

and a panel of judges who had been assigned to investigate the violations of human rights related to the January invasion. The three Supreme Court justices, Hussein Awad Abu El Gassim, Hashim Hamza Abdul Majid, and Mustafa Muhammed Bashar, released the report of their findings to the Schiller Institute delegation, as well as the testimony of witnesses interviewed during the eight-day investigation, and five videotapes. The report documents how the Ethiopian forces invaded, targetted civilian populations, left rotting corpses lying in streets, seized property and persons, and slaughtered, tortured, looted, and raped civilians. Five thousand people, for example, were taken from Kurmuk to Birka, where they were forced to sit on the ground for three days, and were denied the right to move, even to urinate or defecate. All personal effects were confiscated. Men and students suspected of being members of the National Defense Force were executed. Detailed accounts of individual cases of murder and rape, are documented. About 600 civilians were killed, their corpses left for days to be eaten by wild animals.

Appeals to end the aggression ignored

Thus far, all the appeals by the Sudanese government, to the United Nations, for example, to stop the aggression, have fallen on deaf ears. Although the wildest allegations of supposed human rights violations by the Sudanese government have immediately prompted international intervention and interference—indeed, been the basis for the call by the British for sanctions against the country—there has been not a peep out of the human rights activists, about the Sudanese civilian victims of Garang and his Ethiopian backers. Instead, the push for sanctions, which Baroness Cox has been pursuing for over two years, has been accelerated. The British are demanding that the Sudanese civilian airline, Sudan Air, be grounded, in hopes that an aviation ban will debilitate the government, and pave the way for a rebel offensive against the capital. While in Sudan, the Schiller Institute representatives received the text of an appeal issued by the Sudanese Mothers and Children Association, which calls for action against any air embargo: “As Sudan Airways is the only carrier of . . . food for infants, vital drugs and vaccines for all Sudanese, an unnecessary impending human disaster is in the making at the turn of this enlightened century.”

Members of the American delegation, who returned to the United States on Feb. 26, will bring the truth about the military, political, and humanitarian situation in Sudan, to the attention of the public, and of those politicians who boast their concern for the well-being of Africa. One member of the delegation, Senator Mitchell, himself a lawyer, will present the report on violation of human rights related to the invasion, to government bodies of the nations participating in the aggression (Ethiopia and Eritrea), and to the Congress of the United States. The truth will be heard.

New British terror offensive unleashed throughout Mideast

by Omar Abdul-Aziz

A fresh British strategic offensive in the Middle East began in February, typified by London's officially allowing two support organizations for known Islamic terrorist groups to set up offices in London. The wave of terrorist activity that immediately followed is part of British geopolitical aims in the region: to sabotage the new American administration's review of its Middle East policy, especially in the Persian Gulf area; to destabilize the security of Middle East governments; and to maintain British political and financial control of the tiny oil states in the Gulf.

Two Egyptian Islamist terrorist groups, Islamic Jihad and Islamic Group al-Jihad al-Islami and al-Gamaa al-Islamia, were granted permission by the British authorities to open offices for media and fundraising activities in London in February. There is no mistaking the nature of business of these offices. The Islamic Group, for example, declared on Feb. 12 that “all American interests are legitimate targets to be attacked by its members.” These two new offices, the Islamic Media Observatory and the Bureau for the Defense of the Egyptian People, will increase the efficiency of the two parent terrorist groups to plan, communicate, raise funds for, and execute armed attacks on Egyptian and Western targets in Egypt and the Middle East.

On the day the Islamic Group's office opened in London, its members killed 10 Copts (Egyptian Christians) gathered outside a church in the Alminia province of Egypt, and 3 others at a farm in the same town. A spokesman for the terrorist group, who contacted the international Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* on Feb. 16, claimed responsibility for the attack and did not deny that the orders could have come from the faction of the group based in London.

Target: the Clinton administration

The terror attacks and threats, carried out by groups under Britain's protective geopolitical umbrella, began at the same time that the list of proposed meetings between President Bill Clinton and Middle East leaders was made public.

Between Feb. 25 and the end of March, President Clinton is expected to meet Saudi Defense Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz; Egyptian President

London's Islamic terrorists

The Islamic Group and Islamic Jihad are twin terrorist groups whose leaders, Abdul Majid and Adel Tawfiq al-Serri, are granted asylum in London. The two were sentenced to death *in absentia* in Cairo for terror attacks in Egypt and elsewhere in 1994-95. Abdul Majid was implicated in the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981, and was accused in the same year of planning the prison escape of Abboud Azzummer and Khalid Islamboli, the actual assassins of Sadat. He was acquitted, but later imprisoned on different charges.

After his release, Abdul Majid opened a law office in Egypt in 1990, and travelled to the United States in 1991, together with Muntasir Azzayat, head of the defense committee for Said Nosair, the alleged assassin of the Jewish Defense League founder Meir Kahane, in New York City

in 1990. Said Nosair comes out of the network which bombed the World Trade Center and carried out an assassination attempt against Sudanese leader Hassan Al-Turabi, who is now chairman of the Sudanese Parliament.

Instead of returning to Egypt, Abdul Majid sought asylum from Britain, whose authorities have granted it. He has been the coordinator of activities (fundraising, propaganda, and planning) of the Islamic Jihad in Europe for operations in the Middle East, Pakistan, and Afghanistan since his predecessor, Talaat Fuad, disappeared in Croatia in late 1995.

British authorities have refused to extradite Abdul Majid and Al-Serri to Egypt, and have refused even to discuss the issue with Cairo. The two bloodiest attacks by these groups were the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan in 1996, killing 15 members of the Egyptian diplomatic corps, and the April 19, 1996 armed attack on tourists in front of a Cairo hotel, that killed 19 Greek tourists.

Hosni Mubarak; Palestinian President Yasser Arafat; and King Hussein of Jordan. These meetings could potentially redraw the political map of the Middle East.

One week before the expected visit by Prince Sultan to the United States, Britain's Channel 4 television network aired a documentary designed to provoke the deepest hatred among Saudis against the American presence in the Gulf. Hidden cameras were used to portray the "American lifestyle" in an offensive manner, in the "holiest of all holy Muslim lands." Channel 4 included an exclusive interview with Osama Bin Laden, the known Saudi financier of terrorists, at his hideout in the Hindu Kush in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. This piece of free advertising for this terrorist backer via an interview by Channel 4's Joeny Roberts, allowed Bin Laden to publicize his manifesto and his plans for the coming period, point by point. After praising those who carried out the bombing of the two U.S. Army bases in Saudi Arabia, Bin Laden told his followers to "concentrate their efforts on fighting the Americans. . . . If somebody kills an American, he is doing better than wasting his efforts on other things." He added that "American civilians will not be excluded from this strategy of driving the Americans out."

The Channel 4 documentary caused panic in Saudi Arabia, especially, as Channel 4 itself boasted, it "revealed the level of penetration of the Saudi opposition into the security and intelligence establishment and even into American military bases." On the eve of Prince Sultan's arrival in Washington, Feb. 25, the U.S. Embassy alerted all American citizens resident in Saudi Arabia to take security precautions. This aggravated the relationship between Saudi and U.S. authori-

ties, already strained by the need to provide security arrangements for Americans in the Gulf, and by the lack of cooperation between the FBI and Saudi authorities in finding the culprits who bombed the American bases in Riyadh and Dhahran.

Saudi Arabia today, especially Prince Sultan's faction and family, is regarded as the pro-American state in the Gulf. Prince Sultan is expected to have serious discussions with U.S. officials on the future policy of the United States in the Gulf. The U.S. policy of dual containment against Iran and Iraq (especially Iran), has become a source of deep concern to the Saudi Kingdom. Before his departure to Washington, Prince Sultan told *Al-Hayat*, "Iran is a Muslim and neighbor country, and Saudi Arabia is interested in having the best relations possible with it."

Target: The Mubarak administration

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received similar treatment from the British government and London-based terrorists before his visit to Washington. Egyptian officials once more expressed their deep concern and agitation at the British policy. They also criticized the British government for allowing a prominent leader of the Islamic Jihad group, Adel Abdul Majid, to establish a recognized political base in London. Cairo considers Abdul Majid as the closest collaborator of Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of the Islamic Jihad, based in Switzerland, and of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who is in a U.S. prison.

Recently, the Egyptian Supreme Court revealed that members of the Islamic Jihad had confessed that they received

money and orders from Al-Zawahiri, through Abdul Majid of London, to carry out assassinations and bombings, in addition to attacks on tourists in Cairo. One Egyptian official said that “this only further supports Egypt’s belief that London has become the most prominent center for anti-Egypt Islamic extremist groups.”

The recent attacks, especially the murder of the Egyptian Christians, were designed to embarrass Mubarak during his visit to Washington, and to affect the American-Egyptian discussions on the situation in the Horn of Africa and the British-run war against Sudan. Mubarak’s concerns about the reality in Sudan, which is being invaded by Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Ugandan troops under the auspices of Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords Baroness Caroline Cox and Overseas Development Minister Lady Lynda Chalker, will probably be tabled.

The anti-Sudan hate campaign of Cox and her Christian Solidarity International, especially in the United States, were carried out to portray the war in Sudan as one of Muslim-Arab slavemasters against black Christians in south Sudan. Now, Mubarak will most likely not discuss Sudan in Washington, and instead will concentrate on the “Arab-Israeli peace process,” despite the fact that the war in Sudan has an immediate effect on the national security of Egypt, because it poses a threat to the Nile River, which runs through both countries.

Meanwhile, immediately after the attacks on the Christians in Egypt, both Labour and Conservative members of the British House of Commons defiantly *voted down* a proposal for legislation banning fundraising and support activities of Arab Islamist groups, such as Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and other North African groups, which are openly known to be financing and planning terrorist attacks in their own countries. The proposed bill, initiated by Conservative Nigel Waterson, aimed at “stopping the flow of money to radical Arab groups such as ‘Hamas’ and the ‘Islamic Jihad’ that use Britain as a base of financing their violence operations abroad.”

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which carried out the suicide-bombing of Israeli buses in February-March 1996, which helped bring the Likud government to power, had financed their operations through bank accounts in London. British intelligence’s MI-5 had frozen these accounts only for a short period after the Israeli elections were over. Despite these known facts, Britain’s “Charity Control Agency” informed the Parliament and the government that these Islamist groups are not involved in any terrorist activities as such!

Target: The Arafat administration

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was also put in a peculiar situation when British State Minister for Foreign Affairs Jeremy Hanley announced in a London press conference on Feb. 20, after a meeting with Ahmed Qurie, the chairman of

the Palestinian Legislative Council, that he had “discussed the issue of Palestinian membership in the British Commonwealth with Abu Alaa [Qurie] in general terms.” The opportunity for new members to join the Commonwealth is open, Hanley said, but he noted that the Palestinians had not submitted a written application for this purpose.

Whether or not the British Foreign Office is serious about this offer, the Palestinian leaders were put in a difficult situation, especially vis-à-vis the other countries in the region, which have been long-term victims of the dirty geopolitics of the British Empire, including in its new guise as the Commonwealth. As a result, Arafat and the Palestinian Authority came under attack by the Egyptian press and other Arab countries.

Peculiarly enough, the Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who was trained by the British military and later fought the British in the war for Israeli independence, recently visited Britain to meet with the Queen for the first time, in circumstances reviving imperial “nostalgia” for colonial Palestine and an invitation to the Queen to visit the land.

‘Brittania’ sails to loot the Gulf

The House of Windsor’s Prince Charles, for his part, started a tour in the Persian Gulf aboard the royal yacht *Brittania*, accompanied by a large number of British financiers and businessmen from the City of London. Minister Jeremy Hanley was on the first leg of the tour, which included Kuwait, Dubai (the United Arab Emirates), Bahrain, and Qatar—but not Saudi Arabia. Hanley declared that Britain stood in the front line to defend these tiny Gulf states against Iraq and Iran, and he issued a variety of threats against these two countries.

The main issue of this tour is business, and to re-warm the “personal and intimate relations with the sheikhs and princes” of these states, which were British protectorates until 1971-72, Hanley said. Behind the scenes the issues were “business and closer political coordination.”

Britain’s two-faced duplicity in the Gulf showed its ugliest side recently, concerning Iran and the United States. After a wave of calls and commentaries by political personalities in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, urging the U.S. administration to open a dialogue with Iran and thus ease the political tension and military buildup in the Gulf, the *London Times*, speaking for the British Foreign Office, called on the United States to tighten its pressure on Iran and allow Britain to take the lead in the fight against Iran.

Meanwhile, British oil industry and trade companies were scrambling to get a share in investments in the Iranian oil industry. On Feb. 27, the official Iranian daily, *Ettela’at*, reported that “the U.K. is capitalizing on U.S. sanctions against Iran. . . . British exports to Iran rose by 19% to \$640 million only in 1996 capitalizing on the vacuum surrendered by the U.S. sanctions.”