaj as one of the conference speakers in their pamphlets, in order to tar FIS with the pro-terrorist brush. Kamal Halabawi, the London spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt, remarked that "no moderate Islamic organization was invited to this conference." He added: "Moderate Islamic groups have methods which are totally different from these of the conference organizers who call for violence. Violence and force have no place in our methods of social and political change."

## Sudan hijacking points to U.K. as terror haven

A debate is breaking out in Britain, in the aftermath of the Aug. 26 hijacking of a Sudan Airlines jet, in which the terror-hijackers demanded that the plane be flown to London, where the hijackers would seek asylum. "It's our belief that Britain is soft on terrorism," said Mike Whine of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. "Most of the main Muslim opposition groups are represented in London. We object to the fact that some are plotting activity, some of it aimed against Western and Jewish interests," he told one British outlet.

Any crackdown on terrorists in Britain was set back when Home Secretary Michael Howard last March failed in a bid to deport Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Masari. On Aug. 29, Howard wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* that terrorists "must not abuse the hospitality of free nations by claiming asylum while they concoct terrorist outrages. . . . We [have] proposed a new international instrument to put beyond doubt the proposition that terrorists and those who plan, fund, or incite terrorism have no right to be considered for asylum."

The leading spokesman for terrorist protection is Lord Avebury, who has worked with Baroness Caroline Cox and the Christian Solidarity International against Sudan. Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, Avebury told the press: "I don't think Britain is being too soft at all. There are lots and lots of people who are refused entrance because of their links to armed opposition movements, for example, the Kurds. People who look at these problems should be careful to distinguish between those who are involved with political problems and those who are occupied with terrorism." Avebury was a main defender of Masari.

## London's 'Jihad' against America

Only four days before the conference, on Sept. 4, the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Arab* published the full, page-and-a-half text of an open message signed by Saudi terrorist financier Osama Ben Laden, calling for "irregular warfare" against the "American occupation" forces in Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula. Ben Laden referred to the miserable economic situation in Saudi Arabia, blaming it on the policies of the royal regime, but emphasizing that the "regime is the lesser evil and America is the greater evil" and the source of suffering for all Muslims. "Fighting the American occupation comes before fighting the regime. Fighting against this greater evil is the biggest duty of a Muslim after belief in God," wrote Ben Laden.

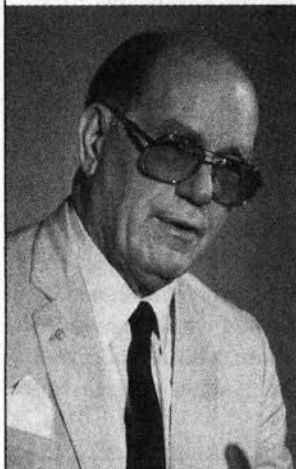
Then he hinted that elements in the Saudi regime are allowed to join the mujahideen in the *Jihad*, or holy war, against America, according to Islamic law. "Allah supports *Jihad* through the moral and also the immoral. If there is no supporter for the mujahideen but an immoral 'Emir' (ruler) and an army of sinners, then the Muslims should choose the lesser harm by allying with this Emir against the greater evil." It is significant to note that Ben Laden attacked only Prince Sultan and his brothers, who are considered as American assets, while ignoring the anti-American Prince Abdullah, chief commander of the Royal Guard.

Ben Laden called on the Armed Forces and the Royal Guard to assist the mujahideen when the "operations start." "Our brothers in the Armed Forces and the Royal Guard, since your brothers and sons started the *Jihad* to drive the occupying enemy from the Land of the two Shrines, I have had no doubt that you are eager to participate in this duty too," said Ben Laden. He then outlined what operations are required. "It is known that this period of time requires new fighting methods, because the enemy's power is far greater than ours. What is required is small and swift groups working quite secretly, in other words, irregular warfare. What your mujahideen brothers need to get from you is information and logistical help."

He added: "Although we know that the Saudi regime is responsible for what happened to our people, we should concentrate on ambushing, killing, and destroying the American enemy."

Ben Laden called on the young Saudis "who fought in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya to line up to offer their lives for the fight against America." He promised them a prominent place in heaven and 72 *Houris* (mermaids) each to marry. "Let William Perry know that our youth love death as much as he loves life. Our problem is not to convince new recruits, but to convince our youth to be patient to wait for their turn," he wrote.

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